



MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION

Box 160, Matachewan ON P0K 1M0

Date and Time	June 25, 2024, 6:00 pm
Location	Matachewan First Nation Community Centre
Chairperson	Tom Fox
Council Present	Chief Alex Batisse, Melanie Boucher, Tom Fox, Adrian Boucher
Council Regrets	Stan Fox
Council on Zoom	Clara Hanson, Elenore Hendrix, Rachel Batisse, Lulu Jobson
Recorder	Joshua Birimcombe-Director of Finance & Administration (Director)/Delta Flood-Receptionist/Secretary
Staff	
Guest(s)	

Item #1 – Opening Regards/Prayer

Outcome: Prayer by Tom Fox

Item #2 – Call to Order

Outcome: Chief and Council duly convene this Regular Meeting of Chief and Council held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at 6:11 PM

Item #3 – Approval of Agenda

Outcome: **MOTION #2024-19-01**
MOTION that the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Chief and Council held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, be approved as circulated.
MOTIONED by Alex Batisse
SECONDED by Melanie Boucher
All in Favour
MOTION CARRIED

Item #4 – Acceptance of Minutes and Recommendations	
Discussion:	Regarding the minutes from April 24, 2024 – Clara Hanson was asked to stay on the housing committee, but her name is not on the list in the Minutes. Delta to add Clara into minutes Community Meeting minutes from April 27, 2024 – Councillor pointed out Cynthia Daley should be Cynthia Landry. Delta to make the correction
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2024-19-02 MOTION that Chief and Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Chief and Council held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 with the addition of Clara Hanson’s name to the Housing Committee. MOTIONED by Elenore Hendrix SECONDED by Clara Hanson All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION #2024-19-03 MOTION that Chief and Council adopt the minutes of the Community Meeting held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 with the change of Cynthia’s last name from Daley to Landry. MOTIONED by Alex Batisse SECONDED by Melanie Boucher All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Item #5 – 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements	
Lead:	
Discussion:	The final financial statements for 2020-2021 have been circulated with the Chief and Council and the Director would ask that C&C approve audit as prepared. He feels the information in the audit is not relevant towards operations moving forward and everything looks ok.
Outcome:	<p>MOTION #2024-19-04 MOTION that Chief and Council approve 2020-2021 Audited Financial Statements prepared by KPMG. MOTIONED by Elenore Hendrix SECONDED by Lulu Jobson All in Favour MOTION CARRIED</p>

Item #6 – Band Council Resolutions	
Discussion:	A request was given to the Chief for a BCR to be created to transfer a Trap Ground from a late Band Member to his son.
Outcome:	Director will write a BCR for the Chief and Council to sign to transfer the Trap Ground recognizing the son as the owner of the trap ground.

Item #7 – Director of Finance and Administration Updates and Discussions

Recommendation:

Discussion:

- a. National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration
Shout out to staff who worked hard and helped put on the well-attended and appreciated event.
- b. Community Buildings
Working on quotes to bring buildings up to code to get them fixed up asap (community hall, fire hall, main garage, and outdoor rink)
- c. Road Update
Look at starting a larger project on our main road to have a couple of inches of gravel laid down for the whole road.
Calcium will be laid on the main road. A Councillor has requested that the road be re-done, if necessary, before our Pow Wow.
A few qualified people have applied for the Grader Operator position.
The Chief spoke to a contractor for a quote to get the whole main road paved.
The road to Separation is pretty much complete. The road to the other cabin and boat launch is almost complete. One cabin at Separation Lake is on a slant as the footings are sinking.

Item #8 – Staff Updates and Discussions

Discussion:

No staff updates

Item #9 – Councillor Updates and Discussions

Discussion:

Councillor Fox – RE: Mistango Mine exploration by Mag Silver (formerly Gaitlin)
The company has been hard to contact and work with. We have had our MDA and Shirley from Abitibi FN spearheading trying to get hold of them as they left some tailings behind at a site and did not leave it in a good way. They are trying to get it fixed. It is located By Larder.
Tom spoke on behalf of Stan.
The Chief suggested to follow up with the Ministry of Mines to follow up and possibly revoke Mag Silver's permits.

Item #10 – Health Centre

Discussion:

- a. Inspection update from Councillor Jobson
There is a list of some issues that are not acceptable for a new building that need to be addressed such as the flashing around windowsills are dipped the wrong way to allow water to flow off and edges on joins are sharp.
An inspector will be called in and the contractor will have to fix the issues.
There is a 10% hold back on payment until the building is completed satisfactorily.
- b. Naming of the Health Centre
A letter was sent in regarding naming the Health Centre by some of the Health Staff and Band Members. The name suggested by them is Miskwaadesi Zaaga'igan (Painted or Mud Turtle Lake) Health Centre
A Councillor think this should be community decision, and all agreed.
The Health Centre phone is active but some things still need to be programmed prior to sharing it more openly. It is on our website in the contacts section under the Nurse and Community Well-Being Coordinator.
- c. Grand Opening Date
There still will be the Agnico Day on July 11th but the grand opening will be at a later date yet to be determined, but likely in July.
- d. Flag Pole
Councillor Hanson and some Band Members were inquiring about a flagpole that could alternately fly our MFN, Red Dress (MMIW), and Every Child Matters flags.
The Chief and Council like the idea but feel it should be brought to a community meeting to decide where best to house it.

Item #11 – Community Member Updates and Discussions

Recommendation:

- a. Jeanette Gilbert - Request for General Discussion
The Band Member wanted to know if the Chief and Council are following the HR policy as there has been some talk amongst Band Members. – The Chief responded that policy and procedures need to be reviewed and updated every year. It's a common practice. Last time it was reviewed was in 2019.
The Band Member stated the issues were regarding the hiring process of the Band Rep; not having the Band Manager present for the interviews. – C&C Responded that the Band Manager had planned vacation days for the day the interviews were held so the Council looked after the interviews. Only two members were available, but all were invited to participate. Clara Hanson was invited but was unavailable due to in a meeting in Toronto. There was no favouritism. Another Councillor stated they hire on knowledge and experience.
There were discussions regarding the half day off for staff prior to long weekends as there was some confusion at the last long weekend. Chief and Council stated that they never cancelled the half days, but rather had a discussion regarding cancelling them if a hybrid work schedule came into effect.
The Band Member stated that the staff in the office are stressed out and not as friendly. – A Councillor stated that they think everyone is happy with the changes, including Community Members. Another Band Member sees a difference with the Director over the prior Band Manager as the Director was very sociable during the Aboriginal Day event.

Councillor Tom Fox wanted to encourage anyone to reach out to him who is a member of Matachewan First Nation, and his information is on the website.

b. Robert Batisse - Request for General Discussion

Member asked if the HR policy is a legal document? - Answer was that yes, it is, but that it can and should be changed from time to time as needed.

Member asked how many C&C have read it before the changes happened (that were not done in accordance with the most recently shared HR Policy). – Some have.

Member stated that [leadership] can't change the policy while things are happening; they need to do it beforehand. – It was replied that if it was a code, then you would have to go to the members to amend them.

Discussion regarding the process of hiring a Councillor who had resigned from Council was had and whether it went against the HR Policy, as well as the policy regarding staff running for council.

Member stated that the Director job should have been posted. Staff can move to new positions without posting but the job to someone who was on contract, which is against policy. – A Councillor stated the new Director was not on contract.

A Councillor stated that the HR Policy is an internal policy; as such it is not law, and it is up to the people in charge to make changes. Legal was advised and the Chief and Council were told they were within their rights to do what they are doing.

The Band Member's daughter who is on Council stated they did not share any information with their father.

Conversation got a bit heated, and Chairman ended the discussion.

The Chairman conclude this portion of the agenda and stated they will go over the comments posted in the Zoom chat at a later date.

IN CAMERA – 7:30 PM