



Duly Convened Sipekne'katik Band Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12th, 2023
Council Chambers
10:00 AM

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chief Michelle Glasgow at 10:44 AM.

2. Opening Prayer: Chief Michelle Glasgow gave the opening prayer.

3. Roll Call:

Council Present:

Chair, Chief Michelle Glasgow
Councillor Rufus Copage
Councillor Thomas J. Howe
Councillor Justin W. Johnson
Councillor Timothy Nevin
Councillor Eldon Paul
Councillor De-Anne Sack

Absent:

Councillor Gerry Augustine (Excused)
Councillor Cheryl Gehue (Excused)
Councillor Doreen Knockwood (Excused)
Councillor Lena Knockwood

Quorum: 7

Councillor Brooke Willis (11:00 AM) Q/8
Councillor Keith Julian (12:10 PM) Q/9

Staff:

Brian Dorey, Director of Operations
Anothy Digiosia, Interim Director of Finance
Mallory Wilcox, Minute Taker

Guests:

Susheel Arora, CEO, First Nations Water Authority
James MacKinnon, Director of Engagement & Government Relations, First Nations Water Authority
Stone Bear, First Nations Tax Commission
Jesse James, First Nations Tax Commission

4. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion #1

Moved by Councillor Rufus Copage, seconded by Councillor De-Anne Sack, (to accept the Duly Convened Sipekne'katik Band Council Meeting Agenda of September 12th, 2023, adding Fisheries Mediation, Prevention Program Update, Signage, and Sport Assistance).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. Prevention Program Update:

Mi'kmaw Family and Childrens Services (MFCS) met with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) over the weekend to discuss Sipekne'katik child welfare prevention programs. Chief Glasgow was not extended an invitation to this meeting, despite being a member of the MFCS Board of Directors.

ISC reached out to Chief Glasgow afterward to advise that MFCS wants to meet to establish linkages between their prevention program and Sipekne'katiks prevention program. The Sipekne'katik child welfare prevention program is still in the development stages, and it is separate from services provided by MFCS.

Chief Glasgow requested a breakdown on where all Sipekne'katik prevention funding was spent by MFCS in 2021-2022. MFCS responded that they need more time to go over numbers and cannot provide this promptly.

Councillor Brooke Willis arrived at 11:00 AM.

Chief Michelle Glasgow was excused and appointed Councillor Thomas J. Howe as chair in her absence at 11:08 AM.

Councillor Eldon Paul was excused at 11:08 AM.

6. Atlantic First Nations Water Authority (AFNWA):

AFNWA representatives presented to council on services they can provide to Sipekne'katik.

- Water and wastewater infrastructure planning with higher capacity and sector specific expertise.
- Asset management planning, including assuming liability for water and wastewater operations.
- Discussed funding formulas for wastewater systems.
- Expressed willingness to attend monthly community meetings as well as meeting regularly with Council.
- Discussed planning for projected community growth and infrastructure, provided examples of how it has worked well in the past.
- They can transfer Sipekne'katik wastewater management employees to AFNWA, or they can remain as Band staff, entirely at Councils discretion.
- 12 Communities are currently signed up with AFNWA; a draft BCR for membership was sent to the Director of Operations should the Council decide to join.

Break for Lunch at 11:57 AM.

Reconvened with Chief Glasgow as Chair at 1:05 PM.

Councillor Eldon Paul returned at 1:05 PM.

7. Review and Adopt Previous Minutes: Tabled.

8. First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC) Presentation:

First Nations Fiscal Management Act (FMA): FMA is an optional framework that enables First Nation Jurisdiction. It creates a framework for First Nation government to create and implement their fiscal powers by creating their own laws to tax leases and services.

Property Tax and Other FMA Fiscal Tools: The difference between off-reserve and on-reserve taxation is that First Nations can each create their own tax system which will set out who is exempt and the tax rates that are payable, and that each First Nation can decide how their tax revenue will be spent.

All interests in reserve lands are taxable, subject to exemptions set out in the First Nation's Law. Typically, First Nation's will tax administration, health and education services, public services, housing, recreation, water, sewer, etc., while Band members and Band member-owned businesses are exempt.

Developing a First Nation Property Tax System:

The First Nations Tax Commission will assist and provide support for each step.

1. Developing taxation and assessment laws.
2. Obtain an assessment service provider.
3. Develop annual rates and expenditure laws.
4. Provide notification of taxation laws.
5. Tax administration training for staff.

Property Taxation and Assessment Laws are foundation laws. After these are created and passed, First Nations can then assert Service Taxes, Business Activity Taxes, Property Transfer Taxes, Service and Facility Fees, and Development Cost Charges.

If Council decides to move forward, then next steps will be applying for the law development grant and passing a Band Council Resolution to engage the FNTC.

Recess at 2:50 PM.

Reconvened at 3:14 PM.

9. Director of Operations Report:

9.1 Human Resource Report:

Moved In-Camera at 3:14 PM.

Moved Out of In-Camera 3:24 PM.

a) Social Development Administrator:

Motion #2

Moved by Councillor Keith Julian, seconded by Councillor De-Anne Sack, (to accept the interview committee's recommendation to hire [redacted] for the position of Social Development Administrator, upon reaching agreeable terms and conditions).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

b) Additional Social Development Staff:

- Social Development Case Workers: [redacted] and [redacted].
- Social Administrative Assistant: [redacted].

9.2 Hardwood Lands Wind Power Project: Councillor Keith Julian will bring a recommendation to council next week after reviewing the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

9.3 Band Council Resolution for Solid Waste Management Removal: Tabled until September 19th, 2023.

10. Financial Advisory Committee Update: Tabled.

11. Director of Administration Report: Tabled.

12. Sport Assistance:

Council agreed by consensus to provide up to \$2500 for team sport registration fees.

- The \$2500 for sport registration fees for the Indian Brook Hawkeyes are payable to [redacted].

13. River Site Signage:

Discussed concerns with the no-fishing signs at the Shubenacadie River site. The Director of Education will order a reflective “No Fishing” sign to replace existing signage.

Moved In-Camera at 4:32 PM

Moved Out of In-Camera at 4:35 PM

14. Executive Finance Officer Report:

14.1 Rapid Housing Floors:

Motion #3

Moved by Councillor Keith Julian, seconded by Councillor Thomas J. Howe, (to approve awarding the Rapid Housing Flooring Contract to both Clever Coatings [for ten one-bedroom units] and Hard Rock Epoxy [for ten two-bedroom units], for a total of \$61,800).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

14.2 EMO Gift Cards:

Motion #4

Moved by Councillor Thomas J. Howe, seconded by Councillor Justin W. Johnson, (to approve spending \$112,500 on storm preparedness gift cards from Sobeys, as recommended by the Emergency Measures Team, to be reimbursed by Indigenous Services Canada via Emergency Management Assistance Program funding).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

14.3 Tidal Bore at Sole Source for Retreats and Band Functions:

Motion #5

Moved by Councillor Keith Julian, seconded by Councillor Brooke Willis, (to approve Tidal Bore as our sole source venue for all Band functions when available; when it is unavailable departments will continue the procurement process for hotels).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

14.4 Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (AICFI) Funding:

Motion #6

Moved by Councillor Thomas J. Howe, seconded by Councillor Eldon Paul, (to approve the Department of Fisheries and Oceans funding for the Guardians program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$172,481, without prejudice).

In Favour: 4 Against: 2 Abstained: 0

Motion Carried.

Motion #7

Moved by Councillor Eldon Paul, seconded by Councillor Thomas J. Howe, (to amend the 2023-2024 budget to include the Department of Fisheries and Oceans funding for the Guardians Program in the amount of \$172,481).

In Favour: 4 Against: 2 Abstained: 0

Motion Carried.

Chief Glasgow was excused at 5:00 PM, and appointed Councillor Keith Julian as Chair in her absence. Chief Glasgow returned and resumed as Chair at 5:10 PM.

14.5 Cottage Foundations:

Motion #8

Moved by Councillor Thomas J. Howe, seconded by Councillor Justin W. Johnson, (to accept invoice #0811001 from RM Landscaping to prepare the foundations for four cottages at the Arbor for \$60,000 all inclusive, subject to reaching agreeable terms and conditions).

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved In-Camera at 5:28 PM

Moved Out of In-Camera at 5:37 PM.

15. Fisheries Mediation:

Moved In-Camera at 5:40 PM.

Moved Out of In-Camera at 6:15 PM

Councillor Thomas J. Howe departed at 6:15 PM.

The meeting was adjourned as of 6:15 PM due to lack of quorum.