

Wahta Mohawks Community Meeting Minutes

Date: Oct. 27 2015

- I. Present:** Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Lawrence Schell, Councillor Mike DeCaire, Councillor Teresa Greasley, Councillor Lane and members.
- II. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
- III. Adoption of Sept 29, 2015, Minutes:** Moved by Councillor Greasley Seconded, by Councillor DeCaire

IV. New Business Arising:

Councillor Position - A question was asked about a councillor holding a staff position. Chief Franks stated that it is not a staff position. The regular meeting honorarium applies. Responsibilities include council communication as well as follow up work with various issues council is responsible for. The appointment was made through MCR resolution, Councillor Lane stated he did not agree with the position because there was no set work duties and reporting, and minutes were being done by council. Councillor Greasley disagreed stating that there is set duties and reporting.

A question was also asked about the development corporation for ICG and if the MFP Corporation still exists. This was clarified that it does exist and the legal status should be checked.

It was asked when the Committee for the Cultural Centre meets, Chief Franks stated that there would be an update on it as part of the agenda.

V. Old Business/Follow Up/Agenda Items:

AIAI Chiefs Council – Chief Franks discussed the strategy planning, assessing the path forward in 3 areas; political accord with First Nations, bilateral relationship and Indigenous Reclamation process. Also, how we within AIAI view certain things such as what is a nation? Also discussed short and long term initiatives such as the Child and Family services. It needs to be rewritten as to what First Nations needs are, the number of First Nation children in the care of Children's aid is higher than the 1960's baby scoop.

The last strategic plan was 20 years and has been amended to 5 years.

AIAI will be involved in tobacco and gasoline taxes. They also talked about community safety, anti-gangs and the policing agreement with Ontario. Lands and

resources will be looked at as revenue sharing, with regards to mining and forestry and help get the gov't to start sharing revenue or stop using First Nation lands.

All First Nations in Ontario may be entitled to shares in Hydro and will not cost us money for the first 40 years any money that is generated from those shares will go back to paying the hydro debt. Similar to Rama with limited partnerships in casinos.

Iroquois Caucus update – IC has asked if we would we consider going in with all 7 communities to build a casino, not sure of location. This may be up for further discussion. Chief Franks would like to focus on current businesses here at Wahta first.

Iroquois Caucus has not finalized the free trade agreement next meeting is early December to finalize those items.

A meeting has been set up with the negotiating team including Bob Potts to address concerns with the Algonquin land claim. Councillor Lane said he did not agree with the settlement agreement, it is a poor agreement with the bulk of a large portion of the land going back as fee simple subject to tax. Some reserves will benefit from it with potential overlap into Mohawk land claims.

Chief Franks stated that Iroquois Caucus does recognizes that treaty areas do overlap.

Logo – The Sept newsletter stated there is a new logo. This upcoming Oct. newsletter contains a correction and invite to send in new artwork. Chief Franks stated the tree was not a real rendering of what it was supposed to be originally.

A member stated that the original logo came from Vi Sahanatien and that there should be a tribute to her contribution. It was stated that there was a different tree used before put on old letterhead and that should be considered. Chief Franks stated that we should look in the archives for Vi Sahanatien's original logo.

Healing and Wellness Conference – General notice on the upcoming conference Jan 29-31 2016. Keynote speaker will be Tom Porter. A request was made for the full report on the conference and not a summary and that it be sent out to all members. Chief Franks stated that a mass mailing would be costly.

The summary report is located on the website. Councillor Greasley stated that she would work on getting a full report to community members for the next conference.

Cenotaph - Cenotaph will be ready for Remembrance Day as well as Residential school dedication. An inquiry was made to the cost of the project, Councillor DeCaire stated that it was approx. \$50 000. Chief Franks stated that it is something to recognize people that served in the war or enlisted as well as recognizing residential school members.

These will be separate monuments but in the same location. Names have been submitted. It was asked if there was permission from the legion and if the council

agreed to this and both questions were answered yes. One member stated they did not agree with the decision to move the cenotaph, another member replied that it was also a safety issue with cars passing and parking. It was asked how long it was located at the old community building, it was unclear but possibly since the 70's. Chief Franks stated that it would be a square monument, one member disagreed with that and stated in Wausauksing they are doing interesting work.

Cultural Centre - The committee meets the last Monday of the month (December will be an exception) and drafted a mission statement with guiding principles and vision statement, all were read aloud.

It was stated that the vision statement is fluid and can change over time. It was asked who is on the board. The board names and committee names were listed and stated that every year 3 vacancies are available. It was asked of the cost so far, council did not have those documents on hand, although Trillium foundation did contribute 150 000, the Trust provided 290 000.

There is a committee that is overseeing the building expenses. It was asked who was overseeing the budget, it was stated that the administrator oversees the budget. It was requested that council share expenditures with a budget report. The last general meeting stated committee should be alcohol and drug free. There was some discussion on who should make this declaration as well as who is required to obtain CPICs.

It was felt that the goals of the upcoming Cultural Centre were not realistic and that other issues of the past needed to be dealt with first. Chief Franks stated that it was his impression that smaller sessions such as those offered at the Healing and Wellness Conference would be a part of the Cultural Centre curriculum and other smaller groups of that nature.

It was mentioned that we have to start with ourselves and become a part of the solution rather than the problem to create a healthier environment.

It was mentioned that at the upcoming conference we should get smaller groups together that will carry on healing work in the upcoming centre.

It was stated that there is a level of mistrust and people have to be willing to start to talk first. Chief Franks stated that we should listen to the youth at the last Healing and Wellness Conference and that we don't want to be like the older generations that have a large degree of mistrust.

Chief Franks also stated that these issues have been here for many years. Mistrust is present and part of that healing is about giving people a chance. Council would like to encourage instead of discourage the future of the Cultural Centre.

It was noted that the construction is 90% complete. Councillor Greasley agreed and mentioned that she is available for email correspondence to work with anyone that wants to avoid misinformation, particularly posted on social media where it was discussed that inaccurate information does not contribute to creating a healthy community.

Councillor Lane asked and it was confirmed that there will be a new entrance at the front of the building.

Rogers Tower – There is no recent update from Rogers, they are still doing land assessments, it is not known how tall the tower will be yet. Rogers did not bring anything to council's attention as to safety of the tower as it is not in a residential area. It was also stated that this will be a straight forward contract when and if signed.

The purpose of the tower is to increase the cell phone usage, there is no free internet or perks. One can already obtain mobile internet through Rogers's rocket hub, there is no change to the community for internet access or what Rogers is offering.

Councillor Lane asked about further internet opportunities. Lance DeCaire stated that there could be some possibilities with regards to funding opportunities through government programs. Councillor Greasley expanded on this stating that there is a funding program for the entire Muskoka region through Fednor and Wahta was identified as a possible applicant but there is no information on its approval yet. Wahta has not applied for any specific internet access programs at this time.

Hydro Brushing - It was asked what is the final tally of the hydro brushing contracts. Councillor Lane said the overall contract for the transmission was 700 000 and distribution was 200 000 plus. Over the 600 acres was a total of approx. \$330 000. Of the two contracts one will not start until Spring 2016.

It was discussed that hydro took out some unnecessary branches, Scott Aubichon might have specifics over that. Wahta did end up with excess money from hydro, it is not known what yet is happening with the excess money but will know once the project is actually finished.

The contracts come to completion on Oct. 31. It was asked if the overall process was fair. It was also asked when is the brush on the side of the roads going to be cleaned up. It is not an approved council process at this time.

ICG – It was asked what the disbursements at ICG are. Lance DeCaire talked about the frozen berries and the increase in sales through the store due to highway signage and other factors. Anyone can buy berries and resell them. The vendors are volunteers and they use the profits for a staff fund. Reports of the festival went well. There will be a wrap up report.

General Notice Information -There is a beaver dam that may become problematic at the front of the building on Rd. #38 it was said that this is township issue.

- I.** Next Meeting: Changed to Dec. 15 2015
- II.** Motion To Adjourn:
- III.** Closing:

**Adoption of the Minutes of
Community Meeting,**



Chief Philip Franks



Councillor Teresa Greasley

Councillor Lawrence Schell

Councillor Mike DeCaire

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'S L'.

Councillor Stuart Lane