

Wahta Mohawks Community Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 30th, 2015

Present: Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Stuart Lane, Councillor Lawrence Schell, Councillor Mike DeCaire, Councillor Teresa Greasley and members.

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Councillor Schell, Seconded, by Councillor Greasley. Carried.
- III. **Adoption of May 19th, 2015 Minutes:** Moved by Councillor Schell, Seconded, by Councillor Lane with a change regarding the Hydro Update, attachments added and the question regarding the Rogers Tower Update. Carried.
Adoption of the April 28th, 2015 Minutes: Moved by Councillor Schell, Seconded, by Councillor Lane with additional questions and answers inserted into the Language and Cultural Centre section.
- IV. **Actions Arising:** Status Cards – AANDC used to send a person here to do the status cards but they no longer have the manpower, many FN's now do their own status cards. Chief Franks would like to take another look at this a see if it is possible to do this at Wahta but is not sure if there is staff or money available for this. Status cards can be done through the mail or online, Chief Franks will see if there is staff available to help members renew their cards online.

Old Business/ Follow-up

HONI Community Payout Update

Each qualifying member received \$3000.00, the balance of the funds are being held for members under 18 years of age. Membership tracks when a member becomes eligible and they are paid out, monies will be guaranteed for these future payments. There will be a remaining balance to be discussed and if people will be added and for how long, or the possible use of the funds towards education, housing, mortgages. After confirmation of numbers and information these items can be brought back up for discussion. Attached is the payment schedule

Land Claim

Chief Franks read a MCR that was prepared and explained that it was written because a MCR is needed to back up the use of funds that are spent, these funds would allow Mr. Healey to proceed in bringing the case before the courts to see if it is a legal matter worth pursuing.

Councillor Lane did not want the term "re-opening" used in the MCR because he said that it was never closed. A detailed invoice was submitted for \$150,000.00 from P. Healey for previous work, it was confirmed that there was nothing left outstanding from Aird and Berlis, Mr. Healey was working independently. There was general discussion about the past claim.

New Business

Jury Roll Process – Last year the courts sent out applications for all members which were sent to the administration building. They have asked for the names and addresses of all members, Chief Franks is not sure why they would want that because members that live off the territory would already be eligible to partake in this process. In the past Council has always let it be known that the provincial court is accepting applications for jury duty and if members want to offer their services for jury duty they may do so, Wahta will not give the list to the provincial courts to send applications. This may be a new approach to encourage applications so that First Nations have representation on the juries. Chief Franks suggested that contact information be put in the newsletter so that members can contact the courts for an application if they wish to serve on a jury. Councillor Lane would like to meet with court services or have more information about the process sent to Wahta, such as what expenses may or may not be covered, travel, meals etc.

Quarrying - Wahta is planning on crushing stone for the roads on the territory and how Wahta may have gravel for members at a reasonable cost. Chiefs Franks read the MCR that was written for the quarrying that was presented at the last general meeting, this includes crushing the aggregate, loading, hauling, dumping and spreading the gravel on Wahta community roads. The quarrying would not exceed an expenditure no greater than \$290,000.00. Some of this gravel could be stored for future use or possibly sell to hydro one. There is an economic benefit to doing this, the cost is \$5.00 per ton to have it crushed as opposed to Wahta buying it at a much larger cost. There should be enough gravel for the roads, members (possibly at cost) and for future use. It was decided to postpone signing the MCR until there is actual costs obtained.

Council Minutes- Chief Franks brought up the minutes and asked how much information was needed, Chief Franks said verbatim is too difficult and that after reviewing minutes from other First Nations he discovered some are extremely detailed while others are not, Chief Franks suggested somewhere in the middle, with using a recorder problems have occurred with people speaking over one another so another suggestion was to ask a question and members speak in turn. Chief Franks will try to improve with this procedure. A member asked if the communications position had been filled, the posting is closed, it has not been filled and there are applicants but they have not been screened yet.

Iroquois Caucus – They were going to meet here in July but they cannot get accommodations for under \$250.00 per night so they have decided that they are going to meet in Akwesasne in July. Chief Franks is going to send them an invitation to come to Wahta in October.

Membership- There was a question raised as to the process if a person is denied membership, Chief Franks said there is a policy and that the process is that the complaint would go to Karen Sahanatien, a recommendation would be made, it would then be passed to Council, and there is an appeals process that must be done within 30 days

Culvert- There is concern about water backing up on the property where a house is being built, the water was not draining down the ditch line. This will be referred to Alan Farrell and the District of Muskoka as that is highway property.

Audits- The cost of professional fees was raised. Standard fees are broken down as to whether it was an auditing fee or a legal fee etc. The office could provide that detail. The audit will be complete soon and available at the September General Meeting.

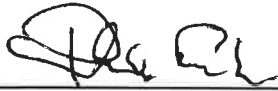
Housing- A member raised a question regarding a housing grant to someone that is not 18 years of age. Chief Franks said there is a child with a trust fund but nothing is definite regarding this. There is a grey area in the policy but it would be beneficial for children to stay here in Wahta. If policy were to change it would have to be very specific conditions carried out to pay back the housing grant, there has been no further communication with this so it is uncertain what the status is or if they will proceed. If this project moves forward it will follow policy, it is not clear if a trustee can act in behalf of a minor in this instance, this will have to be further investigated.

V. Next Meeting: July 28th, 2015

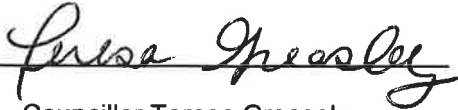
VI. Motion To Adjourn:

VII. Closing:

Community Meeting



Chief Philip Franks



Councillor Teresa Greasely



Councillor Lawrence Schell

Councillor Mike DeCaire

Councillor Stuart Lane

