

Wahta Mohawks Community Meeting

March 25th, 2014

Present: Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Mike DeCaire, Councillor Stuart Lane,
Councillor Karen Commandant, Councillor Teresa Greasley - Late

Absent: Sandra Monette

Staff: Heidi Berninger

Chair: Chief Philip Franks

Start Time: 7:05

File Reference: 2014.03.25_19:02

42.01 Call to order:

42.02: Opening:

Tim Thompson finished the Thanksgiving Address and informed everyone that Grace Franks is not feeling well.

42.03 Adoption of Agenda

Council asked that the heading “**Other Business:**” be added to the agenda. Council would prefer that community members speak with either Council or Council Administrative Assistant to request that their name(s) be added to the Agenda for the next meeting. Council would also like to know ahead of time the concern(s) or information that the community member(s) would like to bring forward prior to the meeting.

Motion tabled to accept the Agenda by Councillor Mike DeCaire - Seconded by Councillor Karen Commandant – all in favour – motion carried

42.04 Adoption of Minutes: February 25th, 2014 – Community Meeting

Minutes from the February 25th Community Meeting were read in to the record, past Council is encouraged to come in and initial them.

42.05: no updated information

42.06: New Business/Council update:

Chief Franks advised that he failed to ask if anyone has any other business to discuss with Council and Tim Thompson put this hand up as well as Richard Hay.

Council intends to give the community updates in this section, but finds it difficult to speak on behalf of past Council.

Recognition and acknowledgement was giving to past Council for their work and commitment, new Council would like to arrange a meeting with old Council to discuss past business.

Chief Franks thanked the community for taking time to vote and participant in the election. New Council has been busy getting organized and learning how the organization works and setting an agenda on how things will be managed, part of that process is learning and having a full understanding with funding agencies etc. and legal processes. It is the end of the fiscal year so a lot of staff are or will be away to use up comp time and vacation time. Council will be

scheduling meetings with staff shortly to learn how things work with administration. Council's sustainability Plan will be sent out shortly.

Council advised the Community that Council Honorariums have not increased in over a decade and Council has agreed on increasing the honorariums as follows: Chief \$300.00 per day, \$150.00 per half day, Councillors \$200.00 per day, \$100.00 per half day, and on call (i.e. cheque signing or other documentation to sign) \$75.00.

Chief Franks also informed the community that Council's Office is now located in the Administration Building. Council wants to be more accessible to the community, and the Chief currently has another job but will be coming in two days a week, Councillor K. Commandant will be coming in three days a week as they work through this period, this will be looked at again in a few months. Dave Stock asked that \$300.00 per day be justified, Chief Philip Franks responded, saying that a study had been done and was in the community sustainability plan, secondly, basically the rates before didn't cover the salary of a person working somewhere else, you can't expect Council to give up income to be here, Council is trying to stay within a preapproved budget at an up to date rate. Councillor S. Lane said he does not really support full time Council, he is concerned with the Administration Code, and a fear of Council interfering with administrative functions, he does agree with a pay raise but not a full time Council in the building. Councillor S. Lane said that he is for advocacy and getting out in the community. Chief Philip Franks stated that there will be a line drawn between Council and Administration and they will not be overseeing what is going on with administration on a day to day basis. Councillor T. Greasley indicated that it would give Council the opportunity to see firsthand what if anything is going on in the community.

Dennis Stock wants it known that a Council member was in litigation with Wahta and how can Council trust this person. Chief Franks address this by saying that people change and Council is accountable to each other.

Pioneer Solar – government only looks at them once a year but aboriginal communities are given priority, Councillor T. Greasley indicated that she thinks that application are reviewed around Sept/Oct, but Councillor S. Lane indicated that he believes that they will be look at in June.

Council has secured banking and signing authorities, they are also looking at secured internet networks/, and are looking for new ways to engage the community, social media/ website, survey on the internet, discussion forums etc. They also want to go over all policies, procedures and codes.

Councillor Teresa Greasley thought that some training for employees that are non-aboriginal would be beneficial such as history/sensitivity training. She also said that the community would like more pictures on the website and put a call out that if anyone has some pictures they could bring them by to be scanned and added to the site.

Wahta Trust fund members appointed are Chief Philip Franks and Councillor M. DeCaire.

Councillor T. Greasley advised the community that the solar project is a 20 Year Contract with a 13% return on the investment. There are two spots that are being looked at and one is at the cranberry marsh and the other is by the dump. As previously stated Council is waiting for approval.

Council is looking for Community Representatives to sit on Boards and Advisory Committees, at this time Woodland Culture Centre looking for a representative, Glen Jones is currently involved with this and he is also involved with Waubetek Business Development. The Indigenous Education Advisory may be another one.

Tim Thompson addressed everyone, he brought forth the Administration Code/ Code of Ethics and described the document and stressed the importance and guidance it provides and that it was passed by the people. He says that it needs to be used now and if it doesn't work it has to be taken back to the people to be amended and or changed.

Lawrence Schell opposed the process of the vote on the Administration Code.

Richard Hay inquired when Council will take the oath of office. Chief Franks advised Richard that he cannot give a definite date at this time, this document is under review. He also indicated that other first nations do have an official kick off when Council changes and these are things that Council is looking at.

Kristal commented that staff needs support from Council when they feel that Administration is not allowing programs to be performed. How does Council know that this is going on, and she asks for Council's support? Dave Stock brought up that there should be a grievance process for Council to get involved.

Councillor S. Lane brought up that he thought Lance DeCaire's involvement with IT is a conflict of interest because he had complete access to the computer system and access to everyone's email etc. Chief Franks said that he was here to insure that the internet service was secure. Councillor S. Lane asked who gave authority to him to have access and asked for answers. Chief Philip Franks advised that Council was securing the internet service and that they can now go ahead and get quotes for internet & IT services as they feel that the current services and providers are too expensive.

Dennis Stock asked if Council will continue to look at the land claims issues. Council advised that they are trying to set up a meeting the lawyer to discuss the issue of the land claims. Tim Thompson said that it can be opened if there is a technical issue. Council will speak with the Lawyers once a meeting is arranged.

42.07: Motion tabled to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm by Councillor M. DeCaire, seconded by Councillor Karen Commandant

42.08: Next meeting date is April 29th at 7:00 pm

42.09: Closing

Chief Philip Franks

Councillor Mike DeCaire

Councillor Karen Commandant

Councillor Teresa Greasley

Councillor Stuart Lane