

## **Wahta Mohawks Community Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

- I. Present:** Chief Philip Franks, Councillor Teresa Greasely, Councillor Stuart Lane, Councillor Mike DeCaire, Councillor Lawrence Schell
- II. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02. Chief Franks welcomed newly elected Councillor Lawrence Schell to the table. Tim Thompson gave the Thanksgiving Address.
- III. Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Mike DeCaire, Seconded, by Teresa Greasley - Carried
- IV. Adoption of September 30, 2014 Minutes**  
Adopted with noted corrections / additions. Moved by Teresa Greasley Seconded by Mike DeCaire, carried
  - Land Claim -Councillor Stuart Lane made comment pertaining to the Land Claim issue that Bob Potts may have the “additional” information that is not in possession of Wahta Mohawks.
  - Pioneer Solar- Councillor Stuart questioned the cost to contribute to the project. Councillor Mike DeCaire provided some clarification from the meeting he had with Pioneer Solar and the additional cost items that would have be required to move forward i.e., internet service, road. Chief Franks stated that based on the final proposal there were other costs involved.
  - ICG Algoma Orchards- Councillor Lane indicated that he still wants to see the final dollar amounts before Council goes ahead with the final contract.
  - Ontario Government – Jury Duty- Councillor Stuart Lane denies saying that he wanted time to study the motion regarding our residents being called for jury duty. Councillor Lane stated that he has no problem with the issue. Councillor DeCaire stated that Councillor Lane’s concern was regarding the Native issues and jury duty. Chief Franks stated that there was no motion regarding this issue, Council was only reaffirming the fact that Wahta Mohawks will not be penalized by the Ontario Government should someone decline jury duty.
  - Administration Code- Councillor Lane questioned Chief Franks regarding how Council would achieve full participation of the membership regarding this issue. Chief Franks stated this question could be addressed further along on the agenda under Administration Code.

### **V. Actions Arising**

Chief Franks suggested an action chart be developed after each meeting to ensure items are followed up.

### **Old Business / Follow Up**

**Land Claim Update:** There have been some discussion with Phil Healey and he does have the documents he requires and was wondering if there is anything else from this building. He will be moving forward to put together a case to submit to the courts. By February we should know if the Government will consider renegotiating a settlement amount or not. An invitation to Mr Healey will be made when more information is made public, to provide the community an update. Councillor Schell questioned the costs to Mr. Healey. Chief Franks suggested approximately \$200, 00. 00 to \$250,00.00, but if it goes to

court, the costs will be much more, Chief Franks will keep in touch with Mr. Healey every two weeks therefore there will be ample opportunity for questioning.

**Bala Falls Portage:** The political climate has changed with Muskoka Lakes. Our position remains with the issue of duty to consult. Our concerns have been received by different departments within the governments. Our letters have been read and meetings will follow with government officials to clarify the definition of duty to consult and our concerns regarding this.

Tim Thompson asked if we had any record of consultation being completed with former Chief Blaine Commandant as the media and MNR report, and if we have asked for their records of this alleged consultation. Councillor Teresa Greasley said to her knowledge conversations with Blaine Commandant and Swift River occurred over the telephone. Shirely Hay stated that there was correspondence to Blaine Commandant and that Blaine Commandant said that he had no issue with this. It was also reported that he said there was no need for a consultation meeting. Chief Franks said that Swift River cannot produce or hasn't produced any such letter.

**Rental Units Septic System:** The issue is being looked into. There was some misunderstanding of the extent of the problem. The Senior Administrator has been made aware of the problem and is working toward fixing the problem. The Environmental Health Officer has been contacted to assess and make recommendations.

#### **New Business:**

**Nursing Station Update:** Chief Franks announced that the Nursing Station has received full funding to run the Nursing station. Council will be meeting with Nurse Practitioner Dana Strength on Tuesday. Council will commit to in-kind donations toward the Nursing station; ie building (rent free), hydro, snow removal etc. The Nursing station will no longer be a Wahta Mohawk funded clinic and the staff will be employees of the Family Health Team. Dana will have clinical supervision with this team. The funding provided by the Province will include all operating expenses; the Family Health team will cover everything we have in the past. A formal agreement needs to be signed to clarify what Wahta Mohawks will provide with in-kind donation and what the Province's responsibility is. Geri Fox had questions regarding an agreement in 1999 with Wahta Mohawks and Moose Deer Point and Ministry of Health. Councillor Lawrence Schell stated that a private individual funded Moose Deer Point. Geri Fox questioned where the money from the agreement in 1999 was. Chief Franks indicated that a proposal back then was considered for funding however it may have not been accepted. Chief Franks said that he is almost certain that Wahta Mohawks never received any money and does not think that this initiative was ever funded. Furthermore he said the Province would not retain money for us from one fiscal year to another. Councillor Lane questioned if the council is committed to providing the building handicapped access and renovating the clinic. Chief Franks said the NP clinic is putting together a proposal for the Trust to bring the building to standard condition. Chief Franks further commented saying that there is no indication that it will not happen; how it will happen is the question.

**Administration Code:** Chief Franks said as indicated in previous meetings that legal advisor Mr. Herbert and Bob Antone will come to the community to present their reports at a general meeting on Saturday November 22, 2014. The initial discussion regarding the code will commence. At this meeting we will also need to discuss reaching out to the full membership (phone, internet, newsletter etc.) to obtain more participation to the process. Councillor Greasley indicated that the Wahat website has posted key issues identified regarding this code and that information will be mailed out and in the newsletter.

**Investments:** Chief Franks reported that an email came in from the Scotia Bank regarding our investments. Our investments did not realize as much interest as we had thought due to current financial

climate however the investments are safe. We can expect to see a rise by Christmas. Our investments are being monitored closely and emails are sent to us regularly regarding this.

**Cultural center:** Councillor Greasley provided an update regarding the application being made for funding to the Ontario Trillium foundation. Input from community will be required once the building has been renovated and ready for programming. Tim Thompson stated that consultation with community should have been made prior to submitting proposal. Councillor Greasley indicated once funding is in place community consultation will be requested for programming.

**Other Business:**

Tim Thompson welcomed newly elected Councillor Lawrence Schell. Tim addressed section 3 sub section 3 of the election code regarding councillors in litigation with band and questioned Chief Franks how the issue of will be addressed. Chief Franks stated that issues affecting the election are to be directed to the Electoral Officer and this is independent of Council. A report from the EO will be provided if the issue has been taken forward. Tim stated that this EO was not announced in August. Chief Franks explained that the original EO had to decline due to health issues and Council made the decision to employ a professional body (KPMG) to run our election. Tim questioned the timing. Chief Franks did not have the actual dates on hand.

Shirley Hay questioned contraband at marsh and what will disciplinary action will occur. Chief Franks indicated that Matthew is investigating this matter. Beaver Creek have pulled their men off the job and Matthew is recruiting extra workers to complete the harvest.

Shirley Hay also questioned the Matrimonial Law and was concerned about the approaching deadline of December 2014. Chief Franks said that this council is not rushing and putting forth a code or law and will take the necessary time to develop this.

**VI. Next meeting:** Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**VII. Motion to adjourn:** Moved by Mike Decaire, Seconded by Teresa Greasley Motion carried.

**VIII. Closing**