

Community Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2016

Attendance: Chief Philip Franks
Councillor Stuart Lane
Councillor Michael Decaire

The meeting was called to order.

Adoption of Agenda: Moved by Councillor Decaire, seconded by Councillor Lane to adopt the agenda for April 26, 2016 Motion Carried

Adoption of Minutes of March 29, 2016: Moved by Councillor Lane, seconded by Councillor Decaire to adopt the minutes of the March 29 regular council meeting with noted corrections. Motion Carried.

AIA General Assembly: The AIAI general will be held here

Quota Tobacco System: Chief Franks updated the progress of the Ministry of Finances review of the quota system on tobacco. The report has been completed but the Ministry has yet to deal with it. AIAI Chiefs are following this and will monitor the Ministry's actions.

Post Secondary Funding of U.S. Students: There was discussion about how the guidelines from INAC restrict First Nations from funding students from the membership if they reside in the US. First Nations should be able to fund their membership as they see fit to do so. Education Councillor Carol Holmes indicated that Wahta's Education Policy follows the INAC policy guidelines on this issue.

AIAI General Assembly/Elders Conference: Chief Franks made the announcement that the AIAI General Assembly would be held here at Wahta June 7-9, and the annual elders conference would be held late in the summer

Health Social Advisory Board: It was noted that Colleen Mendes, and Sherry Byrne of the Health Services staff, and Karen Commandant are representing Wahta as the technical representative to this advisory board. Chief Franks is the political rep.

AIAI Constitution Review: The review of the constitution and recommendations coming from that will be up for adoption at the annual general meeting of the Association. The major change is in the elections section where the practice of secret ballot will be replaced by a stand up voting system similar to that of the Chiefs of Ontario.

Iroquois Language Conference: There was a request from the Iroquois Caucus to use \$10,000 out of the surplus funds to assist in the development of the language conference to be held at Kanasatake this year. Wahta council was in agreement with that plan.

Supreme Court Ruling and INAC Registry: There was discussion on what this ruling that recognizes Metis and Non-Status people as being recognized as Aboriginal people would mean to us and the INAC registry of status Indians. The ruling indicates that Ottawa has the responsibility to recognize them as aboriginal people however that would not bestow status with benefits on them.

IC Economic Summit: The Iroquois Caucus is also holding an economic summit this year at Akwesasne that would include freedom to trade with each other, and to showcase businesses from the member Iroquois Communities.

Land Claim Update: There has been no movement on this file according to legal counsel.

Easter Basket Distribution: Chief Franks discussed how misleading and damaging social media has been and the negative effect it has on Wahta staff and program delivery. The issue of a member claiming they had not received an Easter Basket that was delivery to all household was clarified. The staff person provided the delivery list showing initials of acceptance from all households. Chief Franks stated he raised the issue as it is Councils duty to provide a healthy work environment for staff, and there have been other staff affected by the type of messaging that is going on.

Community Members:

A question was raised as to whether Council had retained Waneek Horn Miller to carry out the work on the citizenship review, the answer was that Council is waiting for a defined proposal from her.

The question was raised over what persons get commission from the ICG store and how much that outlet makes. Lance Decaire, Economic Development answered the commission question, there is one salesperson. A board will still be set up to separate itself from council and Administration. Discussions are ongoing. Tim Thompson mentioned that a board should not have only two families.


The question was raised as to who did the architectural drawing for the Cultural Healing Centre, Chief Franks said it was Hodgkins Renovations


It was asked why a Council member is listed in the staff directory in the newsletter. Chief Franks indicated he had not notice that and it is in error, Councillor Greasly is not a staff member. The error will be corrected.

Regarding the Land Claim there is a jurisdictional issue whereas Ontario now has to be part of the process and Healey and Associates may have to rewrite the statement of claim. He is not yet clear on where the case stands and has not provided further information.

Next Meeting Date: May 28, 2016

Adjournment: Councillor Decaire motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Chief Philip Franks

Councillor Stuart Lane

Councillor Michael Decaire