

Wahta Mohawks Community Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 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 7:00 pm.
- III. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Councillor DeCaire, Seconded by Councillor Lane. Carried.
- IV. **Adoption of July 28, 2015, Minutes:** Moved by Councillor Schell, Seconded, by Councillor Greasley
- V. **Actions Arising:**

Old Business/Follow Up

Rogers Tower Rogers is still looking at the site but due to one area being a marshy bog they are doing some engineering work to determine if that site is still feasible if the extra work involved to ensure the proper stability is carried out, if the cost is too high they will look at other potential sites.

Land Claim update: Council met recently to discuss payment of an invoice from Healy and Associates regarding \$150,000 for work done to date. Council will enter into an agreement with Healy and pay the invoice, then disbursements will be negotiated. Council approved a draft response to Mr. Healy which will clearly define what disbursements consist of and anything beyond to be approved by Council. In addition an exit clause needs to be built into the agreement. If Wahta is successful in renegotiating the settlement amount for the claim Council would also include legal fees in the settlement. Councillor Schell stated his disagreement with entering into the agreement with Healy and Associates based on a lack of confidence.

Status Card Update: At this point in time, considering AANDC will no longer be coming to Wahta to renew status cards, there is an option to do it online. Staff person Karen Sahanatien has stated that she could be available to assist anyone with an on-line application for renewal if required.

Tobacco Quota Review: Chief Franks summarized a presentation that was given to the Chief's Council of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI). Kathleen Lickers is doing a contract for consultation for the Ministry of Finance in Ontario, with First Nations on the tobacco quota review. The AIAI Chiefs made it clear her presentation was not for consultation, but for information. The Ministry is clear there will be changes to the quota system. The Ministry is using 1991 stats from Indian Affairs at the time to base the First Nations allocations for cigarettes to be sold without taxes. The Ministry made it clear they feel the quotas are too high and communities cannot be consuming that many cigarettes in one year. The ministry is also aware that the government is under lobby by cigarette retailers in Ontario

to curb the tax free cigarettes. While there are no decisions at present, different models are being looked at from other provinces. This will be an ongoing issue that Council will have to deal with.

New Business:

AIAI - Chief Franks attended the AIAI Chiefs meeting that occurred in Orillia during the Elders Gathering.

AIAI had their staff do a background analysis of the scorecard situation, where they post our financial score online. They are concerned with the whole system; overall no one has anything to hide.

AIAI has passed a resolution that states that AIAI Chiefs Council opposed the publication of First Nations general assessment scores and issues correspondence under the Grand Chief signature citing this opposition outlining the reasons for opposing the publication of the general assessment scores. Furthermore it says that a public campaign should be developed challenging the myth that First Nations cannot manage their finances properly and appropriately.

They are going to be writing off these objections based on many areas of concern one being that there is no formal appeal process or way to dispute the process that Aboriginal Affairs uses in assessing you, it's a one sided assessment. If one raised objections to the assessment, then Aboriginal Affairs employees will review these on a case by case basis. Since there is no formal way to do an appeal it may be difficult for the First Nation.

Hydro One Network: Council is still dealing with Hydro One on the relationship agreement. A part of that agreement was that Hydro One would include in the renewal agreement 1.5 million dollars of in-kind services. Following that agreement a follow up addendum was created which described the 1.5 million would be used to build a distribution station on the land claim lands at the Twelve Mile Bay road, and bringing three phase power to the centre of the community. Past council had signed the addendum, but Councillor Lane from the past council indicates that the agreement and what would constitute the in kind services was not set in stone. Hydro's position is that the agreement was signed as is and those are going to be the expenditures. Wahta Council responds by their desire to open those expenditures up and will push for mediation into the matter. Hydro will also be served notice that Wahta will put them on notice that the agreement for lease of land to accommodate the transmission tower line be concluded when the current period expires in 2035.

Muskoka Steamship Society: Council received a request to give support to this organization to include aboriginal people of the area within the plans for expansion of the building at the bay in Gravenhurst. They offered an area in which the culture and history of our people would constitute a section of that expansion. The Society is funding raising from the province of Ontario toward the costs of the building remake. Council discussed the merits of having our history portrayed as the steamship originally brought us from Gravenhurst to Bala when the reserve was founded, but talked about control on how our culture and history would be portrayed. The opinions of Council were mostly negative for our involvement at this time, but might consider it if all aboriginal people were to buy into it, specifically Rama as they have some history on the lakes as well.

Federal Election: Regarding requests from candidates in the federal election to hold forums here on the territory Council felt it was not necessary at this time.

Insurance: Chief Franks gave an update on the blanket coverage for insurance that Wahta pays for. He reported that administration had changed companies and for the same insurance coverage on all buildings there was a saving of \$8408 over what we have been paying in the past. The 2014 rate was \$55 710 and the 2015 rate is \$47 302.

Meeting closed at 8:38 p.m.

VI. Next Meeting: October 27th , 2015

VII. Motion To Adjourn:

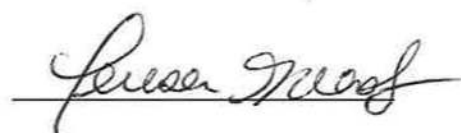
VIII. Closing:

Adoption of the Minutes of August 25th, 2015

Community Meeting



Chief Philip Franks



Councillor Teresa Greasley

Councillor Lawrence Schell



Councillor Mike DeCaire

Councillor Stuart Lane