

**MILLBROOK
FIRST NATION**
GENERAL CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022

Minutes of the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) General Chief and Council (Council) Meeting held April 12th, 2022, at the Millbrook Council Chambers, Millbrook, Nova Scotia, at 9:00 a.m.

CHIEF AND COUNCIL

PRESENT:

Chief Robert Gloade

Councillor Natasha Bernard (via videoconference)

Councillor Anissa Blackmore

Councillor Alex Cope

Councillor Carley Gloade

Councillor Garrett Gloade

Councillor Chris GooGoo

Councillor Zachary Julian

Councillor Ward Markie

Councillor Lisa Marshall

Councillor Stephen Marshall

Councillor James Stevens

Councillor Dana Sylliboy (via videoconference)

ABSENT/REGRETS

STAFF:

Claire Marshall, Executive Director

Ayo Makanjuola, Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Shelly Martin, In-House Legal Counsel

Lorne Paul, Housing Director

RECORDING SECRETARY

Sgt. Bill Collier, RCMP (Item 2.1)

Jessica Haji Mohamad, Administrative Assistant
to Chief and Council

GUESTS

Cpl. Natasha Jamieson, RCMP (Item 2.1)

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1. Call to Order

Chief Robert Gloade called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

1.2. Adoption of the Agenda

Related Information: Agenda for the April 12th, 2022, General Chief and Council meeting

Consensus Decision: The agenda for the April 12th, 2022, Millbrook First Nation General Chief and Council meeting was approved with the correction to the location of the Economic Development and Project Consultation Meeting.

It was MOVED (Councillor Alex Cope) and SECONDED (Councillor Ward Markie)

That the agenda for the April 12th, 2022, Millbrook First Nation General Chief and Council meeting was approved, with the clarification of the location change for the next Economic Development & Project Consultation meeting.

CARRIED

Councillor Anissa Blackmore was absent during the motion.

1.3. Adoption of Previous Minutes of General Chief and Council Meeting held March 9, 2022

1.4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Councillor Sylliboy confirmed that he was awaiting an official letter stating the next steps before providing an update.

Councillor Dana Sylliboy stepped out of the meeting.

During discussion, Council offered comments on:

- The affected Councillor’s desire to stay on Council
- Opinion that the perceived conflict of interest with the grandfather clause was not justified
- The motion should have been an administrative policy; a decision is needed on this
- Clarification should have been provided during the election nomination period
- Clarification that Council has the option of working with 11 Councillors or holding a by-election
- The Councillor to decide whether to take a seat in Council.

Councillor Anissa Blackmore arrived at the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Councillor Dana Sylliboy re-joined the meeting.

During review of the Action Items from the March 9, 2022, Minutes, comments were offered on:

- Concerns regarding used vehicles and the creation of a form with inventory of all vehicles:
 - Councillors Garrett Gloade and Stephen Marshall offered to assist the Executive Director on the development of a vehicle policy and inventory
 - Suggestion that a GPS tracker be placed on vehicles to ensure they are utilized for Band purposes only
 - Review all aspects of vehicle policy and logs including vehicles being used outside of work
- Strategic Planning Session:
 - Invitations to be sent with details of the session
- Staff currently participating in mandatory training on Microsoft Office
- Fisher’s status within the tier system and concerns they are not being treated fairly.

It was MOVED (Councillor Stephen Marshall) and SECONDED (Councillor Ward Markie)
That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022, General Chief and Council meeting, with noted changes.

CARRIED

1.5 Business Arising Suggestions – Executive Director

The Executive Director advised that the Housing Director had submitted the names of two individuals for the Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Housing Subsidy which is a similar subsidy to Millbrook’s but a different amount than the Millbrook subsidy program that is funded out of Own Source Revenue.

During discussion Council stated that any additional funding would pay for the service lot and any

remaining fees could be utilized for other things needed for the property. The concept is to use government funding first before utilizing Own Source Revenue.

2. DELEGATIONS

2.1. RCMP Update

RCMP representatives provided the monthly RCMP update report and offered comments on:

- Continued interaction with community members who suffer from mental health issues:
 - Individuals are assisted at the hospital and often return home and self-harm
 - The RCMP are not authorized to diagnose someone with a mental illness
 - The RCMP feel strongly that mental health should be a community priority
- Few calls received during the hockey tournament
- RCMP manage vehicles and ensure they are properly insured
- The occurrence of prostitution and human trafficking in community; community members are encouraged to report if they witness or suspect these types of activities:
 - A QR code with links to information on human trafficking to be posted around the community
- RCMP remain actively involved with the cannabis consultation
- RCMP focus on assisting Youth offenders through provision of mental health supports and restorative justice
- RCMP and Security partnering on a Bike Rodeo for community Youth.

Discussion ensued on:

- It is common for Members to contact the RCMP when they experience mental health episodes
- Safety equipment must be worn when using off-road vehicles; misuse of vehicles puts the public's safety at risk and the RCMP should be contacted
- The MFN should be made aware of all individuals living in MFN-owned housing
- Members who witness illegal activities such as prostitution, must provide statements and evidence to the RCMP for follow-up
- The MFN creating a position to offer assistance to community members 24/7
- Health Centre information booths to be set up in the community.

2.2. Food Bank Proposal – Margaret Ann Fiddes- Cook

Information was provided on a Foodbank initiative. Council's support for \$2,000 donation to support the project was sought.

Discussion ensued on:

- The creation of a MFN Food Security Committee
- Whether there is a location for use as storage
- Suggestion that the Native Women's Association or Ulnooweg be contacted for funding:
 - The need for the food bank to register as a non-profit organization through Ulnooweg
 - A statement from the MFN indicating their support for the application to be a non-profit organization and that all proceeds go to the Band/community Members
- The space under the gym could be utilized
- Whether support be provided to a Member operating a foodbank out of their home
- Suggestion the lack of storage may not make the donation of clothing a feasible option

- The need for the Food Security Team to present a plan for the April 20, 2022, Economic Development & Consultation Meeting.

Action Item: Council directed the Millbrook Foodbank to seek funding through the Nova Scotia Native Women’s Association for the Foodbank initiative.

Ms. Fiddes-Cook departed the meeting.

It was MOVED (Councillor Chris GooGoo) and SECONDED (Councillor Lisa Marshall)
 That the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) Chief and Council approve the motion to provide the Millbrook Foodbank a one-time donation of \$3,000 in the form of a TRA Credit. The Foodbank must provide supportive documentation including a budget, strategic plan, inventory of items, and the number of families benefitting from the Foodbank. Additionally, Council will need evidence of efforts made to set up a non-profit before considering moving forward with funding.
CARRIED

2.3. Financial Policies and Procedures – Review and Approval

Related Information: Presentation “Financial Policies and Procedures- Review and Approval”.

The CFO reviewed the Financial Policies and Procedures document noting the policy would ensure transparency and accountability and that a department budget would be brought forward in due course. The CFO provided an update on the implementation of the Sage accounting system and asked Council for its support during the process.

Council expressed concerns with previous accounting practices and sought assurance that the approval process for expenses and cheque authorization is transparent and not open for misuse. Further discussion was had on ensuring that family members of those with authority to use the two MFN visa cards, not be responsible for overseeing and monitoring their card activities.

Councillor Natasha Bernard declared a conflict of interest, however, the CFO confirmed that there was no conflict in approving the policy.

It was MOVED (Councillor Carley Gloade) and SECONDED (Councillor Garrett Gloade)
 That the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) Chief and Council approve the MFN Financial Policies and Procedures as presented.
CARRIED

The CFO departed the meeting.

Council discussed the upcoming MFN Strategic Planning Session on May 9, 2022 and requested the CFO be in attendance.

Action Item: It was requested that the Executive Assistant phone the Hampton Inn to secure a meeting room for the MFN Strategic Planning Session and the Administrative Assistant to Chief and Council arrange the catering for the meeting.

2.4. Housing Update

The Housing Director provided an update on the following:

- Community members to make name suggestions for the new cul-de-sac
- Opportunities for community feedback and discussion on housing insurance
- Installation of an individual's shower
- Opening of the Native Women's Association building
- Inclusion of the "Glooscap" name in the newsletter
- The need for Band Members to have their own home insurance; Band Members on social assistance are covered by insurance
- Roads closed in Beaver Dam
- Flood money from ISC
- Meeting with CMM regarding the Water Tower Project
- Application for internship programs targeting MFN students
- Meeting regarding ensuring the gym has disability access and suggestion that the gym's subfloor is investigated
- The Housing Project Officer undergoing training.

Discussion ensued on:

- The need to level the Pow Wow grounds
- Concerns with flooding and drainage issues at the new housing lot
- Finding ways to make housing insurance more affordable to Band Members
- Unfair enforcement of Members who are on social assistance
- Follow up needed in regard to the Energy Efficient NS program and with ISC funding.

Updates were provided on the following requests:

- Letter regarding Membership:
 - The individual could be placed on a list when it is ready
 - Work ongoing on policies will bring a better understanding of where individuals are
 - The individual currently has adequate housing
- Letter:
 - It is a Band-owned home and cannot be given to a Youth or non-Band member.

The Housing Director departed the meeting.

3. POLICY DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

3.1. Brian Wood – Truro Amateur Athletic Club (TAAC) Sponsorship

A letter was provided on the TAAC Revitalization Project and its costs and requested funding from the MFN.

During ensuing discussion, Councillors expressed concerns that the donation would not personally contribute to the MFN community and rejected the request.

Action Item: *It was requested that the Executive Director respond to the Truro Amateur Athletic Club (TAAC) and explain the reason the request was denied.*

Action item: It was requested the Executive Director meet with the Town of Truro in regard to concerns regarding the apartment complex plan on James Street.

3.2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Director of Commercial Operations reported on the signing of an MOU between MFN and Samuel Associates.

It was MOVED (Councillor Alex Cope) and SECONDED (Councillor Stephen Marshall)

That the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between MFN and Samuel Associates to formalize a process to work together on mutually beneficial business and economic development opportunities.

CARRIED

One Abstention (Councillor James Stevens)

4. Community letters/requests

Pius Knockwood – Fishing Derby Funding Request

Funding was sought from MFN for the Annual Fishing Derby.

The request was approved by Council on the condition that more information be provided on the Fishing Derby and that all receipts for expenses incurred are submitted.

It was MOVED (Councillor Lisa Marshall) and SECONDED (Councillor Alex Cope)

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the request from Pius Knockwood for \$4,000 in funding to host the annual Fishing Derby on the condition that Pius Knockwood provide receipts for all event expenses.

CARRIED

Pius Knockwood – Garden Maintenance for Band Office and Health Centre Request

Pius Knockwood requested \$1,900 to cover expenses and labour for the maintenance and upkeep of the Band Office and Health Centre garden.

Council approved the request.

CONSENSUS DECISION

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the motion to provide Pius Knockwood with costs for garden maintenance. Mr. Knockwood's letter is to be referred to the Executive Director to determine the costs.

Band Member Letter

A letter was submitted to Council expressing concerns there had been a lack of adherence to the posted housing policies and rules outlined on the MFN website. A point breakdown of the previous allotted housing from 2015 to present day was requested. Attached to the letter was the Nova Scotia Family Law description and MFN Housing Committee Housing rules taken from the MFN website.

The letter was referred to the Housing Director and Housing Project Officer. Council advised it could not release the points of other individuals and that the individual could only receive their own points.

***Action item:** It was requested that the Band Solicitor respond to the letter with copy to the Executive Director and Housing Director.*

Band Member Letter

A request was submitted for emergency housing and clarification on whether there were any discriminatory factors preventing them from accessing the housing point system.

Council discussed the single housing issue in the community and directed the Housing Department to follow up with the individual.

Margaret Fiddes Cook – Red Dress Event, May 5, 2022

A request for \$2,000 to assist with costs for the upcoming May 5, 2022 Red Dress event for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) was received. The funding would be used for food, beverages, gas money, and for the printing of promotional signs. Plans are in place for a march from the Power Centre to the highway to raise awareness of the MMIWG.

***Action item:** It was requested the Executive Director follow-up with the individual in regard to the May 5, 2022, MMIWG event and refer the individual to the Native Women's Association for funding.*

Band Member Letter

It was requested that cheques be issued to Band members within 24 hours.

The Executive Director suggested a one-week turnaround is more realistic to avoid mistakes and prevent issues with fraud.

***Action Item:** It was requested the Executive Director and Communications Officer manage community members' expectations for turn-around time for cheques.*

Band Member Letter

This letter was referred to the Housing Director.

Band Members' Letter

The letter was in regard to a request for \$2,000 each for two individuals for maintaining the property on Mission Island.

Consensus Decision

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the motion to give \$1,500 and up to \$2,000, to the two individuals, but that any costs over and beyond \$1,500 be justified and receipts provided.

Funeral Costs

During discussion it was suggested that a designated Band representative oversee the Salite costs. The MFN would provide the meals for community members.

Consensus Decision

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the motion to provide \$7,500 in funeral costs including meals and flowers, for on and off reserve Band Members.

Action Item: *It was requested information regarding funeral costs be included in the MFN newsletter.*

Nora Bernard Memorial – October 13, 2020, Motion

A request was received to rename the Millbrook Community Hall to the Nora M Bernard Memorial Centre and potentially establish a \$1,500 educational bursary. The family were in support of these requests.

Consensus Decision

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the request of the renaming of the Millbrook Community Hall to the Nora M. Bernard Memorial Centre and the creation of a \$1,500 education bursary in her name.

Councillor Lisa Marshall – Community Requests

Discussion ensued in regard to allowing all Youth Band members who can skate to go to tournaments with MFN teams. It was suggested that a six-person committee for Youth hockey be struck and that the committee members develop rules and policies for Youth attending tournaments. It was additionally suggested that families not be on the same committee.

It was MOVED by (Councillor Lisa Marshall) and SECONDED by (Chris GooGoo)

That the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) allow all Youth band members who can skate and community members to go to tournaments with MFN teams and that a six-person committee be established for youth hockey.

DEFEATED

Three Councillors were in favour and nine Councillors opposed the motion.

Discussion continued on how to ensure the fair participation for all MFN Youth in hockey.

Councillor Lisa Marshall requests continued:

- The Executive Assistant to write a “thank you” card for Nevaeh

- The Executive Director to confirm whether Direct Deposit is available for off reserve Members living in the United States
- A request from Councillor Lisa Marshall to participate on the Finance Committee
- Suggestion that a contest be had for the design of a new MFN flag.

Action item: It was requested the Communications Officer include details of the MFN flag design contest in the newsletter.

Consensus Decision

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the holding of a contest for the design of a new flag logo.

It was MOVED (Councillor Garrett Gloade) and SECONDED (Councillor Chris GooGoo)
 That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council move forward with changing of “Millbrook First Nation” name to “Wekope’kwitk (Mi’kmaq Nation)”.
CARRIED

Some councillors commented that community consultation would be an important step before proceeding with changing the name of Millbrook First Nation.

Community Member CP Letter

The letter was in regard to a request that the family unit not be taken away and that the Chief and Council honour the arrangement was made and included in the December 3-4, 2012 Council Meeting Minutes.

It was MOVED (Councillor Alex Cope) and SECONDED (Councillor Lisa Marshall)
 That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council honour the arrangement made by Council at their December 3-4, 2012 Meeting, to have the family unit remain in the band member’s name and not be taken away.
CARRIED

4.2 Review of the Pet Motion

Clarification was provided on vaccinations, neutering and euthanasia for pets belonging to seniors.

5. REPORTS

5.1. Review of Staff Reports

Conflict of Interest

Councillors Lisa Marshall, Stephen Marshall and Carley Gloade declared a conflict and stepped out of the meeting.

It was MOVED (Councillor Garrett Gloade) and SECONDED (Councillor Zachary Julian)

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the extension of the tobacco quota for the next three months.

CARRIED

Councillors Lisa Marshall, Stephen Marshall and Carley Gloade declared a conflict of interest.

It was MOVED (Councillor Carley Gloade) and SECONDED (Councillor Alex Cope)

That the Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council approve the updated Travel Rates.

CARRIED

5.2. Executive Director Report

6. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION

6.1. Legal Update

7. CONCLUSION

It was MOVED (Councillor Stephen Marshall) and SECONDED by (Councillor Zachary Julian)

That the April 12th, 2022, Millbrook First Nation Chief and Council General Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Time: approximately 4:36 p.m.
