

**GENERAL CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES – June 13, 2023
9 AM TO 4 PM**

**CHIEF AND COUNCIL
PRESENT**

Chief Robert Gloade	Councillor Chris Googoo
Councillor Natasha Bernard	Councillor Ward Markie
Councillor Anissa Blackmore	Councillor Lisa Marshall
Councillor Alex Cope	Councillor Stephen Marshall
Councillor Carley Gloade (10:30 am)	Councillor James Stevens
Councillor Garrett Gloade	Councillor Dana Sylliboy

ABSENT

REGRETS

Councillor Zachary Julian

STAFF

Claire Marshall, Executive Director
Tammy Bernard, Mental Wellness Coordinator
Shelly Martin, In-House Legal Counsel
Michelle Gloade, Coordinator Millbrook Fisheries
Chantel Langille, Housing Project Manager
Debbie Lattie, Manager Tobacco Store
Jonathan Lowe, Millbrook Fisheries Director
Lorne Paul, Director of Housing
Suzanne Penney, Admin Assistant to Chief &
Council and Recording Secretary

GUESTS / DELEGATES

RCMP :
Sgt. Natasha Jamieson
Sgt. Joe Young
First Nations Market Housing Fund:
Kelly Bitternose, Director of Programs and
Services
Jennifer Martin, Senior Program Council and
Officer
Scott Robertson, Associate, Nahwegahbow &
Corbiere Genoodmagejig

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1.1 Call to Order - Chief Robert Gloade

1.2 Adoption of Agenda - Chief and Council meeting of June 13, 2023.

It was MOVED by Councillor Garrett Gloade and SECONDED by Councillor Alex Cope,

That the agenda of the Chief and Council meeting of June 13, 2023 be approved as distributed with the addition of 2.0 New Business: CMM Bee Relocation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1.3 Adoption of previous minutes: Chief and Council Meeting of May 9, 2023.

Discussion ensued on corrections and clarifications to be made to the minutes of Chief and Council Meeting of May 9, 2023 and the following was noted:

- Regarding Item 2.2 Craft Grant, the amount should read \$300.00 not \$200.00 and was increased to \$500.00 and the motion should also include more assistance for Social Enterprises that allow for communal benefit.

- (Corrected Motion #3)

It was MOVED by Councillor Stephen Marshall and SECONDED by Councillor Carley Gloade, That the Craft Grant amount be increased from \$300.00 to \$500.00 per year and assistance be provided for Social Enterprises that allow for communal benefit.

CARRIED

*Voting in favour: Councillors A. Blackmore; N. Bernard; A. Cope; C. Gloade; C. Googoo; Z. Julian; W. Markie; L. Marshall; S. Marshall; D. Sylliboy;
Declared Conflict of Interest: Councillor J. Stevens*

- The approval of the draft minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting was tabled due to clarification of the final motion of that meeting under agenda item #7 LEGAL. This will be reviewed at the next meeting of Economic Development Project Consultation on June 27, 2023, (see motion below).

It was MOVED by Councillor Anissa Blackmore and SECONDED by Councillor James Stevens, That the restoration proceed on Band land that has been taken without authorization or the color of right.

CARRIED

*Voting in Favour (four): Councillors A. Blackmore, N. Bernard; C. Gloade; J. Stevens
Voting in Opposition (two): Councillors Z. Julian; D. Sylliboy
Absent (one): Councillor A. Cope
Abstained (one) Councillor W. Markie*

2.0 NEW BUSINESS/BUSINESS UPDATES

2.1 CMM Bees

- There was no objection to the proposed removal of the bees temporarily while construction was taking place.

3.0 COMMUNITY REQUESTS/LETTERS/FYI CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Contribution Request: Highway of Heroes – Ride and BBQ – August 19, 2023

- Approval from Chief and Council was sought to cover the approximate cost of \$5,000.00 for the Highway of Heroes Ride and BBQ scheduled for August 19, 2023.
- This item was tabled and once the budget is reviewed, a decision will be provided at the Economic Development meeting on June 27, 2023.

3.2 Funding request for Millbrook Pow Wow (\$40,000.00)

- This was approved as an annual renewal by consensus from Chief and Council.

3.3 Funding request for the Master’s Golf Tournament (\$1,500.00)

- This was approved as an annual renewal by consensus from Chief and Council.

3.4 Ta’n Etlitpi’tmk – Enhanced Social Governance Initiative (FYI only)

3.5 CMM Update – Bike Repairs:

- There will be a free Pop-Up Bike Hub at the Security Office building from July 5 to 7, 2023 (2 pm to 6 pm) which will provide community members with repairs, tune ups and tools, and helpful techniques.

4.0 DELEGATES

4.1 RCMP: Review of monthly report for April and May 2023 (report included in package)

Cpl. Natasha Jamieson and Sergeant Joe Young arrived at 10:00 am and provided an update with the following highlights noted:

- The protest held June 13, 2023 at the RCMP Office and Administration office was discussed, and it was shared that the interaction with the protesters was non-confrontational.
- This conversation led to an in-depth discussion regarding another situation that had occurred June 1, 2023 with a Millbrook business which included Fuel and Tobacco Compliance and the RCMP. During this situation, the RCMP stated they were onsite to keep the peace and ensure the safety of those involved.
- It was shared that Fuel and Tobacco Compliance are now authorized in Powers of Arrest.
- Individuals with the RCMP were singled out and inaccurate information was posted publicly which can have a negative impact on how the community views the RCMP.
- As of this date, the inaccurate narrative is still posted on the Mi'kmaq Right Association's social media site.
- Councillor asked the RCMP if Fuel and Tobacco Compliance Officers are allowed to assault community members; the response was "no," and guidance had been provided to the involved community member on how to pursue this matter.

Other topics covered by the RCMP:

- The Chief and the Emergency Management Operations (EMO) representative had a positive interview with CBC on how well the Millbrook RCMP detachment works with community and that their presence is for the betterment of the community.
- It was also reiterated how important having Indigenous RCMP's are within the community.
- A call was made regarding an individual that is in the community after being banned.
- This is continuing to happen and is in correlation with suspected drug trafficking.
- The individual will be removed immediately from the community.
- Discussion followed regarding the possibility of actions being placed on community members who allow/house the banned individuals at their residence.
- Administration is working on a bylaw surrounding the entire process of banning individuals.
- It was noted that in the housing policy there are clear repercussions for homeowners who allow banned/non-community members to stay in their homes.

4.2 Crisis Response Plan Update: RCMP Sergeant and Mental Wellness Coordinator attended

- Mental Health calls are up 75%, based on the department reporting.
- The role of the Mental Wellness Coordinator is to set up a crisis intervention program.
- During the health fair, members were invited to provide ideas or suggestions for areas of improvement.
- The creation of a talking circle resulted in 79 recommendations and ideas for the program and from this a medicine wheel was created.
- Consideration will be given to different programs that can be offered based on these recommendations/ideas.
- Once created, community members will be informed who is on the mental health team, their roles, and how services will be provided.
- Discussion ensued regarding after hours crisis services – when people cannot be assessed. This currently gets directed to the RCMP, as they normally get the call.

- All situations are different but most of the time the individual gets taken to the hospital and once sober, they leave the hospital.
- Circle of Care, which includes privacy and liability issues, are very difficult to keep in place (a process/procedure is needed for the Circle of Care starting from first contact).
- Once developed and in place, the updates for the crisis response initiative could be included under the Health Centre's Directors' departmental reports.

ACTION: Executive Director to have a meeting with Director of the Health Centre, Mental Wellness Coordinator, and Manager of Community and Public Safety with the direction that all departments must work collectively, sharing information and ideas for success.

5.0 MILLBROOK FISHERIES: Millbrook Fisheries Director and Coordinator attended virtually

- Clarification was requested regarding an issue that arose over the last two weeks, first question was at a finance level – how two fishers can be employed with snow crab and lobster licenses concurrently, at the same time.
- Explanation was provided that there are substitute operators (captains) at the same time, this process keeps the boats fishing and captains and deck hands employed.
- Currently in Digby, they are stacking two licences on one boat, and this keeps the boat fishing and increases production and more revenue, and this could be for either season.
- This means that one captain can be on board while the other is not.
- Digby spring fishers signed a five-year contract in 2020.
- Questions arose recently regarding boat leases, and it was explained that all nine captains have been leasing licences to non-Indigenous captains on all vessels.
- Under the National Online Licensing (NOL) system, the Indigenous captains are designated the primary captains on the licenses but if it is a non-Indigenous person that owns the boat, they could also be listed as a substitute operator and therefore listed as a captain as well to run that boat if the primary captain is not there.
- Millbrook Fisheries Director shared the context of why this is important.
- The spring season represents about 10% of the overall revenue for Digby Lobster, for example in 2020 the amount was \$98,000.00 and during COVID was only \$39,000.00 and last year it increased up to \$130,000.00 because of the collaboration with the captains.
- Increased revenues into the communities ensures that those licenses are being fished continually.
- The structure that is in place provides direct community benefits and the nine captains who are community members need to be considered additionally.
- The spring revenue adds to the upkeep of the gear and all the fuel as well.
- Digby spring makes the fishery continue into the fall and provides employment to deckhands who otherwise may not be able to work.
- It was shared that the vessels that have substitute non-Indigenous captains must offer employment to the Indigenous deck hands first.
- Future direction should be to consider supporting loans for fishers so that captains could get funding for their own vessels (currently no collateral or deposit).
- Councillor shared that there are options for individuals for loans e.g., Ulnooweg and the Nova Scotia Loan Board (higher rates but more forgiving loans) and Millbrook Fisheries is requesting support to investigate this to provide the captains with the support.

- This would provide more self-sufficient captains which would provide the community the needed support.
- Council asked to be kept updated by fisheries in their reports and the Fisheries Director agreed and will also provide a summary at the end of the season.
- Suggestion was made to have a formalized process in place to have for back up to support the fisheries plan.
- Sheet Harbour Wharf was discussed regarding the three berths that are there and need to be available for Indigenous owned boats. Currently, there are non-Indigenous boats housed there that will have to be berthed elsewhere.

ACTION: Council directed the Executive Director to notify Millbrook Fisheries Director of the request to have the berths made available to Indigenous/Millbrook member fishing boats.

6.0 LEGAL: Solicitor and Associate, Nahwegahbow & Corbiere Genoodmagejig (virtually) attended

- Committee is reviewing the community contributions which are now included in the final draft.
- Although some Committee members left, once the Committee approves the draft law, it will then bring back to Council.
- At this point, the Terms of Reference will be completed and if the Council requires further review, it can go back to the Committee.
- The draft will be approved and signed off by the Committee within the next three weeks for Council's review and if it passes Council, it will then go ratification.
- Discussion ensued regarding Committee members and the community engagement process.
- Concerns and questions were shared regarding how the process was started.
- Currently there is a parallel process going on and they are trying to defend rights.
- Questions arose regarding members of this Committee and discussion around conflict of interest.
- There were five consultations with cannabis shop owners on what they wanted to see in this plan.
- Feedback was that they want some legislation and regulations that protect them as well.
- The law has to be formulated in a fashion that everyone can understand, and most laws have a very similar structure.
- The community (all ages) said that they wanted it at an arm's length from Chief and Council.
- The role of the Committee was to create a draft and bring forward for review and approval.

7.0 DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

7.1 Review of Departmental Reports - Executive Director

- Youth centre staffing update: still do not have a full-time employee but will move forward with the part time applicants and keep advertising for full time.
- One individual has shared that they want to come back and take the lead at the Youth Centre.
- The main goal is to be able to get the Youth Centre opened and at least staffed for some hours.

7.2 Parks Recreation and Youth

- Seeking approval from Council to support employees who wish to register as volunteers for North American Indigenous Games (NAIG 2023) and continue to collect their pay.
- This request has been denied with the following reasoning:
 - Council feel that it is not really "volunteering" if Millbrook is paying them to volunteer.

- It is more like providing an “in-kind” donation from Millbrook and the belief is that Millbrook has already contributed to NAIG.
- If staff of Millbrook (other than those who are working for NAIG as part of their job) want to volunteer for NAIG, then they can use a vacation day to do so.

7.3 Tobacco Store Update - Manager (attending virtually)

- Manager expanded on the previous month's recommendation to provide credit to some retail purchasers.
- Suggestions were discussed, including having buyers use credit cards as there seems to be less cash circulating.
- Question was posed on whether the Tobacco Store could start accepting cheques from the local retail shops.
- It was decided that the Tobacco Store Manager can let retail buyers know that after a credit check has been done for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), that the Tobacco Store will be able to accept personal cheques for their retail purchases.
- Updates were provided regarding new hires and hours of operation for Truro as well as Cole Harbour stores.

It was MOVED by Councillor Ward Markie and SECONDED by Councillor Alex Cope, That store owners who purchase tobacco in bulk be permitted to write cheques to the Tobacco Store once they have had a credit check and are approved by the Chief Financial Officer.

CARRIED

Nine voting in favour

Declared Conflict of Interest: Councillors L. Marshall; S. Marshall, C. Gloade

7.4 Millbrook Health Centre Update:

- The Health Centre is now providing job training programs and it was shared that an employee at the Health Centre, has now completed their general practitioner program. They will be a family physician for Millbrook and have signed a contract for the next two years.
- An award has also been presented to the Community Nurse.

8.0 POLICY DISCUSSION/DECISIONS

8.1 Department of Housing Update: Addition to the Housing Policy - Appeal of Eviction.

A handout was provided for Chief and Council for review and approval of the policy.

Discussion ensued:

- Handout was reviewed and each point on the policy was read with suggested changes being discussed and amended.
- Amendments to the new policy were approved by Chief and Council.

It was MOVED by Councillor Garrett Gloade and SECONDED by Councillor Stephen Marshall,

That the addition to the Housing Policy - Appeal of Eviction as reviewed and amended be approved for the next three years by Chief and Council.

CARRIED

Eleven voting in favour

Voting in opposition: Councillor Alex Cope

8.2 Housing-Turtle Island Workshop Update:

Gap Analysis Report and True Cost of Housing Workshop Summary was included in the agenda package for Council review.

8.3 First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) Senior Program Officer along with the Director of Programs & Services attended and provided a Presentation for Chief and Council entitled Working in Partnership with First Nations.

- FNMHF is a registered non-profit Trust that supports financing arrangements for housing on reserve and settlement lands. **Mission Statement - Every First Nation family has the opportunity to have a home on their own land in a strong community.**
- Designed to support market housing arrangements between First Nations and lenders - \$300 million federal investment has grown to almost \$400 million.
- Capacity Development Program is to provide support for First Nations communities which meet but have areas which need further development.
- Credit Enhancement will be 10% of the principal value of eligible housing loans which are advanced, subject to the maximum which has been approved by the FNMHF for the community.
- Possible uses of this program could be for home ownership, rentals, rent to own, renovations, and refinancing for renovations.
- Wholly owned First Nations Entities (FNE) (housing authorities, development corporations).
- Possible borrowers could be First Nation citizens, partnerships where FNE or individuals hold majority shares.
- Loan characteristics: a maximum of 25-year terms and there is no minimum loan term; and these are offered at fixed and variable interest rates.
- In case of arrears lender, FNMHF works with borrower, First Nation honours its guarantee. negotiated with the lender and First Nation takes action on unit ownership and occupancy
- If First Nation cannot meet their obligation, the lender will be able to seek reimbursement for a portion of its losses from the FNMHF.
- If the housing loan is insured, the loan may be assigned to the insurer. If the FNMHF pays a claim to a lender/insurer in relation to the default of a First Nation, the FNMHF will not approve any further credit enhancement in that community until the First Nation reimburses the FNMHF.
- **Benefits of the FNMHF:** no fees or charges for the services; Capacity development support; supports each First Nation goals; each First Nation determines their priorities for loan.
- To work with the FNMHF, the following are needed: Self-assessment, Application, Resolution from Council, and a minimum of three years audited financial statements.

Chief and Council will review the program and all the information provided and revisit at a future meeting.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting Date: July 27, 2023 – Chief and Council Meeting will be together with the Economic Development Project Consultation Meeting

It was MOVED by Councillor Garrett Gloade and SECONDED by Councillor Stephen Marshall,
That the Chief and Council meeting of June 13, 2023 be adjourned at 3:10 pm.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS