



MATACHEWAN FIRST NATION

Box 160, Matachewan ON P0K 1M0

Meeting Details	Community Meeting
Date and Time	Saturday April 27, 2024 @ 1:00 PM
Location	MFN Log Building
Chairperson (Chief)	Tommy Fox
Recorder	Delta Flood & Marilyn Groulx
Council Present	Chief Alex Batisse, Tommy Fox, Elenore Hendrix, Chelsea Daley, Lilianne Jobson, Stan Fox
Council on Zoom	Clara Hanson
Council Regrets	Rachel Batisse, Melanie Boucher, Adrian Boucher
Staff	Marilyn Groulx, Delta Flood, Hayden Doherty Fox, Josh Birimcombe

Item #1 – Opening 1:10 pm	
Lead(s):	Tommy Fox
Discussion:	Opening Prayer by Cynthia Landry

Item #2 – Jordan’s Principle Information	
Discussion:	<p>Hayden presented a Power Point and will provide it for distribution, along with her script. Some key issues discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those children who are non-band members but affiliated or are eligible to be band members, they would need a written letter from Chief & Council stating a child is recognized by MFN. • It was suggested to get the Band’s agreement on a set of rules as who is or is not a member/affiliate when applying for Jordan’s Principle. • As Jordan’s Principle is a reimbursement-based program (mostly), there were concerns about the barriers to service for those parents who don’t have the money for upfront payment. • There are some organizations trying to change the rules. • The Chief and a Council Member discussed the idea of having a pool of resources to front the money and to have a membership/non membership policy. There has to be policies and procedures in place. • To access the funds you can submit an application through the JP Coordinator who works under the Band Manager. There is no board as it is overseen by the program itself. • More research is being done to understand the services in place and holes so that we are not missing anything as this is a new position. • The band also receives funding for special Ed especially on the community. • Only Canadians are eligible.



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Item #3 – Audit Update

Discussion:

The finance officer explained that under ordinary circumstances audits take a lot of time. Since we are already behind, it's taking a little longer. We are currently working on the 2021 audit and the auditors should have a draft by end of April for review. It will take a bit of time after they receive it for final statements for approval which should take us to July. The auditors have booked time for the 2022 audit in August. He works with them daily and is on top of it.

There has been staffing issues and turnover throughout the years which has made it difficult to find information needed. Most of the years after 2021 are set to work smoother and more quickly. He is hoping to get the rest of the audits done in the following year.

A Council member stated that there are a lot of band members and Councilors who think that it's taking too long to complete. Hopefully we won't get into this position again.

Some band members voiced concerns regarding the large amounts of income we have received and wondering where the band has spent it/if it has been spent.

We have not received notice from ISC/OLG that our fundings will be withheld due to non-completion of audits. Concerns were raised that we could not submit for other programs until the audits are done.

Discussed ways to fast track the process such as hiring another worker, putting pressure on auditors, working together, and paying finance workers a reasonable wage.

The housing situation was discussed, including where the policies and procedures are at, issues with collecting rent, and not being able to build until our audits are done. We do have a housing intern looking into avenues for housing and have a housing committee.

2:05 – 15 min Break

Item #4 – Committees Update

Discussion:

A Councilor wanted to know what committees we have and who are on them so they can be sent out to membership.

Some of the committees are: cemetery, housing, pow wow, various mining committees, and there was a health committee

It was requested to also provide their mandate or at least their role (provide recommendations to Chief and Council, etc.).



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Item #5 – Health Centre Update

Discussion:

The building failed the Provincial electrical inspection with only minor issues (open panel, light switch too close to the shower). There are also some loose ends that need to be completed and Catherine will be making a list. Hopefully the issues will be resolved inside and out next month. Staff are starting to move in.

Discussions were had about who did the electrical and that there should be a holdback on payment until completed properly.

There will be a grand opening after the landscaping is done.

The operational budget was discussed. There is no extra funding applied for at the moment (to the best of C&C and staff in attendance's knowledge), other than core funding from Wabun Health. This is being looked into.

Concerns were raised that the Recreation worker would not be moving to the new Health Centre. She works closely with both the Health Team and other office staff. A Council member stated that one of the main things is about client confidentiality and that Council needs to meet together and look at the different programs and who should move over especially looking at client confidentiality.

Other comments were to have our own language on a plaque and a question on if we are going to give the center a name.

Item #6 – Timmins Land Update

Discussion:

The Chief stated that the Addition to Reserve (ATR) process is still moving with meetings with Frank regarding the easements (Five Nations Energy has no issues and Hydro One has a substation which they will sign over to the First Nation on the day the property turns into ATR). There is a quote from last year on infrastructure. We will have to have a meeting later regarding what will be put on it and do with the land. The land in Timmins will basically be our gold mine and should be income based.

The land is approximately 300 acres, un-serviced, and zoned for commercial use.

There was a meeting with Timmins Mayor, and she is on-board with what we want to do.

Hopefully everything will be completed within the next 7 years and will become revenue for our first Nation.

Discussion of possible companies/agencies putting up buildings on our lands or creating buildings and charging rent. (NAPS, treatment center, gas station/tobacco sales, casino). A member mentioned that every first Nation only has a certain allocation of tobacco products – you don't get an increased allocation just because of lands. You can negotiate with other First Nations (remote North) for their share of tobacco projects. Possibly consider cannabis. Should start looking at getting a bigger tobacco allocation. (There may be differences with Brand name vs. generic brands).

The federal government is looking at coming up with a streamlined approach for ATR in the summer. Suggestions on how to speed up the process including going to Ottawa with a letter in hand.



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3:17 – 3:25 break

Item #7 – Q&A	
Lead(s):	
Discussion:	<p>Drilling at the bridge: Band member wanted support to say no to the drilling. “We have to learn to say NO to mining companies. It’s just like the cutting. We have to start saying no and stick to it.” Councilor confirmed that he will be continuing to support that not happening. He will forward meeting information regarding it to the band member.</p> <p>Mining: Concerns raised about the influx of mining happening in the area, specifically for the minerals to make batteries. Although ‘cleaner’, batteries can cause a lot of problems especially if the used batteries ignite as you can’t put it out – you need to keep it under water. Industry is polluting Mother Earth. The only way we will fix it for our future generations is to get everyone together. Western Canada is starting to say no. Land is becoming sterile with less critters/birds.</p> <p>Language: We have very few people who speak or even understand our native language. A band member would like to see a regular Zoom meeting set so everyone can get together and practice/share what they know. Not as a formal learning, but a place to practice. (Band member would like an answer in the next couple of weeks) A Councilor suggested that we seem to be getting a lot of communication through email and maybe we can have our secretary send out an email to see who is interested. Most people in the room put their hand up. Another Councilor suggested some ways to keep our culture alive is to have our KM signs on the way into the community posted in Ojibwa (maybe a turtle with number and word (1- bezhig)). Another idea is that at the beginning of the Rez we find 7 locations to put up billboards in Ojibwa with the 7 grandfather teachings – possibly get our youth to design them. It shows pride coming into our community. It is also important to put a focus on those who are younger than who is here as they will be able to absorb it better and will be the ones teaching it in the future. There was funding for language classes that an Elder is ready to start teaching again, but we are waiting for approval. It will be good to use a variety of learning option.</p> <p>Roads: Road to Separation Lake is coming along well and will be connected to Chief Lake Road. The Emergency Access Road has been approved from behind the warehouse up to the 5 mile.</p>



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Also, know a lot more people moving to electric vehicles – maybe a plug in should be available (especially for those coming from outside).

The main road should have calcium laid down early to mid-June. There also some a few loads of gravel coming in to repair some rougher spots but are waiting to hear back from the MTO to get gravel for the whole road. The MTO has been busy looking after fires but the hope is that gravel will be in mid to late May.

Trap Ground Support

Member stated his support for others who have trap grounds and has been looking for support from Chief and Council in the form of a BCR to allow the Lead Users to have a say what happens on their trap grounds and talk with the Ministry directly. Many trap grounds are showing a loss of habitat and sustainability due to forestry and mining operations. The Member had a study done on the Martin population that shows a loss of Martin Habitat (and population) up to 20km around the First Nation. Martin are a key species that help maintain the biodiversity and health of the forest and animals.

Chief and Council will have another meeting to discuss this issue.

Meeting closed at 4:07pm