

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION
CHIEF and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

- CHAIR:** Philip Pelletier
- COUNCILLORS:** Yvette Greenwald, Desiree Morriseau-Shields, Tannis Kastern, Tony Collins, Sherry Pelletier, Sheldon Bannon, Michele Solomon, Kyle MacLaurin, Jenny Charlie, Leo Bannon Jr.
- REGRETS:** Chief Peter Collins
- STAFF:** Recorder-Bernice Pelletier, Director of Lands and Property-Ian Bannon, Director of Health & Community Services-Karen Bannon, Communications-Kristy Boucher
- GUESTS:** Dr. Melanie Jeffrey, PhD – Cancer Study

GOVERNANCE

Call to Order/Opening Prayer – Philip called meeting to Order at 5:45 p.m. Yvette Greenwald opened with prayer.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST DECLARED – None

AGENDA ITEM - MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

MOTION #1 – Moved by Yvette Greenwald and Desiree Morriseau-Shields to accept the agenda of February 19, 2020 as read. All in favour. Motion Carried.

AGENDA ITEM – Cancer Study – Dr. Melanie Jeffrey, PhD - Dr. Jeffrey gave a presentation on What Lies Beneath? Blood Cancer Study and outlined the following information:

- . Origins and community engagement
- . Some science of toxicological exposures & cancer
- . Industrial history of Thunder Bay
- . Potential causes
- . Proposed aims of the study

Dr. Jeffrey presented a map from 2007 indicating more stuff dumped in those marked areas. Discussion on kids that grew up on City Road who got leukemia later in their 20's and 30's.

Originally, this study came from FWFN cancer survivor Bess LeGarde:

- . Bess connected with Melanie Jeffrey through mutual contacts on the urban indigenous Toronto Facebook page about “how to get a cancer study going.”
- . Melanie visited when in Thunder Bay for other research in late summer 2019.
- . Melanie met with health council about process, designing a study.
- . Melanie photographed the community in detail and began to learn about history in October.
- . Linkages between Thunder Bay's industrial history, toxic chemicals and cancer.
- . Bess' personal story guides this work.

Bess' Story

- . Bess and others who spent young childhood in this “area of concern” tend to get AML as young adults.
 - Usually AML strikes older people, onset of 70 years.
 - The rates of AML in Westfort are also high, but not nearly as high as FWFN.
 - Rate of AML in FWFN are 100% higher.
 - This suggests exposure to a carcinogen.
- . This kind of “data” can only come from community, as where people lived or spent time as children is not reflected in the health care records.

Some science of toxicology and cancer

- . Children are differently affected by exposures
 - Still growing
 - Hand-to-mouth behaviour (soil)
- . Different life stage at exposure will have different outcomes
 - Blood cancers and tumorous cancers are different
- . Epigenetics: Same genes, differently expressed
- . If our DNA can't repair itself, cancer can result
- . Little is known about long-latency exposures

- . Bess' story and the rates of cancer indicate childhood exposures to an unknown carcinogen (cancer-causing chemical)

Industrial History

- . Moves closer to Industrial Lands and cancer in FWFN.
 - 1905 Mission Village families move to current site (mountain Village)
 - 1960?1970? Southern families in "Squaw Bay" move to current site
 - Only after the move did southern families experience these cancers
- . Industrial history involves many potential carcinogens that have known links to leukemia
 - Coal and coal fly ash, coal-tar and pitches, coking, railyards, arsenic, benzene, "black liquor" and other pulp waste, possibly aflatoxins, metal processing slurry and other organic and inorganic waste, including pulp mill waste, metalloids, VOCs, PAHs, herbicides, vinyl chlorides and many other industrial wastes could be present
- . Water and air have been tested, but not soil

Aims

- . Measure soil toxins
- . Cancer registry epidemiology
- . Community knowledge epidemiology
- . Confirm blood cancer type on slides
- . Proactive screening
- . Refer and coordinate services with Dilico, TBR and TBDHU

"We hypothesize that Fort William's lands industrial history specifically contributes to the very high rates of this blood cancer reported in FWFN, and that they are linked to specific environmental contaminants."

The Director of Lands and Property will provide a copy of the Environmental Assessment to Dr. Jeffrey.

The following are maps, paintings and info provided by Dr. Jeffrey:

- MAP-1863 shows old town of Westfort. Shows shape of how harbour has changed.
- PAINTING – done in 1870.

- ORIGINAL Mission Village (1848)?
- Olgivie Grain Elevator was on side of the river to Westfort.
- Olgivie Elevator Collapse, 1906. (McKellar Island) with Mt. McKay in back.
- Newer picture of Olgivie Elevator today – used to have a train track running through it.
- MAP 1887 – Shows Kam river
- MAP – 1887 Indian Reserve
- Picture of how close the railroads were close to the water. All kinds of pollution, train running on coal. Covered in pollutions.
- Consider disel fuel and back up generators. People not treating land well.
- Picture of CPR Coal
- Docks, Mouth of the Kam, with Dredge Boat. Had their own coal docks.
- CPR Coal Docks, Mouth of Kam, better view.
- Elevators using railroad. All of the waste is to be taken out and dumped in the river.
- 1913 – Map of outcroppings
- 1915 – Map plan of reserve. In 2019, when study was done, this is were cancer cluster was identified. They haven't responded to Dr. Jeffrey. She asked if they had measure any of the cancer rates to aboriginal? Authors from Ottawa know that FWFN and Westfort rates are high.
- Original plan of Mountain Village - today has been built out. All of this would have been to dredged many times. Some of this will be along banks of river and other places.
- 1925, Canadian National took over and moved to coal. Area of concern near city road surrounded by railways.
- Need to look at things that are causing high rate of cancer in this community.
- Berms filled out further and Chippewa beach affected.
- Map of GTP Lands and surrendered lands.



Dr. Jeffrey will be applying for a larger grant to complete the project to present to Council. (\$300,000). Dr. Jeffrey will meet with the Director of Lands & Property to obtain information on environmental assessments and any reports done on FWFN lands.

The next steps:

- Talk to community and get much more solid idea who lived and played where in community.
- Presentation to Community is set for March 2, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM – Fire Prevention and Budget– William Solomon - William has provided a report on what he has done during his 6-month contract from August 2019 to February 2020 such as submitting an ISC proposal, visiting Elder's home for safety assessments, reached out for donations, had community engagement, media coverage, education, etc.

Donations include a Pumper Truck valued at \$200,000, Tank Truck valued at \$40,000, SCBA valued at \$60,000 and INFPA Bunker Gear valued at \$72,000, hoses and nozzles valued at \$10,000, Training Gear valued at \$15,000, Smoke Alarms valued at \$10,479 and Fire Extinguishers valued at \$4,975.

He set up a logo contest with one grand prize and two runners up prizes. Three members from FWFN have attended Con College for the pre-service firefighter course. William is requesting something in writing from Council to request the FWFN education department hold seats for firefighting course at Con College.

PROPOSED BUDGET presented for February 24, 2020 to March 31, 2020 (27 work days) in the amount of \$6,838.46.

MOTION #2 – Moved by Sheldon Bannon and seconded by Desiree Morriseau-Shields to authorize a budget of \$6,838.46 for FWFN Fire Prevention Budget from February 24, 2020 to March 31, 2020 in order for William Solomon to proceed

*with his Fire Prevention Program and further that the Director of Lands & Property bring back a revised budget to next Council meeting. **All in favour. Motion Carried.***

PROPOSED TEMPORARY BUDGET presented for April 2, 2020 – March 31, 2021 - Council has to review budget before any decision is made.

PROPOSED BUDGET TO Acquire the Fire Trucks and Equipment – Two quotes in the amount of \$4,067.19 for two firefighters with DZ license volunteered and \$7,000.00 from Gary's Towing were presented.

MOTION #3 – Moved by Yvette Greenwald and seconded by Jennelle Charlie to submit BCR20-02 to support the request that the funding for Training-Fire Protection be redirected from Rocky Bay First Nation back to Fort William First Nation for April 2020 Fiscal year. **All in favour. Motion Carried.**

MOTION #4 – Moved by Michele Solomon and seconded by Leo Bannon Jr. to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

In camera sessions begins at 9:00 p.m.