

FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION
CHIEF and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

CHAIR: Chief Peter Collins

COUNCILLORS: Yvette Greenwald, Desiree Morriseau-Shields, Tannis Kastern, Sheldon Bannon, Jenny Charlie, Philip Pelletier, Kyle MacLaurin, Leo Bannon Jr., Michele Solomon, Sherry Pelletier, Tony Collins

STAFF: CEO-Michael Pelletier Jr.,

ZOOM

GOVERNANCE

TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION:

- Drug addicts and our response.
- Off-reserve financial assistance.
- Sheldon asked about security processes and how it is tied to the pandemic plan. This will be addressed at the next management meeting.

Chief opens meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Councillor stated that between 1 p.m. and 8 a.m., she witnessed multiple incidents.

- 2 individuals came to her house looking for her daughter who then came back after with red nose and eyes.
- Witnessed other individuals to be under the influence.
- There was a drop of drugs, two band members funneling all through dealer's house and seen with east Indian individuals.
- Another young woman was abused by her husband who was also under the influence.

- Another young woman was also seen in Westfort under the influence and couldn't stop moving.
- Question asked why aren't the police stopping these cars coming into the reserve?
- Question asked how does FWFN beef up security while they are subject to more health risks?

Councillor commented that everyone knows who the drug dealers are. Suggest to draft a letter out to the reserve and the dealers. Councillor found a letter from 2003 regarding drug dealers. Suggest that maybe FWFN should start enforcing the contents of that letter.

- Another Councillor commented that it was hard to BCR off the dealers because of the relation to families.

Councillor stated that we have power to close reserve and BCR people off. Would this be the option to restrict people from the reserve? Councillor is okay with signing a BCR if individual is found to be trafficking get someone off the reserve.

Chief recommended full lockdown, no access between 8 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Only emergency services, essential reasons or if you work for essential services they will be allowed through.

- Work needs to be done around access to the community.

Councillor comments on the pandemic plan is that he recalls the flood situation. Where are our names of emergency control group?

Councillor is wondering about his role and asked to get together to review the emergency plan.

Discussion takes place on what to do with the drug dealers. Councillor suggests giving the APS more power to deal with the drug dealers.

Chief gives direction to the CEO to obtain a legal to analyze emergency measure act and how it gives security more powers.

- Councillor supports someone looking at the act. Question asked if FWFN has the ability to request the RCMP assistance in emergency measures?

Councillor request an invite to Derek Johnson, APS to attend call in for tomorrow nights Council meeting.

Councillor asked if FWFN can use Section 88 of the Indian Act to beef up emergency services act?

- Chief commented that the has spoken to legal person at Chiefs' level.

Councillor asked about Mountain Road security checkpoint and where the location should be?

- CEO responded that he directed security to not have Gloria Zeleny, security person, alone and she would be moved to the Mission Road checkpoint. Security would not be operating the Mountain Road.

Chief talked about repurposing the child well-being funding; expressed concerns about food assistance for off-reserve members.

Chief had a meeting with Mike Strickland, lawyer and asked that he call in for tomorrow nights Council meeting with an opinion around the emergency measures, certain sections of the Indian Act (Section 30 and 88).

Road closures – Should a community member be allowed to go through checkpoints if they live on reserve and outside of residential area?

Councillor would like 30 minutes of bi-weekly meetings to discuss solutions.

Paul Giles is willing to put out message on his signs and donate time.

Communications Officer has been posting newsletters and notices to the community and also posting on the FWFN website.

Councillor asked what does lockdown mean? Are members allowed to roam around? Suggest asking opinion from Mike Strickland about imposing rules for band members.

Councillor asked for Mike Strickland legal opinion as to whether or not the BCR would have to be changed to reflect 24 hours lockdown?

Meeting adjourned.

