

**FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION**  
**CHIEF and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**June 5, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

---

**CHAIR:** Chief Michele Solomon  
**COUNCILLORS:** Yvette Greenwald, Sheldon Bannon, Jenny Charlie,  
Desire Morriseau-Shields, Kyle MacLaurin, Jacob McKay,  
Brian Ludwigsen, Sherry Pelletier, Leo Bannon Jr., Peter  
Collins Sr., Bonnie Pelletier, Bess LeGarde  
**STAFF:** Recorder-Bernice Pelletier, CEO - Michael Pelletier Jr.

**AGENDA – Call Meeting to Order – Chair** called meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.  
Michele opened with smudge and prayer.

**AGENDA ITEM – Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None**

**AGENDA ITEM – MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA**

***MOTION #1 – Moved by Jenny Charlie and seconded by Sherry Pelletier to accept the agenda of June 5, 2023 as read. All in favour. Motion Carried.***

**AGENDA ITEM – MINUTES – April 12, 2023**

***MOTION #2 – Moved by Sheldon Bannon and seconded by Yvette Greenwald to accept the Minutes of April 12, 2023 as read. Peter Collins abstains as he was not apart of these minutes. Motion Carried.***

**AGENDA ITEM – Introduction**

**Council Inauguration - Each Councillor bring a sponsor to stand with them as they are swearing in on June 11, 2023.**

## **Priorities from Councillors:**

### **Peter**

1. Mental health and Addictions
  2. Enhance policing organization
  3. Settling tax issue with City of Thunder Bay
  4. Return of Chippewa Park to rightful owners FWFN land
  5. Reach out to elders and have ceremony once priority list is completed.
- Strategic Planning to guide Council in right directions for community.

### **Yvette**

1. Mt. McKay Ski Lodge for Mental Health and Addiction
2. Improve Housing structure
3. Job creation
4. Youth Training/Purpose i.e. carpentry, psw, nursing etc.

### **Jacob**

1. Addressing social issue in community, health addiction, poverty traditions as Anishinabek people and returning to ourselves
2. Update and adherence to policies and codes
3. Self-Governance
4. Community Meetings

### **Desiree**

1. Prioritize strategic planning and accountability with community
2. Hire an external 3<sup>rd</sup> party to review organization and policy review
3. Diversify revenues, i.e. Economic development
4. Modernizing communications, reach off and on reserve
5. Off reserve support

### **Sherry**



1. Improve Communication – universal, improve online access to council meetings
2. Social Issues Strategy as to how to work with individuals, utilize Jordan Principles, start networking
3. Elders
4. Safe Place or Center built for Aftercare
5. Proposal Writers

### **Sheldon**

1. Off Reserve Inclusion - Health issue help for members
2. Mental Health Community and Staff - Training
3. Education/Prevention
4. Human Resources Issues, Funding resources to help members with schooling, training, etc.
5. Cultural – Use of Community Resources

### **Leo**

1. Affordable housing for single and families
2. Job Creation
3. Land based activities
4. Trade School

### **Bonnie**

1. Fiscal accountability – priority that Council knows where we are at firstly to make decisions
2. Regular band membership meetings, council accountability and keeping band members informed on a certain date every month. 12 month pre-set.
3. Internal policies and completed whether it be outsourcing to have them done so that everyone is operating with current laws
4. Information calendar where council knows what meeting are coming up and aware if Council wants to attend, aware of Chiefs meetings. This to be presented monthly.



### **Brian**

1. Strategic Planning, accountability measured on how council is succeeding. Goals set for Council and administrative staff.
2. Mental Health and Addictions and safe place.
3. Diversify Revenue streams, training, i.e. land based training
4. Communications with members, band member meetings and responding to members

### **Jenny**

1. Relationship building with Council, administration, staff, team building to operate together and get along.
2. Community Safety, i.e. traffic on City road
3. Youth Mentoring
4. Complete Council Tasks and decisions as motioned. Have community meetings.

### **Bess Ann**

1. Communication, how deliver info to community, with each other, building a team of communicators within administrator. Follow up with community meetings. More info regarding FWFN finances.
2. Mental Health Services Improvement, after hours safe place, 24-hour care
3. Implementing traditional knowledge and land base learning within the community, living off the land by picking up our traditions and will help reclaim who we are.
4. Policies, structure reanalyzed and up to date and implemented.

### **Kyle**

1. Organization Review
2. Self Determination as to who we are and how we do things our way. Complete Membership Code and Election Code
3. Financial accountability and responsibility completed audits

## **Michele**

1. Strategic Planning
2. Policy/Law Development
3. Mental Health & Addiction
4. Youth Strategy – Every FWFN Child Matters, i.e. Regalia making for every child in community, give indigenous pride to youth
5. Cultural/Ceremonial Center i.e. members moving into spirit world (Peter commented that there is a teepee at the Ski Club that was donated for this ceremony)

## **AGENDA ITEM – Code of Conduct**

Chief will bring some draft code of conduct to Council. Council can review the policy that is included in tonight's council packages.

## **AGENDA ITEM -CEO/CFO – Governance Gap Summary**

The CEO and CFO presented a briefing report dated June 5, 2023 regarding the report of the Authorized Signing Officers during Governance Gap April 15, to May 27, 2023. A list of what authority was presented.

***MOTION #3 – Moved by Peter Collins and seconded by Jenny Charlie to accept the CEO/CFO report dated June 5, 2023 on the Authorized Signing Officers during officers during governance gap April 15 to May 27, 2023 and further that a report will be brought back to Council on items #2 and #5. ALL IN FAVOUR. MOTION Carried.***

A special person and a youth to attend the Chief and Council inaugural ceremony.



### **AGENDA ITEM – St. Anne’s Church donation**

Consensus of council to bring this request to the FWFN community meeting for band membership decision as to whether to allocate these funds or not.

Suggestion that St. Ann’s needs to present a letter as to why they are requesting this money. A Community band member meeting will be scheduled. Chief will follow up with St. Ann’s committee member as to Council’s decision.

### **AGENDA ITEM – Date of Council Orientation**

CEO suggest 2-3 day Orientation for Council. 1. Governance first day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> day the directors and departments present their activities.

CEO will send out calendar events to Council for the following events:

Dates: June 16, 17, 2023 scheduled for Orientation. (Elder to be invited)  
Regular Council Meeting – June 19, 2023

### **AGENDA ITEM – Cannabis By Law**

Council to review and a date will be set for discussion.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Moved by Sheldon Bannon and seconded by Bonnie Pelletier to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.**