

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

**January 31, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

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**CHAIR:** Chief Michele Solomon

**COUNCILLORS:** Yvette Greenwald, Sheldon Bannon, Desiree Morriseau-Shields, Jenny Charlie, Peter W. Collins, Bess Legarde, Jacob McKay, Sherry Pelletier, Brian Ludwigsen, Leo Bannon Jr. Kyle, MacLaurin, Bonnie Pelletier joined at 6:20pm

**STAFF:** CEO – Christine MacKay, Recorder-Exec. Asst. – Janelle Pelletier, Ian Bannon, Cheryl, St. James, Robert Pierre, Michael Pelletier Sr.

**REGRETTES:**

**GUESTS:** Matthew Miedema, Kayla Nixon, Rickardo Welyhorsky, Amiel Blajchman

**AGENDA – Call Meeting to Order** – Chief called meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Desiree- Morriseau- Shields opened with prayer.

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA**

**MOTION #1 – Moved by Leo Bannon Jr and seconded by Bess Legarde to accept the agenda of January 31, 2024.**

**All in favour. Motion Carried. Corrections, errors, omissions, new business arising from minutes:**

**Agenda Item #4:**

- Brian Ludwigsen made note that Aug 24, 2023, motion was made that a letter be drafted and sent to Avalon for duty to consult.
- Note: Avalon representatives have been advised that this meeting is not consultation for tonight’s meeting Jan.31, 2024.

- Environmental Protection Agency – FWFN will have more say when it comes to the assessment for the project.

**AGENDA ITEM – Declaration of Conflict of Interest – Kyle MacLaurin & Peter W, Collins – Agenda Item #2**

**AGENDA ITEM #3– City of Thunder Bay – road update City rd. & James St.**

Ian Bannon – Director of Lands – introduction:

- Matthew Miedema Project Manager City Engineering Office & Kayla Nixon, Proposal to FWFN Chief & Council issue by the intersection of James St. & City Rd.
- 2024 city budget allocated for this traffic project. Will the City be responsible for the Hydro poles relocation and the lights along City Rd?
- 445 sq meters of property is required for purchase from GLP to build the off ramp going towards James St. from City Rd.
- Bannon’s Gas Bar intersection & City & FWFN to work together to elevate the traffic exiting Bannon’s. Customers, pedestrian’s safety.
- \$1600 - \$2000 property sale from GLP, Bannon’s is willing to work with FWFN & the City of Thunder Bay. To elevate the traffic coming from Bannon’s.
- Short term solution to keep traffic moving today. Long term solution would be 10-year plan, other proposals would have to be made.
- Will the land need to be sold? Ontario Province FWFN owns the land, but its not reserve lands.
- FWFN Lands Department will be providing a briefing note to FWFN community for consulting regarding to the sale of lands.
- ATR process: FWFN Development Corp
- Road Safety; for pedestrians. Elevate the traffic safety by City Rd. & James St. near Bannon’s.



**MOTION #2 – Moved by Sheldon Bannon and seconded by Peter W. Collins** that Fort William First Nation council approve the sale to the City of Thunder Bay of land totalling 445sqm for the Right turn Channelization of city rd. intersection at James St. The dollar amount for this sale will be finalized following consultation with FWFN Community members and reviewed by our respective legal departments. 9 opposed **Motion Defeated.**

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – Avalon presentation – Rickardo Welyhorsky & Amiel Blajchman**

- Chief Michele Solomon has addressed to Avalon representatives that this is not consultation with FWFN Chief & Council. Also, to address to this table what is the reason for the meeting tonight.
- Avalon is here to meet with council as a starting point.
- Why did Avalon not let FWFN know they bought private property on the traditional territory?
- Detailed discussions and understanding with FWFN, equity partnership/ownership/investment? Job creation, joint ventures, employment, trades. Create something that is sustainable.
- Solid residue is left, cement industry, mines, underground mines can utilize secondary usage from the waste.
- Ground water well, has there been any exceedance of that property? Environmental Assessment. How many are there on that property between 8 – 12, one is located right to the Lake Superior. Ontario government has been done over the last 12 years. No map with coordinates. Arial maps?
- What percentage of jobs will be targeted for FN communities? What is the minimum percentage that will be written in the agreements.
- Northwestern Lithium Mines, Assets. Mined in the North processed in the North, happening in Ontario. Close experts from the university and the colleges to provide knowledge.
- What are the impacts regarding health, safety and living on the lands.



Currently, they are in the early stages in project development. There is no answer at this time to the questions asked by councillor Bess Legarde

Break 9:20pm

## **AGENDA ITEM # 2 – Arena Rink #2**

***ACTION ITEM: Full report will be brought back to council table next week. Inspection was done Tuesday January 30, 2024.***

## **AGENDA ITEM #5 – APS BOARD UPDATE & AFN REPORT TO COUNCIL**

***Note: Bess has submitted AFN & APS – submitted report for the council work, APS Board update, AFN report have been submitted tonight. Bess sent electronical copy; Janelle will send out to council.***

## **AGENDA ITEM #6 – HICKS LAKE – Robert Pierre, Chery St. James & Mike Pelletier Sr.**

- Clean Air Metals – Wilford King put up a lodge in Gull Bay. Sacred site.
- FWFN cannot go to there land to use for sacred site. Letter from Deputy Ministry crossed out Chief King and put Wilfred. Treaty Territory – take parts of FWFN land.
- FWFN has taken this consultation to our Nation (FWFN). Get a lawyer to go after the Ministry of Mines, offensive to FWFN members.
- original signatures of the Territory. advised that a company done work – Gull Ball & FWFN sit down and have a discussion council to council.
- Gull Bay agreement & FWFN agreement regarding the Impala mine.

***BONNIE PELLETIER – LEFT AT 9:45PM***

**IN CAMERA SESSION – 9:52PM**



**Fort William  
First Nation**

Chief and Council Meeting Minutes