

**FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION
CHIEF and COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.**

CHAIR: Chief Michele Solomon
COUNCILLORS: Desiree Morriseau-Shields, Jacob McKay, Jennelle Charlie, Kyle MacLaurin (zoom), Sherry Pelletier, Peter W. Collins(zoom), Bonnie Pelletier(zoom), Brian Ludwigsen (zoom), Leo Bannon Jr.(zoom), Yvette Greenwald
STAFF: CEO –Jeremiah Windego, Exec. Asst. to Chief & Council-
Melissa Zeleny
REGRETS: Sheldon Bannon, Bess Legarde
GUESTS: Sandra Busoi – Finance, Mike Strickland

AGENDA – Call Meeting to Order – Chair called meeting to order at 5:55p.m.
With prayer and smudge by Chief Michele Solomon.

MOTION #1 – *Moved by Jenelle Charlie and seconded by Desiree Morriseau Sheilds to accept the agenda for February 25, 2025. All in favor. Motion carried.*

AGENDA ITEM – STANTEC BUILDING

There are 2 issues up for discussion, first being Biitigong Nishnaabeg wanted to leave from the partnership, STANTEC wanted to reduce. Biitigong Nishnaabeg First Nation from the partnership, they are want to leave the partnership to move closure to their own territory for business. Pay off the loan account balance and acquire the 50% partnership, zero management fees and put forth that they would pay

Counter proposal – they have agreed to drop the management claim in consideration for FWFN to drop paying half of the land property transfer taxes. Payback any loan account balances. Nowhere in nothing in the partnership can Counter proposal

Legal Recommendation would be to move on, they have agreed to drop their claim for the management fees because they could not enforce



contractually. Drop our ask for ½ of the land transfer taxes that we cannot enforce contractually.

Purchase Price amount was approximately \$416, 000 now there may be some additional income earned during the year, we will know the precise number. TD loan and finance provides an update. Pic River.

Question: The current lease with Stantec in the renovation cost and not wanting to move forward with a 5 year lease –

1.5 million construction costs – to make the space the way Stantec wants that and they do not want to cover those costs for renovations, they want fort william to cover the costs of the renovations.

The current market rate is 21.81 per square foot – they want to pay \$5 less in rent per square foot \$16 would be more older Mike would not recommend we accept their offer.

1st year agree to a freeze and then thereafter consumer value.

Question 2: Is the building Biitiagon asked us to partner with them in the

Question 3: Would it not be in good faith for Biitigong agree to pay for half of the land transfer tax as good business partners.

Land Transfer tax bill is just over \$20,000 (management fee is 10%)

We don't owe a management fee – we cannot legally Nation to Nation

Poor appreciation of the rental properties in Thunder Bay.

2024 - \$416.269

-We own the land and the building

-2025 draft Statements could be available by MNP- mid to late march

Get the most updated details on property tax, updated property appraisal,

If appraisal comes in at a higher number

-Also not being satisfied with the space

-Exploring owning at 100% - something that looks to be

-With Stantec asking for lower rent, keep the rent the same and each year match current market value.

-Manner of leasing to Stantec will be as per normal practice.



MOTION #2 moved by Peter Collins and seconded Jennelle Charlie for Fort William First Nation Council to accept the counter offer from Biitigong Nishnaabeg as summarized in the memorandum from Micheal Strickland dated February 23, 2026 to buy out the partnership and pay the interest and loan and partner capital account balance that is owned to them dropping the management claim and claim for half of the Ontario Land Transfer taxes.

All those in favor, Kyle MacLaurin, Jannelle Charlie, Leo Bannon Jr, Yvette Greenwald, Peter Collins, Jacob McKay, Sherry Pelletier,

Opposed Bonnie Pelletier, Brian Ludwigsen

Abstention: Desiree Morriseau Sheilds

Motion carried.

Note: Leo Bannon Jr. has requested full review of draft lease before it is finalized. Council would like to see the plan before presenting the lease back Information is needed.

AGENDA ITEM – TUITION AMOUNTS

Review of briefing note prepared by Brittany Anness with updates to the unspent funding from Education, as well as the proposed increase to the tuition amounts from the education department.

MOTION #3 Moved by Jennelle Charlie and seconded by Sherry Pelletier to approve the one-time transcript submission incentive of \$1000.00 per eligible post secondary student for the timely submission of their Fall 2025 semester transcripts (sept 2025-Dec 2025) and an increase to the annual tuition funding caps as follows: Undergraduate at College or University \$10,000.00CDN/year, Master's programs: \$17,000.00CDN/year, Doctoral/Law School/Medical School: \$25, 000.00CDN/year. **All in favor. Motion carried.**

MOTION #4 Moved by Yvette Greenwald and seconded by Desiree Morriseau Sheilds to approve BCR26-08 appointing Jennelle Charlie, Director for Biidabin Healing Lodge. **Abstained Jennelle Charlie. Motion carried.**



AGENDA ITEM: SIGNING AUTHORITY CHANGES WITH RBC

We require a BCR to update information with our financial institution on personnel who will have signing authority for Fort William First Nation. We have had to remove employees who are no longer working for Fort William First Nation, add new employees who will have signing authority as well as to update MNP representatives (one of whom retired)

New Additions of Signors: CEO-Jeremiah Windego
Manager of Finance -Helen Vani
Controller - Debbie Bjorklund
MNP – Rob Mozzon

MOTION #5 Moved by Desiree Morriseau Sheilds and seconded by Sherry Pelletier to approve and sign BCR26-06 changing signing authorities as per the briefing note which identifies which accounts and signatories are being changed. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Updating Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Authorization

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has requested a Band Council Resolution(BCR) in order to update the personnel Authorized to access the Fort William First Nation portal for My Account and My Business Account. We are having to update this information because of some staff leaving Fort William First Nation and also due to internal shifting of positions within Fort William First Nation.

MOTION #6 Moved by Yvette Greenwald, seconded by Peter Collins to approve and sign BCR26-07 updating Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) authorization personnel to access Canada Revenue Agency My Account and My Business account. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: ISC AMENDMENTS

Indigenous Services Canada Funding Amendments for Council Approval
Q3BN –\$89,088.00 Operation and maintenance 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 Training
– Fire Protection
QA50 – Fire Protection Strategy Fund



MOTION #7 Moved by Leo Bannon and seconded by Desiree Morriseau Sheilds. to approve the ISC amendments 0062 and 0063. Yvette Greenwald and Brian Opposed. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM: Additional Donations

MOTION #7 Moved by Jannelle Charlie and Seconded by Leo Bannon Jr. to approve the donation requests from the following named children in the amount of \$1000.00 for their participation in the LNHL (Saige McKay, Emerson McKay, Ezra Anderson-Morriseau, Avery Morriseau, Bentley Levesque). Opposed by Bonnie Pelletier. Motion carried.

Note: Concern for the amount of money going out to LNHL, while we are not making sure that all the rest of our kids are being looked after.

Question: The dollar amount that was sent back from Education next year – surplus funding was deferred. Anything not spent by March 31, 2026. If we have funding remaining why are we not giving more funding to our students instead of giving the money back to ISC. Student

Deferred AGENDA ITEMS:

AGENDA ITEM – STATE OF EMERGENCY (Deferred)

Breaking the Cycle – Youth Gang Prevention Press Release

AGENDA ITEM – (3 Items from Housing-Brianna Hyslop) DEFERRED

Peter Collins requested putting the housing items first on next weeks meeting agenda as they are outstanding items from today. Chair asked if there is any objection to hearing Brianna Hyslop present on her 3 Housing Agenda Items is council prepared to hear these items first during our governance meeting, next week. No objections.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – motion made by Desiree Morriseau Sheilds, seconded by Yvette Greenwald to adjourn at 10:08pm. Motion carried

