

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Chair: Chief Brent Bissaillion
Council: Steven Baranyai, Shirley McLeod, Marlene Essex, Jack Trudeau, Michelle Owl, Kerri Commanda, Nicole Pelletier-Southind, Tillie McLeod, Earl Commanda, Joey Jacobs
Regrets: Miranda Pelletier
Director of Operations: Cheryl Nahwegahbow
Staff:
Recording Secretary: Erin Carne

- 1) **Call to Order/Opening Remarks:** 6:05p.m
Special Duly convened meeting via Zoom to discuss the items

2) **Adoption of Agenda**

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| MOTION: 2020-05-26-01 | |
| That Council adopts the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2020 | |
| Moved by | Steve Meawasige |
| Seconded by | Tillie McLeod |
| CARRIED | |
| Some concerns brought forward re: Shelter In Place, will be addressed further down the agenda Noted-State of Emergency- Clarifications needed around date extensions | |

- 3) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:** N/A

4) **New Business**

a) **State of Emergency Order**

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| MOTION: 2020-05-26-02 | |
| That Council approves the motion to extend the State of Emergency No: 2020-03-27-001 until June 27, 2020 | |
| Moved by | Nicole Pelletier-Southwind |
| Seconded by | Earl Commanda |
| CARRIED | |

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| Recording Secretary: | Erin Carne | Date Approved | 2020-06-02 |
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b) Shelter in Place Order

What can we do to loosen restrictions?

- EOCG recommended not to loosen restrictions
- Lightening up restrictions requested by multiple councilors
- Using colors to identify who is coming into the community, benefit of border-tracking system to trace
- Agree with nurses, cautions language we use. Things are “okay”. Suggestion: Increasing our diligence, protecting the community
- Start focusing on educating the community, harvesters, making sure the community understands why it’s Important.
- Rely on the EOCG-health professionals, rely on their expertise. More education on why we’re doing what we’re doing
- Social distancing, masks, make sure our community has a mask. Engaging in off reserve activities, make sure we’re safe. Consistency of the border-wear a mask. Using discretion when people are requesting to come on Reserve
- A lot of members want to come back. Our territory is more than the reserve. We are a postage stamp of a larger parcel of land and we have an entire territory to use. Utilize your treaty rights
- Marten Doodem-discussing tags to say they are community members (with Lands)
- Marten Doodem-adding a coloured stamp to the back of the tags of the cars.
- Several discussions happening, negative comments happening, can’t go anywhere, restrictions are too tight
- No discussion on the mental health re: the border, never consulted the community on their thoughts. As a council we are supposed to consult with the community.
- Comments made of people visiting, if they’re social distancing.
- When communication is being sent they should be signed by whoever will be answering questions
- Border patrol-its hard, lack of consistency, some are doing everything, some are not.
- Do we have an appeal process? Talk of allowing people into the community, is there an appeal process in place?
- As long as we are consistent, and educate the community as to why decisions have been made.
- Few things need to be lifted, mental health issues are high at this time.
- Think about a community that is struggling with mental health
- Will discuss issues with EOCG to have a recommendation to bring back to council
- State of emergency order was signed by council, consultation with community isn’t in place because we have to think of the overall health of the community.
- Do you agree with curfew?
- Do you agree with what's happening?
- Community member has been here working with an essential business who went through the Lands Coordinator to accessing the reserve for work
- Discussion-relaxing the restrictions too soon, if we have a surge-how difficult it would be to put the restrictions back on.
- Testing-front line workers are being tested. Want a mobile testing van to come into the community, deployed to the First Nation to test everyone in the community.
- Testing is a one time snapshot.

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- Testing will be available to everyone, currently we do not have enough PPE in the community,
- This is why there are borders in place
- Border and our role as councilors-if we do hear that, we should be educating community, protecting our family members.
- We need to take a look at lightening up the restrictions but have to agree with health care providers
- Border to do an education piece as well. We are protecting our community, no positive cases in the community. People want to get out and see others. As council we need to address this
- Torn about the shelter in place, how do we make shelter in place enjoyable, understanding we should not be having people in our home.
- Noticing we are hard on our people with who is/isn't essential, need to identify a list of essential services
- Do we take care of our elders? Are they being brought outside?
- Taking steps to make this as bearable as possible
- Not the normal we want to accept. We have no control over it, the control we have we can practice. Keep safe. Mental health is a big concern. We do not know who needs help and isn't asking for it.
- People wanting to come back to harvest.
- Educating community
- Appeals process for people who are here or want to come back
- Mental Health-programming ideas in small groups. Look at the bubble system-using others in the community
- Large families, can they pair up? How would we do that? 5 people limit? These are things we can think about.
- What happens if we ease restrictions? Amending the shelter in place? Do we still want the curfew? Looking at the essential businesses.
- How do we want to make it livable?
- Border-getting better with collecting data
- We can call it family time-seeing each other again.
- Bringing back to EOCG, Marlene and Earl to explain Councils position
- Drive home the education piece.
- First pandemic in 100 years, hopefully the last. Working to keep people safe, boredom doesn't end the pandemic, it's still happening.
- Councillors to email suggestions as to how this would work, how can we lighten, will provide to EOCG.
- Start pulling out pieces of the order to make recommendations.
- Things we know now that we didn't know then, like masks.
- Living document to add amendments and provisions, creating a phased Shelter In Place
- Council will review Shelter in Place Order and offer up recommendations by Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

MOTION: 2020-05-26-03

That Council will review the Shelter In Place order and offer up recommendations by Thursday, May 28, 2020

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| Moved by | Steve Meawasige |
| Seconded by | Tillie McLeod |
| CARRIED | |

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5. Next Meeting Dates

- a) C&C Duly Convened Meeting-Tuesday, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
- b) C&C Duly Convened Meeting- Tuesday, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

6. Adjournment:

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| MOTION: 2020-05-26-04 | |
| That Council adjourns the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7:23 p.m | |
| Moved by | Shirley McLeod |
| Seconded by | |
| CARRIED | |

In-Camera to follow

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