

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road  
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



Telephone: (705) 844-2418  
Facsimile: (705) 844-2757

SRFN Chief and Council Meeting

**August 19, 2021**

**Approved Minutes**

**Chair:** Chief Brent Bissaillion  
**Council:** Earl Commanda, Kerri Commanda, Marlene Essex, Shirley McLeod, Tillie McLeod, Michelle Owl, Miranda Pelletier (6:39 p.m.), Jack Trudeau  
**Regrets:** Steven Baranyai, Joey Jacobs, Steve Meawasige, Nicole Pelletier-Southwind  
**Director of Operations:** Candace Martin  
**Recording Secretary:** Candace Martin  
**Staff:** Tyler Gary, Communications Officer; Leila Macumber, Community Wellness Department Manager  
**Guests:**

**1) Call to Order/Opening Remarks:**

-The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. -Chief Bissaillion welcomed Council and community, clarifying that this is a special meeting with a condensed agenda to deal with time sensitive business following the postponement of the August 10 <sup>th</sup> meeting -Chief Bissaillion held a moment of silence to acknowledge the elders and veterans and those that have passed on
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**2) Adoption of Agenda**

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-01</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council adopt the agenda as presented for the Chief and Council Meeting of August 19, 2021</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Marlene Essex
<b>Seconded by</b>	Earl Commanda
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

**3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

None declared at this time
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Recording Secretary:	Candace Martin	Date Approved	September 7, 2021
2021-08-19 APPROVED C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2021-09-07-03

4) Standing Items

a) Safe House

-The safe house was deferred to in-camera

5) New Business

a) First Nation Election Act (FNEA)

**MOTION: 2021-08-19-02**

That Chief and Council approve the following Band Council Resolution:

**WHEREAS, Serpent River First Nation is listed on the Schedule to the *First Nations Elections Act* (“FNEA”);**

**WHEREAS, under section 11 of the *FNEA* and section 8 of the *First Nations Elections Regulations* (“FNER”), a First Nation under the *FNEA* may impose a fee of up to two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) on each candidate in an election for the position of chief or councillor;**

**WHEREAS, under section 9(2) of the *FNER*, the candidacy fee shall be held in trust by the electoral officer;**

**WHEREAS, under section 10(3) of the *FNER*, a candidate who withdraws in an election for the position of chief or councillor forfeits the candidacy fee and is considered to have received no votes;**

**WHEREAS, under section 11 of the *FNEA* and section 26(a) of the *FNER*, the candidacy fee shall be refunded to the candidate within thirty (30) days of the declaration of election results, if that candidate receives more than five per cent (5%) of the total votes cast, or, under sections 12(2) and 12(3) of the *FNER*, as soon as feasible, if the candidate is elected to their position by acclamation;**

**WHEREAS, under section 26(b) of the *FNER*, the candidacy fee of all candidates who received five per cent (5%) or less of the total votes cast shall be remitted to the First Nation;**

**AND THEREFORE, that in accordance with section 11 of the *FNEA* and section 8 of the *FNER*, Serpent River First Nation shall impose a fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) on each candidate in an election for the position of chief, and one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150) for each candidate in an election for the position of councillor, which shall be held, and returned or remitted, in accordance with the above expectations as set out in the *FNEA* and *FNER*.**

<b>Moved by</b>	Kerri Commanda
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<b>Seconded by</b>	Tillie McLeod
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<b>CARRIED</b>	By Roll Call Vote
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-The Director of Operations presented a briefing note outlining the final results from community engagement around the two remaining questions with respect to the FNEA (number of councillors and candidacy fee) and provided a spreadsheet of the results to support Chief and Council discussion

Recording Secretary:	Candace Martin	Date Approved	September 7, 2021
2021-08-19 APPROVED C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2021-09-07-03

-Extensive discussion took place with respect to the transition to the FNEA and concern that community may not understand or be in agreement, additional engagement would have been beneficial; this is a transition step to allow the next Council to develop a custom election code (for which a proposal with the First Nation Market Housing Fund is underway); the transition to FNEA does align with previous community stories and plans and falls within Chief and Council purview

-A roll call vote was called, noting for the record that Councillor Meawasige sent regrets this evening due to bereavement:

- Earl Commanda - opposed
- Kerri Commanda – in favour
- Marlene Essex – in favour
- Shirley McLeod - opposed
- Tillie McLeod – in favour
- Michelle Owl - opposed
- Miranda Pelletier – in favour
- Jack Trudeau – opposed
- Chief Bissaissillion – in favour

**MOTION: 2021-08-19-03**

**That Chief and Council approve the following Band Council Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Serpent River First Nation is listed on the Schedule to the *First Nations Elections Act (“FNEA”)*;

**WHEREAS**, under section 7(2) of the *FNEA*, the council of a First Nation under the *FNEA* can, by resolution, reduce the number of councillor positions, but to not less than two;

**WHEREAS** under section 7(2) of the *FNEA*, the reduction is applicable as of the next election that is not a by-election;

**AND THEREFORE**, that in accordance with Section 7(2) of the *FNEA*, the number of elected councillor positions for Serpent River First Nation be reduced from twelve (12) to six (6), effective for the next election following the date of this resolution.

<b>Moved by</b>	Kerri Commanda
<b>Seconded by</b>	Miranda Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Roll Call Vote

-A roll call vote was called, noting for the record that Councillor Meawasige sent regrets this evening due to bereavement:

- Earl Commanda - opposed
- Kerri Commanda – in favour
- Marlene Essex – in favour

Recording Secretary:	Candace Martin	Date Approved	September 7, 2021
2021-08-19 APPROVED C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2021-09-07-03

Shirley McLeod - opposed  
 Tillie McLeod – in favour  
 Michelle Owl - opposed  
 Miranda Pelletier – in favour  
 Jack Trudeau – opposed  
 Chief Bissaissillion – in favour

**b) Electoral Officer**

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-04</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council accept the Proposal for Services from Shagi Consulting Services with respect to the Serpent River First Nation 2021 General Election, and thereby appoint Mr. Scott Jacobs as electoral officer.</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Earl Commanda
<b>Seconded by</b>	Michelle Owl
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
-The Director of Operations presented a briefing note and Proposal for Services from Shagi Consulting Services, recommending that Mr. Scott Jacobs be appointed as the electoral officer for the Serpent River First Nation 2021 General Election	

**c) Membership Vote Results**

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-05</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band adoption of Shannon-McDonald-Frunza to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Miranda Pelletier
<b>Seconded by</b>	Earl Commanda
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
-The Director of Operations presented a briefing note outlining the results of the membership vote held on July 27, 2021 (six applicants)	

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-06</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band adoption of Alyssa Labelle to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Marlene Essex
<b>Seconded by</b>	Jack Trudeau
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

Recording Secretary:	Candace Martin	Date Approved	September 7, 2021
2021-08-19 APPROVED C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2021-09-07-03

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-07</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band adoption of Lyric Labelle to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Michelle Owl
<b>Seconded by</b>	Miranda Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-08</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band adoption of Michael Sher to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Earl Commanda
<b>Seconded by</b>	Miranda Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-09</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band adoption of Carlene Wiitala to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Tillie McLeod
<b>Seconded by</b>	Marlene Essex
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-10</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band transfer of Terry Pollock to Serpent River First Nation</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Jack Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Shirley McLeod
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

d) ELNOS Request for Board Member

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-11</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council defer this item to the next meeting of Chief and Council, subject to additional information about ELNOS and the role of a board member</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Michelle Owl
<b>Seconded by</b>	Miranda Pelletier
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

Recording Secretary:	Candace Martin	Date Approved	September 7, 2021
2021-08-19 APPROVED C&C MINUTES		Motion of Approval	2021-09-07-03

-Chief and Council received correspondence from ELNOS requesting SRFN nomination of a board member for the fiscal term 2021-2022  
 -It was determined that Chief and Council would benefit on a refresher about ELNOS and the role of its board members, and requested additional information be brought back for the next meeting

**e) Teaching Lodge Community Engagement Results**

<b>MOTION: 2021-08-19-12</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council accept the recommendation to construct a teaching lodge in collaboration with Nogdawindamin at the side lot to the Kenabutch Health Centre</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Earl Commanda
<b>Seconded by</b>	Marlene Essex
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus
-The Community Wellness Manager presented a report outlining the Teaching Lodge Community Engagement Results, answered questions from Council and recommended the lodge proceed at the Kenabutch Health Centre side lot location -It was confirmed that SRFN will have first right of use -Community notice to be provided with respect to construction dates and the opportunity to participate	

**6) Next Meeting Dates**

a) C&C Duly Convened Meeting - Tuesday, August 24, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**7) Adjournment:**

<b>MOTION: 2021-07-27-12</b>	
<b>That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of August 19, 2021 at 7:21 p.m.</b>	
<b>Moved by</b>	Jack Trudeau
<b>Seconded by</b>	Michelle Owl
<b>CARRIED</b>	By Consensus

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