

# SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road  
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



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

SRFN Chief and Council Meeting  
*Tuesday, November 8, 2022*  
**Approved Minutes**

|  |
|--|
| <b>Chair:</b> Wilma-Lee Johnston   |
| <b>Council:</b> Kerri Commanda (via zoom), Michelle Owl, John (Jack) Trudeau, Steve Meawasige (via zoom) |
| <b>Regrets:</b> Shirley McLeod   |

**Director of Operations (DOO):** Tracey Seabrook

**Staff:** Felix Stoneypoint, Housing Manager; Jackie Toulouse, EA to the Director of Operations; Samantha Commanda, Director of Finance; Melody Neiva, Membership Clerk; Taylor Commanda, Lands Manager; Tyler Gary, Communications Officer; Lilli Doughty, POLEA, Scott Flamand, Housing Consultant

**Recording Secretary:** Lilli Doughty

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting was called to order at 6:03pm</li> <li>- Councillor Trudeau said an opening prayer</li> </ul> |
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**2) Adoption of Agenda**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-01</b>  |                     |
| That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2022, as amended                              |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Michelle Owl        |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Item 11. a) to be deferred until more information has been obtained by the Lands Department</li> </ul> |                     |

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None declared at this time</li> </ul> |
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**4) Community Presentations**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scott Flamand, Housing Consultant, presented a PowerPoint on “Serpent River First Nation Housing Audit Analysis and Strategic Plan”, and answered questions from Council and Community members</li> <li>- The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded to the Membership Portal</li> </ul> |
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|                              |               |                    |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Recording Secretary:         | Lilli Doughty | Date Approved      | 2022-12-13    |
| 2022-11-08 DRAFT C&C MINUTES |               | Motion of Approval | 2022-12-13-02 |
|                              |               |                    |               |

5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) October 12, 2022

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-02</b>   |                     |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2022 as amended</b> |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | Michelle Owl        |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |
| - To be added to 4.) = <i>all community questions were responded to.</i>                         |                     |

6) **Business Arising from Minutes**

|     |
|-----|
| N/A |
|-----|

7) **Reports**

a) Deputy Chief's Report

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-03</b>   |                     |
| <b>That Chief and Council accept the Deputy Chief's Report dated October 21, 2022, as presented</b>  |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | Michelle Owl        |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Deputy Chief presented her Community Update #5 report, and answered questions from Council</li> <li>- This report was also mailed out to all Community Members</li> </ul> |                     |

b) Director of Operations (Interim) Report

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-04</b>  |                 |
| <b>That Chief and Council accept the Director of Operations (Interim) Report dated November 8, 2022, as presented</b> |                 |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | Steve Meawasige |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Kerri Commanda  |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus    |
| - This report will be uploaded to the Membership Portal upon approval of minutes.                                     |                 |

8) **Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None at this time</li> <li>- Lands, Housing and Child Welfare meeting minutes will be brought forward at the next Chief and Council meeting on November 22, 2022</li> </ul> |
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9) **Business Arising from Minutes & Reports**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| None at this time |
|-------------------|

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**10) Standing Items**

- None at this time

**11) New Business**

a.) Gas Permit Request - Jeremiah Day

- Deferred

b.) Kodey John Ferrigan - Membership Band Adoption

|   |                     |             |         |             |
|---|---------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-05</b>  |                     |             |         |             |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the band membership adoption of Kodey John Ferrigan to Serpent River First Nation</b>   |                     |             |         |             |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |             |         |             |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Michelle Owl        |             |         |             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus        |             |         |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has been accepting votes for membership by accepting that as long as a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting membership to the petitioner, we have accepted the membership results</li> <li>- <u>Kodey Ferrigan:</u><br/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes - 79</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No - 31</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: right;">Spoiled - 1</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul> |                     | Yes - 79    | No - 31 | Spoiled - 1 |
| Yes - 79  | No - 31             | Spoiled - 1 |         |             |

Melissa Louise Vachon - Membership Band Adoption

|   |                 |             |         |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-06</b>  |                 |             |         |             |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the band membership adoption of Melissa Louise Vachon to Serpent River First Nation</b>   |                 |             |         |             |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | Steve Meawasige |             |         |             |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Michelle Owl    |             |         |             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus    |             |         |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has been accepting votes for membership by accepting that as long as a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting membership to the petitioner, we have accepted the membership results</li> <li>- <u>Melissa Vachon:</u><br/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes - 79</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">No - 30</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: right;">Spoiled - 1</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul> |                 | Yes - 79    | No - 30 | Spoiled - 1 |
| Yes - 79  | No - 30         | Spoiled - 1 |         |             |

|                                 |               |                    |               |
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Alexandra May Coughlin - Membership Band Adoption

|  |                     |             |          |         |             |
|--|---------------------|-------------|----------|---------|-------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-07</b>   |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the band membership adoption of Alexandra May Coughlin to Serpent River First Nation</b>   |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | John (Jack) Trudeau |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | Kerri Commanda      |             |          |         |             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |             |          |         |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has been accepting votes for membership by accepting that as long as a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting membership to the petitioner, we have accepted the membership results</li> <li>- <u>Alexandra Coughlin:</u><br/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes - 83</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No - 26</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Spoiled - 1</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul> |                     |             | Yes - 83 | No - 26 | Spoiled - 1 |
| Yes - 83   | No - 26             | Spoiled - 1 |          |         |             |

Allan James Coughlin Jr. - Membership Band Adoption

|  |                     |             |          |         |             |
|--|---------------------|-------------|----------|---------|-------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-08</b>   |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the band adoption of Allan James Coughlin Jr. to Serpent River First Nation</b>  |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | Michelle Owl        |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |             |          |         |             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |             |          |         |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has been accepting votes for membership by accepting that as long as a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting membership to the petitioner, we have accepted the membership results</li> <li>- <u>Allan Coughlin Jr.:</u><br/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes - 83</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No - 26</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Spoiled - 1</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul> |                     |             | Yes - 83 | No - 26 | Spoiled - 1 |
| Yes - 83   | No - 26             | Spoiled - 1 |          |         |             |

Tamara Elaine Malcolm - Membership Band Transfer

|  |                     |             |          |         |             |
|--|---------------------|-------------|----------|---------|-------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-09</b>   |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve the membership band transfer of Tamara Elaine Malcolm to Serpent River First Nation</b>  |                     |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | John (Jack) Trudeau |             |          |         |             |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | Kerri Commanda      |             |          |         |             |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |             |          |         |             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has been accepting votes for membership by accepting that as long as a majority of the votes cast are in favor of granting membership to the petitioner, we have accepted the membership results</li> <li>- <u>Tamara Malcolm:</u><br/> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Yes - 75</td> <td style="width: 33%;">No - 37</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Spoiled - 1</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ul> |                     |             | Yes - 75 | No - 37 | Spoiled - 1 |
| Yes - 75   | No - 37             | Spoiled - 1 |          |         |             |

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c.) Koognaasewin - InWithForward

At the end of August, InWithForward visited Sagamok Anishnawbek, Mississauga First Nation, and Batchewana First Nation with the aim of introducing themselves to interested community members, and getting a feel for the context of each community. An important first step for ethical engagement is to understand the places in which they are seeking to gather stories.

In early November, InWithForward will return to each of the three communities they visited in August. In preparation for those trips they are, or will be, making contact with some community members who expressed an interest and shared their contact details. They will also be visiting other communities for the first time: Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, and Serpent River First Nation are currently on their itinerary. In each of these communities they will spend a day visiting and introducing themselves before returning to follow up with specific community members who would like to participate.

Tentative Schedule:

Serpent River First Nation = November 14 & 16, 2022

InWithForward's Ask of Your Community

There are a couple of ways in which you can support InWithForward's work on the ground:

1. Provide InWithForward with the name and phone numbers of emotional supports that participants can access if needed. See contact info below to get in touch.
2. Please ensure that InWithForward is aware of the cultural protocols and preventative practices that are most commonly respected in your community. Each participant will decide what is appropriate for them, but the team would like to be aware and prepared to support such practices (eg. having appropriate medicines and offerings on hand).
3. Story sharing happens over a meal! Especially in communities with few restaurants nearby, if there are local residents who provide catering or might be open to being paid for meal prep, please let InWithForward know!!
4. Help them identify any indoor or spaces protected from the elements in your community where people may share their stories, when home is not a preferred option. Eg. nearby spaces, on or off reserve, that are not institutional, or office-like, where possible.
5. InWithForward is already working with Technical Committee members and band reps to identify a good range of participants for story gathering.

d.) Foodbank Surplus - Audit

**ISSUE:** There is a \$101,739.00 in reserves from previous years foodbank funding as outlined in the briefing note. These funds should have been spent in previous years to address food insecurity on the First Nation.

**BACKGROUND:** Based upon the 2020/21 audit there is a surplus of funding from the foodbank in the amount of \$101,739.00. This is the result of an accumulation of past surpluses that have since been set aside as reserves as per the following:

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\$59,069 YE March 2021 (mainly NSTC funding received)  
 \$16,178 YE March 2020  
 (\$6,334) YE March 2018 Usage  
 \$6,424 YE2017  
 \$4,411 YE2016  
 \$21,991 CUMULATIVE YE2012 to YE2015

**CURRENT STATUS:** There are approximately 350 members on the First Nation who could benefit from additional funding to support food insecurity. The current increases in food costs and increases to energy costs in winter months will create further access issues for food.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS:**

Proposed Budget:

November 30th - 350 x \$100 = \$35,000

December 20th - 190 x \$100 = \$19,000

January 15th - 350 X \$100 = \$35,000

Whereas the current foodbank surplus is in excess of \$100,000 and;

Whereas food insecurity on the First Nation continues to be a concern;

Thereby be it resolved that each on reserve band member receive a \$100. gift card November 30th, 2022, a \$100. gift card per family the week of December 20th, 2022 (to replace the Community Advancement Fund Christmas Turkey allocation) and again in mid January 2023 to expend the current foodbank surplus.

e.) Community Advancement Fund - CMHC Replacement Reserves

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-10</b>  |                     |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve up to \$345,949 to be paid from the Community Advancement Fund to the Serpent River First Nation Replacement Reserves</b>   |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Steve Meawasige     |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annually the First Nation is required to set aside replacement reserves of \$27,600 for CMHC Housing</li> <li>- This process has not been followed and results in a lower rating when applying for future housing</li> <li>- The accumulated amount of \$345,000 in replacement reserves is required to bring Serpent River into good standing. This amount is being confirmed with CMHC and could be up to the total amount.</li> </ul> |                     |

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- Failure to address this shortfall will negatively impact the First Nation's ability to apply for housing through CMHC.
- This would expend all Community Advancement Funds for the year 2018/19.
- Additional funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21 OFNLP (Rama Funds) is pending review of the recent audits and is likely to be reduced significantly given the impact of casino closures during Covid.

f.) Rental Increase

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|---|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-11</b>  |                     |
| <b>That Chief and Council approve rental amounts to be increased by 3% effective April 1, 2023, and notice to be given to members by January 1, 2023</b>  |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | Steve Meawasige     |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation has not increased its rent for over 15 years. Rising costs associated with the maintenance of housing has had a significant impact upon the ability to do repairs beyond those of imminent risk to the renter. Additionally, layered on by an estimated one million dollars in arrears it has made it impossible to continue to support the First Nation housing needs</li> <li>- The result of not increasing rent over this period of time has had devastating impacts on the First Nation's Housing program and is completely out of step with market rent in surrounding communities</li> <li>- An 3% increase will result in a monthly revenue of approximately \$25,000 (annualized \$300,000 increased revenue). The increased rent would be still significantly below what the proposed rent would be if annual increases had occurred for at least the last 15 years. The average rent for Serpent River members is \$354.00 resulting in an average increase of \$10.62/month and \$127.44/annually. The rental amounts are below basic shelter allowances for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Plan</li> <li>- If rent had been increased annually for 2023 there would have been an increase in revenue to support ongoing maintenance of \$228,189.60. Reduced increases by 3% each year would have been realized each year prior</li> <li>- Failure to address maintenance costs will have further negative impacts upon Serpent River First Nation's assets</li> <li>- The proposed increase is moderate in nature and still results in rental amounts significantly below market rents in neighbouring communities</li> <li>- A four month notice to the increase provides adequate time for members to begin planning accordingly</li> </ul> |                     |

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g.) Appointment to Elliot Lake and North Shore Corporation for Business Development

- On August 9, 2022, Chief and Council appointed Councillor Shirley McLeod as a representative of Serpent River First Nation to serve as a Director of the ELNOS Corporation for the fiscal term 2022-2023
- No BCR was signed at that time
- Chief and Council to sign a BCR tonight

h.) Serpent River First Nation - Community Development Wrap Around Supports Initiative Support Plan

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-12</b>  |                |
| <b>That Chief and Council accept the Community Development Wrap Around Supports Initiative Support Plan as presented</b>  |                |
| <b>Moved by</b>   | Michelle Owl   |
| <b>Seconded by</b>  | Kerri Commanda |
| <b>CARRIED</b>  | By Consensus   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serpent River First Nation was identified as a First Nation selected to participate in the Community Development Wrap Around Supports Initiative (CDWAI)</li> <li>- It is a requirement for Serpent River First Nation Chief and Council to identify priorities to inform the development of a CDWAI Support Plan</li> <li>- The Community Development Wrap Around Supports Initiative Support Plan has been developed based upon the identified priorities and requires approval to be sent to Indigenous Services Canada Head Quarters</li> <li>- This plan will be uploaded to the Membership Portal</li> </ul> |                |

12.) Community Questions and Answers/Input

- Lots of garbage at the graveyard
- Q = Rumor has it that the Trading Post was sold?  
A = Not true
- Q = Could the Director of Operations (Interim) report be posted on the membership portal as well?  
A = Yes. We will upload it going forward
- Q = In the new, technical world, what is the approach in regards to elections?  
A = The Membership Clerk already set up a meeting with "One Feather", to discuss online voting
- Q = With the current livestream setup for Chief & Council meetings, members are not able to ask any questions online, or present their feedback. What is the plan going forward?  
A = We are not a fan of the livestream as absolutely everybody is able to access it, and it limits us to what we can talk about. We are hoping that in the near future, we will be able to use Zoom and not livestream. Also, community members are always welcome to join Chief and Council meetings in person
- Q = How come that some children are on the bus for up to 1.5 hours? For safety reasons, children should only get on/off the bus at their home  
A = The bus company plans the route but we can definitely reach out to them
- Q = What is that house on Walkhouse Bay Road?  
A = It's a transition home for homeless people
- Q = Where are the minutes from the last housing minutes?  
A = We will make sure they will be brought forward to the next Chief and Council meeting, and

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uploaded to the membership portal

- Q = How could Council approve the rent increase without involving the Housing Committee?
- A = This was a recommendation from Scott Flamand's report, and Administration is able to make that request without involving the Housing Committee first. Discussion did occur at the Finance Committee that changes were necessary to support the financial needs of the community.

### 13.) Next Meeting Dates

a) C&C Duly Convened Meeting Tuesday, November 22, 2022

### 14.) Adjournment

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>MOTION: 2022-11-08-13</b>   |                     |
| <b>That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 8:49 p.m.</b> |                     |
| <b>Moved by</b>  | Michelle Owl        |
| <b>Seconded by</b>   | John (Jack) Trudeau |
| <b>CARRIED</b>   | By Consensus        |
|  |                     |

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