

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



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SRFN Chief and Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
Draft Minutes

Chair: Wilma-Lee Johnston

Council: Kerri Commanda, Shirley McLeod, Michelle Owl, John (Jack) Trudeau

Regrets: Steve Meawasige

Director of Operations (IDOO): Tracey Seabrook

Staff: Madelaine O’Neill, POLEA; Jeff Moulton, Director of Human Resources

Community members in person: 11

Attendees via Zoom: 2

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O’Neill, POLEA

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

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Tuesday, October 8, 2024 was called to order at 6:11pm
- Opening prayer by Councillor Trudeau

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-01

That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 8, 2024 as amended

Moved by Shirley McLeod

Seconded by Michelle Owl

CARRIED By Consensus

- Add item 4. a) Tania Johnston – User Fee Arrears
- Add 7. c) Chief’s Report
- Add 6. b) Action Items

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

- None declared

4. **Community Presentations**

a. **User Fee Arrears – Tania Johnston**

- Community member raised concerns about arrears being deducted from Per Capita Distributions
- Community member raised concerns about the arrears notice shared with community, expressing that it was unclear which specific arrears would be deducted

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- Community member raised concerns about the amount of staff copied on emails pertaining to this. The Chief explained if Directors/staff were included in the email, it was applicable to them or their department
- Community member inquired about the possibility of a customer service policy, in respect to correspondence response time. The Chief explained that Serpent River First Nation has a 10-day response time that is currently implemented
- Chief to follow-up with community member through formal communication

5. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a. **Tuesday, September 10, 2024**

- Deferred to the next Chief and Council meeting
- Add Doodems/Committee call-out

6. **Business Arising from Minutes**

a. **Wedding Officiant – Elaine Johnston**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-02
That Chief and Council support Elaine Johnston in her pursuit of obtaining a wedding officiant license and any necessary assistance in navigating the licensing process

Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Elaine Johnston is in the process of obtaining her wedding officiant license
- A Band Council Resolution (BCR) is required as a supporting document as part of the application

b.) **Action Items**

- Discussion around action items template for follow up

7. **Reports**

a. **Quarter One (Q1) - Financial Statement**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-03
That Chief and Council approve the 2024 Quarter One Financial Statement as presented

Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Ryan McLeod, Financial Consultant for Serpent River First Nation presented the Q1 Financial Statement (first quarter of the fiscal year) by department, and answered any questions from Chief and Council

b. **Councillor’s Report – Zah-geh-do-win – Shirley McLeod**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-04
That Chief and Council accept the Councillor’s Report of Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus

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- Councillor McLeod presented a verbal report on the Zah-geh-do-win Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting that took place on September 26-27, 2024

c. Chief's Report

MOTION: 2024-10-09-05	
That Chief and Council accept the Chief's Report of Tuesday, October 8, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<p>- The Chief presented a verbal report, summarizing several meetings attended over the last few weeks and important information. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 11 – Koognasewin/North Shore Tribal Council/Nogdawindamin meeting to discuss the impacts of the upcoming vote for the First Nation Reform – Child and Family Services • In the Chiefs last report, it was indicated that a letter was sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier Doug Ford on behalf of the 21 Lake Huron Chiefs regarding the “go forward \$4.00 negotiations. A confirmed receipt has been received and the letter was forwarded to other applicable negotiators • October 7 – Birch Island – Language Revitalization meeting • October 3 – Waasmoowin Energy Inc. Monthly Board Meeting • October 9 – LMC/RHW meeting • October 11 – Economic Development interview with Waubetek • October 16-17 – RHTLF meeting • Information to go out in the coming weeks regarding criteria and where to send letter of interest, if interested in becoming a trustee for Serpent River First Nation. Trust engagement sessions to follow • Serpent River First Nation is preparing for policing, Director of Lands, Environment and Public Safety working with the OPP in securing funding for a postion 	

8. Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports

- None at this time

9. Standing Items

a.) Audit Update

- IDOO provided an update on the 2022/2023 audit
 - The auditors have come back with a number of items they require to complete the 2022/2023 audit work. The Finance department has secured all but 2 items that they are currently working on providing them
 - IDOO explained that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) cannot be scheduled until the auditors have finalized all of their work and is anticipated to be set in late October to mid-November

b. Community Safety

- Community member inquired about the wellness strategy. Chief explained that that work has been deferred due to RHT priorities and is still in progress, but will likely be deferred until 2025 as Serpent River First Nation is now focusing on trust work

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- Community member inquired about the Community Safety Zone application. Chief to follow up with Director of Lands, Environment and Public Safety

10. **New Business**

a. **Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership – Land Designation**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-06	
That Chief and Council is in support to proceed with the application to Indigenous Services Canada for Land of Genaabaajing Enterprise Park	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Secoded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership requires land designation to expand business operations and as a principal tool to solicit community and government support for investment and funding opportunities - The designation will assist with funding to complete an expansion of the gas bar, a new business centre and repairs required at the trading post - This is the approximately 25-acre area along the North Shore of Highway 17 - The lands proposed to be designated will include part of the eastern portion of the reserve, where the Serpent River First Nation Trading Post and Gas Bar and the new office complex are currently located, as well as additional lands to the north and east - The lands include lots 135, 136 and 137 	

b. **Covid Vaccine Policy**

MOTION: 2024-10-08-07	
That Chief and Council suspend the current policy requiring newly hired employees to provide proof of at least 2 COVID vaccinations	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Secoded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2020 Serpent River First Nation implemented a policy that all current and all newly hired staff must have at least two COVID vaccines and provide proof - During the pandemic, best practice guidelines/recommendations were being implemented based on Public Health guidelines and Health Canada guidelines to protect and keep employees and Community safe. One of these guidelines/recommendations were to implement mandatory Covid vaccinations in the workplace. First Nation’s people were identified as a high risk group - This policy was brought to Chief and Council earlier in 2024 and based on legal advice and Council decision, the policy remained active - Chief and Council have decided by consensus to suspend the current Covid Vaccine policy that was in place for staff until a new policy is brought forward 	

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c. Modular Micro Homes - Contractor Selection

MOTION: 2024-10-08-08	
That Chief and Council award the contract to Northshore Quality Homes in the amount of \$399,828.00 f for two modular tiny homes with one bedroom within the approved allocated funding by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Community Development Wrap Around Initiative	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serpent River received approved Section 95 funding from CMHC on December 13, 2023 for the renovations of 8 properties, plus renovate Geka Wigwam and two modular tiny homes - An invitation to bid was posted on June 7, 2024 to provide 2 Modular MICRO Homes w/1 Bdrm both located on Village Road with a closing date of June 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Three companies submitted a bid each - These bids were opened on Friday June 28, 2024 at 3:15 p.m. present for the bid opening were Technical Manager of Infrastructure & Housing, Director of Operations Interim along with Director of Infrastructure and Housing - On August 23, 2024 we received direction to seek other funding sources or seek bids that would align with the funding sources. The Director of Operations (Int.) did indicate there was some funding surplus from the duplexes that could be used to support additional costs for the bids if approved by CMHC - Through discussion with CMHC advisor she indicated we could not use CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 funding to support a CMHC Section 95 project. However, part of the funding received to support the housing initiative was through the CDWAI initiative in the amount of \$632,659 in funding - That funding has flexibility with the same intent to address housing needs for Serpent River First Nation - Based upon a review of the funding from CMHC \$5,144,803. And proportionately \$419,065.23 was allocated as funding from CDWAI for a total of \$5,563,868.23. That total cost for the duplexes was \$4,423,992.02 leaving a surplus of \$1,139,876.21 - This allows Serpent River First Nation to use the \$419,065.23 towards the micro homes noting there is adequate funding to support the additional costs for the micro homes - Community member inquired about community involvement in respect to housing projects within community. Chief to follow up with community member to gather input/feedback 	

d. Zah-geh-do-win – Board Delegate – Shirley McLeod

MOTION: 2024-10-08-09	
That Chief and Council authorize the delegation of Shirley McLeod to the Zah-geh-do-win board and grant her the authority to make decisions on relevant matters on behalf of Chief and Council	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An updated Band Council Resolution (BCR) is required to delegate authority to Councillor McLeod to the Zah-weh-do-win board - Councillor McLeod currently sits on the board 	

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11. Community Questions and Answers

- Community member inquired about housing policies and where community members can access them. Chief explained that Administration is working on getting the policies uploaded to the portal, and that the housing list is chronological
- Community member inquired about how the housing department handles work orders and whether they deal with them in a priority sequence. Chief explained that the list is being triaged but it has been a challenge to fulfill all work orders due to staffing issues
- Community member raised concerns about an incident that occurred in their home with a contractor hired by Serpent River First Nation. The Chief apologized to the member and will follow up with them as well as further discussion with Council in the in-camera portion of the meeting
- Community member inquired about emergency numbers in which community members can contact in the case that the Administration Building is closed. IDOO explained that Serpent River First Nation can work on getting these posted more regularly
- Community member inquired about the status of their housing inspection/water well. IDOO to follow up with member
- Community member inquired who sits on Serpent River First Nation’s Finance Committee and why there are no community members on it. Chief explained that it is an internal committee

12. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, October 22, 2024

13. Adjournment

MOTION: 2024-10-08-10	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 9:08p.m.	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus

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