

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, September 10, 2024
Draft Minutes

Chair: Wilma-Lee Johnston
Council: Kerri Commanda (zoom), Shirley McLeod, Steve Meawasige, John (Jack) Trudeau (zoom)
Regrets: Michelle Owl
Director of Operations (IDOO): Tracey Seabrook
Staff: Jeff Moulton, Director of Human Resources; Chastity Toulouse, Director of Housing & Infrastructure
Community members in person: 3
Attendees via Zoom: 12
Recording Secretary: Madelaine O’Neill, POLEA

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

- The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 was called to order at 6:10pm
- Opening prayer by Councillor McLeod

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2024-09-10-01
That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 as amended

Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Typo on agenda re: 6. a) profit not project
- Add Chief’s verbal report
- Add item 6. B) Action Items

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

- None declared

4) Community Presentations

- None at this time

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2024-09-10 C&C Approved MINUTES		Motion of Approval	202-10-22-02

5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) **Tuesday, August 27, 2024 – Chief and Council Draft Minutes**

MOTION: 2024-09-10-02	
That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 27, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

b.) **Tuesday, August 6, 2024 – Special Chief and Council Meeting - Execute Documents, Past Compensation to First Nation – Draft Minutes**

MOTION: 2024-09-10-03	
That Chief and Council approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 6, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

c.) **Monday, August 19, 2024 – Emergency Chief and Council Meeting – Draft Minutes**

MOTION: 2024-09-10-04	
That Chief and Council approve the Emergency Chief and Council Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 19, 2024 as amended	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
- Typo on item 5. a.) – abstained not obtained	

6) **Business Arising from Minutes**

a.) **Serpent River First Nation Trading Post and Agawa Trading Post - EV Charging – Cost vs. Profit Projections**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misty Brosseau, Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership manager presented an analysis of the cost versus profit projections for the installation of the EV charging stations at the Serpent River First Nation Trading Post/Gas Bar and Agawa Crafts Trading Post/Gas Bar - Chief and Council approved the proposed EV charging stations at the duly convened Chief and Council meeting on August 27, 2024 - The presentation covered initial setup costs, ongoing maintenance and expected revenue from usage - The manager emphasized the long-term financial benefits, including increased customer attraction and alignment with sustainability goals - The return on investment (ROI) is complicated in respect to this project as it depends on many variables such as: how much will be charged per usage, other EV chargers in the area, electricity rates from the local utility, types of vehicles plugging into the chargers, etc. - The average price per level 3 charger is \$20-\$35 per hour

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- Serpent River First Nation has a great location for level 3 chargers. There are Tesla chargers in Blind River and Espanola and Elliot Lake has a level 2 charger
- A big part of the return on investment is drawing customers to the Trading Post and them browsing/shopping while they are parked charging
- The charging calculations are as follows:
 Charging ports: 2
 Electricity cost: \$0.6kwh and average \$3.0kwh
 Charge per hour: \$25-\$35
 1 hours for 3 days per month – profit between \$5 and \$120
 3 hours for 10 days per month: profit between \$570-\$1660
 4 hours for 15 days per month: profit between \$1200-\$3380
- An application to IESP has been submitted for \$250,000 while an application to ZEVIP will be submitted for 75% of the total costs associated with procurement and installation
- Hydro One has been consulted and have rated this project as a low complexity
- A number of proponents have been consulted and installation of 2 level 3 charging units would be a cost of approximately \$300,000
- An RFP is being sent regarding EV charging and installation

b.) Action Items

- Discussion around action items template for follow up

7) Reports

a) Chief's Verbal Report

MOTION: 2024-09-10-05
That Chief and Council approve the Chief's verbal report

Moved by	By Consensus
Seconded by	By Consensus
CARRIED	By Consensus

- The Chief presented her verbal report, providing an overview of the events and engagements she attended throughout the month of August. The key events are as follows:
- **July 31-August 1:** Attended North Shore Tribal Council (NSTC) Annual General Meeting. There is some great progress with Bembowopka Treatment Centre and their new build which is on schedule. Tribal Council also has a new office opening on Queen Street in Sault Ste. Marie. There were some local opposition to the purchase they say relating to parking issues in the downtown core. That has been addressed by the city and the working relationship between Sault Ste. Marie and the Tribal Council remains intact. The Mayor of SSM attended the AGM to reassure the Chiefs of the city's commitment to work together to address the needs of our urban population
- **August 7:** RHW Chief's Assembly. Discussion focused on safety, emergency services and how the Chiefs can work together, discussion revolved around policing agreement barriers to service. Planning for upcoming policing summit and how Chiefs can support our Communities politically and as a unified organization
- **August 13:** Meeting with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) regarding Community safety and police presence in the Community. The meeting acknowledged the mishandling of some calls from this community

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and the recommitment to follow up on every call as mandated. The OPP are also as excited as we are to have our own police service and have said they would be willing to support Serpent River First Nation in moving forward

- **August 20:** RHW Policing Summit. The Chiefs met with a Sudbury Regional, UCCM, APS and OPP services to discuss support that they may need politically. Discussion centered on funding cuts and the influx of gangs from Southern Ontario. Also reported is an increase in Elder abuse and violent crime throughout the region, not just within First Nations. The consensus seems to be that most of the crimes are a result of drug addiction and trafficking

- **August 21-22:** August 21-22 Litigation Management Committee (LMC) “Go Forward Negotiations” \$4.00 increase. Work has begun on the Go Forward Negotiations. A decision was made at the Supreme Court of Canada, regarding the go forward – in the decision it was written that the Crown and Robinson- Superior have 6 months to negotiate the terms of their settlement. The LMC has sent letters to the Crown, recognizing that the Settlement for Past Compensation is complete and the Crown should begin negotiating in good faith with Robinson-Huron prior to be court ordered to do so. Letters were sent to Minister Greg Rickford, Premier Doug Ford and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau encouraging them to begin negotiations on the \$4.00 increase

- **August 28 and September 5:** Waasmoowin Energy, currently the 9 Nation partnership with Hydro One has sent in the Notice of Commencement. Garden River First Nation is still working through their routing issues and Hydro one is working with them for mapping and Environmental Assessments. Serpent River First Nation is looking to train and hire an individual who can take on some of the monitoring and field work for the Lands department

- **September 7-9:** Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering 174 years, this past weekend. Chief listened to the “honouring our Elders” session and “language revitalization” session. Barb Nolan of GRFN has a new YouTube channel for Anishnaabemowin

- **September 11:** The Chief will be in Sault Ste. Marie for the Koognaasewin discussion on the First Nation reform vote coming to Anishnabek First Nation – all Chiefs will be attending

- **September 15-18:** The Chief will be in Montreal for two days to meet with individuals from the Jesuit Order and also to see the Archive work being done to support the Niisoonag, Bring our Children home project

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports

a.) Economic Development Quarterly Report – Serpent River First Nation

MOTION: 2024-09-10-06	
That Chief and Council approve the Economic Development Quarterly Report of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	Kerri Comanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development Manager presented the department’s quarterly report, providing updates on the status of current and ongoing projects - Both ongoing initiatives and proposed new projects were reviewed - Various funding opportunities that can ensure economic growth and development were discussed 	

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b.) Economic Development Quarterly Report – Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership

MOTION: 2024-09-10-07	
That Chief and Council approve the Serpent River Limited Partnership Economic Development Quarterly Report of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 as presented	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Misty Brosseau, Serpent River First Nation Limited Partnership Manager provided an Economic Development report on behalf of the Limited Partnership - The manager provided an update on the Limited Partnership, introducing its board members and staff - The manager discussed the Trading Post’s extended hours and continued growth – driven by new sales, opportunities, products and handmade crafts - The manager also highlighted the Art Gallery’s success in creating additional economic opportunities and discussed efforts to secure funding for a curator to catalogue the collection and ensure accurate market pricing - Additionally, the Agawa Trading Post has been remodeled with the addition of a café and ice cream shop, creating new revenue streams with minimal overhead costs - The manager discussed the investment in EV charging stations and their return on investment - Other funding opportunities to support ongoing and future projects were discussed 	

9) Standing Items

a.) Community Safety

- Community member raised concerns about bear presence in the community. Chief advised community members to be cautious of leaving food or garbage out that may attract bears and that the Ministry of Natural Resources is aware and monitoring the situation
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b.) Audit Update

- IDOO provided an update on the 2022/2023 audit
- The auditors visited in early September to complete final stages of their work. Following this, they provided a list of additional information required. IDOO will coordinate with Finance department to supply the requested materials
- Once received, the auditors can provide a timeline on when the draft audit will be complete for Chief and Council’s review, then ultimately presented to the community (and set the Annual General Meeting)

10) New Business

a.) Long Term Care Project – Consultant Proposal

MOTION: 2024-09-10-08	
That Chief and Council approve the Director of Operations (Int.) to enter contract to hire CCS Group for a period of six months for \$10,000 per month with the option to renew based upon funding availability and project requirements at the end of the six months	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige

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Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2022, Serpent River First Nation was approved to build a 16 Bed Long Term Care facility under the license of St. Joseph Hospital - Additionally, in the fall of 2023 Serpent River First Nation was approved funding to support hiring an internal Project Manager under the Community Development Wrap Around Initiative - There have been significant challenges in finding an individual with the necessary skills and expertise to move this project forward and the project was further delayed by the change in leadership with St. Joseph Hospital - In August of 2023, CGS group was secured to do a preliminary review and make recommendations to Serpent River First Nation, however with the absence of a staff member to manage the project internally it's been difficult to get traction with this project - Kim Lambert was hired as a Project Manager under the CDWAI initiative to support the progress with the Long-Term Care project. Kim has extensive experience working with a similar project in a neighbouring First Nation - To help facilitate moving this forward and navigating provincial and federal government funding to support this initiative we are recommending we enter a contract with CCS Group, with consultant Morgan Rubes - CGS Group has worked on several Long-Term Care initiatives, in particular with Chief Don Maracle, Mohawks of the Bays of Quinte to support their Long-Term Care facility build. - Confirmation has been received from the CDWAI Team, that the surplus in funding from previous years position for the Long Term Care Project Manager can be used to support hiring a consultant to move this priority forward 	

b.) Micro Home Subdivision Proposal

MOTION: 2024-09-10-09	
<p>That Chief and Council accept approve the Director of Operations (Int.) to pursue the funding to support the development of a Micro Home Subdivision adjacent to the Long Term Care facility and further provide direction to secure funding to support the development of micro homes on those properties with the exclusive intention for them to be for individuals who may also require services from the Long Term Care facility i.e. Elders and those with disabilities who are still able to live independently</p>	
Moved by	John (Jack) Trudeau
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This funding would support the lot development including power and water distribution to those lots. The lots are smaller in nature but would support a small home - Serpent River First Nation anticipates the cost of lot development to be approximately \$72,000 per lot. It does not fund the actual build - The current Geka Wigwam Granny Flats have some fundamental structural issues that Serpent River First Nation continues to work to resolve and at this time are not eligible for CMHC funding due to the age of the buildings 	

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- Serpent River First Nation is also pursuing the building of a Long Term Care facility of which the goal would be to have a continuum of housing to support the life cycle of an aged person. This would include transitional housing such as Assisted Living Units
- The challenge in doing so is often securing the funding for lot development
- Site selection for the Long Term Care facility also ensures there is adequate space for the subdivision adjacent to it.
- This further supports the Community Development Wrap Around Support Initiative priority of the development of the Long Term Care facility as some costs to bring water and power to the site may be supported through this project which reduces Serpent River First Nation's contributions for the Long Term Care Project
- This addresses a further need in community to support our Elders

c.) Lot Servicing and Pre-Construction Activities

MOTION: 2024-09-10-10	
That Chief and Council approve the Director of Operations (Int.) to indicate interest through an Expression of Interest for Lot Servicing and Pre-Construction activities in the amount of \$72,000 per lot	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Ontario Region seeks to support First Nation communities in addressing immediate housing needs for members in the community with a focus on vulnerable population groups (including low-income members) in Lot Servicing and pre-construction activities for future construction principal residence - Funding is directed for helping First Nation to develop lots for future construction of principal residences for vulnerable people (including low income members) - Indigenous Services Canada in the Ontario Region has expanded the scope of work for the lot servicing category to include pre-construction activities. This will assist communities to be shovel ready for construction projects for future year funding opportunities - Activities include: Site selection, clearing and site preparation; Geotechnical site investigation and soil testing; Provision of water and waste water, Minor water and sewer line extensions, Site surveys or federal land surveys, Environmental Surveys, Site grading and drainage plans, Electrical and other utility extensions, Access roads, Site Plan Design, Architectural and civil engineering costs, Housing designs and stamped drawings, Tendering and cost estimates 	

11. Community Questions and Answers

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community member asked for Chief and Council's support in order to obtain a wedding officiant license and requested a Band Council Resolution (BCR) to support the application process - Community member thanked Chief and Council for their efforts regarding the Robinson Huron Treaty. But raised concerns about debt (arrears, daycare fees, user fees, etc.) being deducted from per capita distributions and the accuracy of the records. Chief explained that community members are able to set up an appointment and dispute. Community member requested communication to community regarding this. IDOO to elaborate on this in next update to community

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- Community member raised concerns about the lack of Doodem/committee meetings. Chief anticipates providing a call out to community to increase committee presence

- Community member raised concerns about the newly reduced Administration Office hours of operation and its potential impact on programs and services. The Chief explained that the reduced hours are part of an effort to attract and retain staff, serving as an incentive

12. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, September 24, 2024

13.) Adjournment

MOTION: 2024-09-10-11	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 9:27pm	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus

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