

SERPENT RIVER FIRST NATION

195 Village Road
Cutler ON, P0P 1B0



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SRFN Duly Convened Chief and Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Approved Minutes

Chair: John (Jack) Trudeau
Council: Shirley McLeod, John (Jack) Trudeau, Steve Meawasige (zoom), Michelle Owl, Kerri Commanda
Regrets: Wilma-Lee Johnston

Director of Operations (DOO): Tracey Seabrook

Staff: Director of Health and Wellness, Leila Macumber; Director of Education, Hilary Trudeau; Director of Social Services and Culture, Christopher Weatherley; Director of Lands, Environment and Public Safety, Taylor Commanda (zoom); Director of Housing and Infrastructure, Chasity Toulouse

Recording Secretary: Madelaine O’Neill, POLEA

Community Members In-Person: 15

Community Members Virtually: 13

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer/Remarks:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The duly convened Chief and Council meeting of Tuesday, July 8, 2025 was called to order at 6:00pm - Councillor Trudeau (chair) extended a welcome to staff and community members in attendance - Opening prayer by Councillor McLeod

2) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: 2025-07-08-01	
That Chief and Council adopt the Agenda for the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, July 8, 2025 as amended	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deferred Item 10 a) Lake Huron Regional Council Fire Declaration – BCR 	

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None at this time

4) Community Presentations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None at this time

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5) **Approval of Previous Minutes**

a) **Tuesday, June 25, 2025**

MOTION: 2025-07-08-02	
That Chief and Council approve the Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 25, 2025 as amended	
Moved by	Steve Meawasige
Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add petition received/declaration of conflict on Tuesday, June 25, 2025 and Tuesday, June 13, 2025 Chief and Council minutes 	

6) **Business Arising from Minutes**

a) **Action Items**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tuesday, August 21, 2025 – Quarterly Chief and Council Engagement – communication with more information to follow

b) **Jordan’s Principle Funding Alteration Impacts**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous Services Canada is implementing changes to operation procedures related to processing requests under Jordan’s Principle. These changes will ensure more consistent and clearer policies and communications about the services First Nations children can access through Jordan’s Principle - Jordan’s Principle is a human rights principle established by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) to make sure that First Nations children do not face gaps, delays, or denials in accessing government services because of their identity as First Nations children - Jordan’s Principle is named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. He was a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, who died in hospital having never been able to live in his home community as the provincial and federal governments failed to fund the necessary supports each insisting that it was the others responsibility - Jordan’s Principle is still operating however; they are changing the eligibility criteria to better meet the goal of the program. This will result in a reduction of approvals for some services that have been funded in the past - Serpent River First Nations service did not rely heavily on Jordan’s Principle for program funding and so the impact on our organization will be minimal

d.) **Q4 Financial Statement**

MOTION: 2025-07-08-03	
That Chief and Council as recommended by the Finance Committee approve the Q4 financial report dated March 31, 2025 as presented	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Q4 financial report compares the actual revenue and expenses against the approved budget for the full 2024-2025 fiscal year - The revenue for the fiscal year was \$26.2 million against the budgeted \$25.4 million for the full year. No concerns to highlight as we are currently at 103.15% against budget when the RHT settlement is excluded - No concerns regarding expenses. Total expenses are 72.14% against budget 	

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- Overall Serpent River First Nation at the end of Q4 was in a surplus of \$7.48 million once the RHT settlement and associated costs are excluded

c) Chief and Council Response to Petition

- Chief and Council received a petition from a group of community members requesting that Chief and Council resign in June 2025
- Deputy Chief Kerri Commanda provided an update on this matter
- She explained, on behalf of Chief and Council, that they have no intention of resigning/stepping down from their roles
- Chief and Council’s formal response is being reviewed by legal, and community can anticipate a formal response within the coming weeks

7) Reports

- None at this time

8) Doodem & Committee Minutes & Reports

a) Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2025

MOTION: 2025-07-08-04	
That Chief and Council approve the Marten Doodem Minutes of April 15, 2025 as presented	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

b) Marten Doodem Meeting Minutes – May 29, 2025

MOTION: 2025-07-08-05	
That Chief and Council approve the Marten Doodem Minutes of May 29, 2025 as presented	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

9) Standing Items

a) Audit Update

- Serpent River First Nation has a confirmed 2023/24 audit review date with Chief and Council in mid-July
- Once it has been approved by Chief and Council, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) date can be set. Anticipating the AGM date to be set for early-mid August
- Communication to follow in the coming weeks

b) Community Safety Update

- None at this time

10) New Business

a) Lake Huron Regional Council Fire Declaration

- Deferred

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b) Housing Follow-up – Front Landing – 17 Rio Subdivision

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reference to a community member’s concern with their front door landing needing to be replaced at 17 Rio Subdivision West - The tenant had foundation work done in the late fall of 2024. The landing was not reattached on the front entrance due to the condition of the landing. The contractor let Serpent River First Nation know that it was not safe and was not reattached and should be replaced - The tenant raised concerns regarding the landing during a discussion with the Housing and Infrastructure department - Administration acknowledged awareness of the issue and confirmed it would be addressed as it is a health and safety matter - The tenant was advised that some time would be required as other pressing matters are being completed’ - It was further noted that the Housing and Infrastructure department will arrange for technicians to build and install the landing
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c) Cost of Living Allowances for Full-Time Post-Secondary Students

MOTION: 2025-07-08-06	
That Chief and Council approve of the Cost of Living Allowances for Full-Time Post-Secondary Students policy as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director of Education reviewed the Cost of Living Allowances for Full-Time Post-Secondary Students policy and addressed questions from Chief and Council/community at this time 	

d) Certificate of Possession Request – Theresa Labelle

MOTION: 2025-07-08-07	
That Chief and Council approve the issuance of a Certificate of Possession to Theresa Labelle as outlined in the applicants tenancy agreements	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theresa Labelle has applied for a CP on Lot #115, 82295 CLSR (#45 Hillside Dr. W) - Tenant awaits decision from Chief and Council on issuing Certificate of possession - The tenant has fulfilled his/her rental housing agreement with option to purchase, as outlined in the agreement and Serpent River First Nation Housing Policies 	

e) Certificate of Possession Request – Lionel Groulx

MOTION: 2025-07-08-08	
That Chief and Council approve the issuance of a Certificate of Possession to Lionel Groulx as outlined in the applicants tenancy agreements upon the completion and registration of a lot survey, to be undertaken by Serpent River First Nation	
Moved by	Michelle Owl
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus

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- Linda Groulx has applied for a CP at street address #177 Woodland Dr. on behalf of her son, Lionel Groulx
- #177 Woodland Dr. is currently site on a non-surveyed lot; there is a survey in progress (project # 202314210, Tulloch Geomatics) in that area encompassing #155, #175, and #177 Woodland Dr.
- The tenant has fulfilled his/her rental housing agreement with option to purchase, as outlined in the agreement and Serpent River First Nation Housing Policies
- A lot survey is required to issuing a Certificate of Possession
- Lionel Groulx will be the one to receive the Certificate of Possession

f) Certificate of Possession – Jesse Darby

MOTION: 2025-07-08-09	
That Chief and Council approve the issuance of a Certificate of Possession to Jesse Darby	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Michelle Owl
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesse Darby has applied for a CP on Lot #91, 77623 CLSR (#44 Village Rd W) - Jesse Darby took possession of the condemned house on Lot 91 on the 20th of May, 2021 - The house was renovated from the basement up and the tenant has put approximately \$90-\$100,000 of materials into it, along with significant labour - Tenant awaits decision from Chief and Council on issuing Certificate of Possession - There is no competing interest in that land or the house 	

g) Elders Needs Assessment

MOTION: 2025-07-08-10	
That Chief and Council approve the Elders Needs Assessment as presented	
Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Shirley McLeod
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is one of mandates of the Mukwa Doodem (Health and Wellness committee) to complete and Elders Needs Assessment within community - In April 2024, members of the Health, Home and Community Care got together and developed a baseline of what the assessment would look like - Between June/July of 2024, there were 3 different focus group sessions with approximately 7 elders in each to review the questions - In the fall of 2024, Health and Wellness department staff went door to door, engaging elders to participate in the survey - Out of approximately 100 elders in community (on-reserve), 61 completed the survey - Seeking Chief and Council approval of the data result of the survey, with intentions to prepare the data for community review 	

h) Nogdawindamin – Jordan’s Principle Funded Programs Correspondence

MOTION: 2025-07-08-11	
That Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services Jordan’s Principle application funding requests will be supported by Serpent River First Nation	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod

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Seconded by	Kerri Commanda
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nogdawindamin Family and Community Services (the child welfare authority for North Shore First Nations) continues to deliver Jordan’s Principle funded initiatives for Behavioural Therapy, Behavioural Therapy Manager, Child and Youth Wellness Centre, Children’s Mental Health, Jordan’s Principle Case Managers, Kinship Services, Staff Operated Homes, Traditional Healers, and Volunteer Drivers while ensuring duplication does not exist within delivery of child and family services - Jordan’s Principle is requesting Band Council Resolutions (BCR) to support funding requests being delivered from First Nation Child and Family Services Agencies as ongoing changes and implementation of the program - Jordan’s Principle funded initiatives, as defined by Indigenous Services Canada, support children and youth in addressing service gaps and achieving substantive equality until their 18th birthday - Nogdawindamin, as a First Nations-authorized service provider, is eligible to deliver Jordan’s Principle funded initiatives to First Nations children and youth under the Jordan’s Principle program - Nogdawindamin has submitted applications to Jordan’s Principle for Behavioural Therapy for \$2,644,135.68, Behavioural Therapy Manager for \$171,742.50, Child and Youth Wellness Centre for \$664,683.78, Children’s Mental Health for \$5,265,587.68, Jordan’s Principle Case Managers for \$1,351,121.99, Kinship Services for \$934,185.26, Staff Operated Homes for \$5,898,682.09, Traditional Healers for \$485,669.06, and Volunteer Drivers for \$437,360.91 to support children and families of the North Shore First Nations 	

i) Hydro One – Payment in Lieu (PIL) Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

MOTION: 2025-07-08-12	
<p>That Chief and Council approve 1. The PIL Agreement, including as amended in the discretion of Chief and Council, is approved for signature by Chief and Council on behalf of the First Nation and all steps (including amendments) required or contemplated to be taken thereunder are authorized and approved to be conducted by Chief and Council or their delegates or assigns; and</p> <p>2. The Memorandum, including as amended in the discretion of Chief and Council, is approved for signature by Chief and Council on behalf of the First Nation and all steps (including amendments) required or contemplated to be taken thereunder are authorized and approved to be conducted by Chief and Council or their delegates or assigns</p>	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serpent River First Nation (the “First Nation”) has negotiated an agreement between the First Nation and Hydro One Networks Inc. (“HONI”) setting out certain payments in respect of HONI’s occupation of the reserve lands of the First Nation in lieu of property taxes that reflect similar payment of taxes paid to municipalities (the “PIL Agreement”), which PIL Agreement is attached as Schedule “A” - The First Nation, HONI and the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (“OEFC”) have negotiated a Reserve Land Memorandum of Agreement for, among other things, certain retroactive goodwill payments and the granting of certain releases to OEFC by the First Nation (the “Memorandum”), which Memorandum is attached as Schedule “B” - The First Nation has consulted legal counsel concerning the PIL Agreement and the Memorandum, and has advised of and has, in consultation with legal counsel, evaluated the risks associated with the PIL Agreement and Memorandum 	

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Hydro One - Permits

MOTION: 2025-07-08-13

That Chief and Council with respect to the Transmission Permit and Distribution Permit to be entered into between Canada, Hydro One Networks Inc., Serpent River First Nation and the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation, the First Nation hereby:

1. Authorizes and approves the execution and delivery of the Transmission Permit in the form attached as Schedule “B” and the Distribution Permit in the form attached as Schedule “D” and to do what is necessary to give effect to the Transmission Permit and the Distribution Permit;
2. Requests that the Minister of Indigenous Services (the “Minister”) issue the Transmission Permit in the form attached as Schedule “B” and the Distribution Permit in the form attached as Schedule “D” pursuant to subsection 28(2) of the *Indian Act*;
3. Consents to the issuance of the Transmission Permit and the Distribution Permit by the Minister;

And that the Chief and Council of the First is hereby authorized to sign and deliver, or to cause to be signed and delivered, all such further assurances, instruments, documents, agreements, declarations or certificates and other items as may be necessary or required in connection with the issuance of the Transmission Permit and Distribution Permit, including the Transmission Permit and Distribution Permit

Moved by	Kerri Commanda
Seconded by	Steve Meawasige
CARRIED	By Consensus

- Hydro One Network Inc. (“**HONI**”) owns and operates 115kv and 230kv electrical transmission lines and related equipment on those parts of Serpent River Indian Reserve No. 7 (the “**Reserve**”) which are described in Schedule “A” (the “**Lands**”)
- HONI completed discussions with the Serpent River First Nation (the “**First Nation**”) regarding the permit fee and the terms of a transmission permit to be issued under subsection 28(2) of the *Indian Act*, R.S.C 1985, c. I-5 (“*Indian Act*”), attached hereto as Schedule “B”, authorizing HONI’s ongoing occupation of the Lands in accordance with the terms as set out therein (the “**Transmission Permit**”)
- HONI owns and operates an electrical distribution located on the Reserve that supplies electrical services to the Reserve and to premises, facilities or customers on the Reserve as more particularly set out in Schedule “C”
- HONI completed discussions with the First Nation regarding the permit fee and the terms of a distribution permit to be issued under subsection 28(2) of the *Indian Act*, attached hereto as Schedule “D”, authorizing HONI’s ongoing occupation of the Reserve and future occupation of lands that may be added to the Reserve in accordance with the terms as more particularly set out therein (the “**Distribution Permit**”)
- The First Nation has consulted legal counsel concerning the Transmission Permit and the Distribution Permit, and has been advised of and has, in consultation with legal counsel, evaluated the risks associated the Transmission Permit and Distribution Permit, as further set out in the Certificate of Independent Legal Advice, attached as Schedule “E”

12. Community Questions and Answers

Chief and Council addressed questions from community members at this time. The following questions were brought forward:

- Q: Is there a code of conduct/committee for Chief and Council disciplinary measures?
A: No, the Chief and Council govern based on the Governance Manual
- Q: Will there be elder’s engagement regarding the location of the Long Term Care Facility (LTC)?
A: Serpent River First Nation is in the preliminary stages of developing the LTC. Serpent River First Nation has very limited options for location (Lands department did an analysis) and that is why the

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area was designated. Engagement with elders/community is forthcoming, though there are several matters than Serpent River First Nation is working through in collaboration with consultants and St. Joseph's Hospital

- Q: Day camp concerns - less availability (no Fridays), scheduling location etc.
A: Director of Education to follow-up with member directly
- Q: Will there be maintenance/clean-up at the graveyard?
A: Director of Housing and Infrastructure explained that this has been on the radar for some time and anticipating it to be addressed by end of summer

13. Next Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, August 26, 2025

14. Adjournment

MOTION: 2025-07-08-14	
That Chief and Council adjourn the Chief and Council Meeting of Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 8:15 p.m.	
Moved by	Shirley McLeod
Seconded by	
CARRIED	By Consensus

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