



RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS Chief & Council Community Meeting
Wednesday June 5, 2019
Resource Centre – RRFN
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chief Robin McGinnis
Councillor Willie James McGinnis
Councillor Marcel Medicine-Horton

Councillor Gary Medicine
Councillor Kathy Bombay

OTHER:

Lauren Hyatt- EA
Patrick Morrisseau-Band Manager (temporary)
Michael Cochrane
Brian Cochrane Jnr.
Gloria Short

Beverly Wilson
Agnes Grover
Brain Cochrane Snr.
Steve Markovich
Irene White

Meeting Opened 5:35p.m.

Review from Previous Meeting: Chief R. McGinnis

Street Lights

There was a concern that street lights were either not working or always on. Chief McGinnis stated that P. Morrisseau was in contact with Hydro One to resolve this issue and improve efficiency as it is their responsibility.

Unused Vehicles

Chief McGinnis stated that Chief and Council will ask members who have unused vehicles on their property to remove them as they are an eyesore.

Update from Chief Rob McGinnis:

Band Office

It was stated that surveying has begun and that hopefully the building shell will be done before it gets cold.

Community Emergency Plan & CNR:

Chief R. McGinnis relayed that a meeting was had with CNR. At this meeting emergency issues when the track is blocked was addressed. CNR had told Chief and Council that they would put them in contact with Transport Canada to clarify rights and regulations. CNR will be doing an emergency training session at Rainy River First Nations. The information that was given to Chief and Council will be built into the Community Emergency Plan. Chief R. McGinnis stated that work on the Emergency Plan had begun: the newly formed Health and Safety Committee will be meeting regularly to brainstorm and create this plan according to the unique needs of our community.

Curfew Bylaw Discussion

Concern was raised about the dangers children in the community may face when they are out late at night. A. Grover stated that she has heard that when residents are away, some houses are being broken into in the evenings. B. Wilson expressed concern that there are minors at the river late at night too. It was suggested by meeting attendees that security be hired to have a presence in the evenings and to possibly enforce a curfew.

Vacant Positions

Chief R McGinnis stated that all vacant positions are being posted and interviewed for. B. Wilson expressed that she does not have a problem with Non- Band Members working in the Community, however, she believes that employment should be offered to band members first. Chief R. McGinnis informed all that there will be jobs coming up for band members when the New Band Office construction begins.

BCR & Housing Discussion

Chief R. McGinnis made all present aware that there are currently people who are on the community that have been BCR'd off the community. It was assured that Chief and Council would be having a separate meeting to address this concern. Included in this meeting will be discussion on housing:

There have been various verbal complaints to various members of Council, Chief McGinnis and Staff, concerning housing. Chief McGinnis stressed that in order to enact in these complaints, written complaints need to be submitted so that policy can be enforced.

B. Wilson stated that there is a Band Members' house in which the children are being abusive to other band members.

Community Comments and Concerns

Monthly Meetings

B. Wilson stated that she does not believe that community members who are non band members should not be permitted to attend monthly member meetings. Chief R. McGinnis responded that we have a policy guiding residence and rights: the newly ratified Membership Code which allows community members who apply, to become conditional members.

Stray Animals

B. Wilson enquired who Band Members needed to call when they find stray animals and stated that she doesn't mind helping with this. She further stated that there are too many cats in the community and suggested that the Band pays for the entire cost of neutering and spaying animals as this is a great expense for people who do not have steady employment.

Elder Services

B. Wilson expressed concern that there are insufficient services provided for Elders and that Greater care should be taken to work with Elders to maintain there standard of living in a respectful manner. B. Wilson stated that she didn't agree with Elders who could not make the Christmas party, not receiving their gifts. Chief R. McGinnis stated that the Social Services Committee will be reviewing this procedure this year.

Housing

B. Wilson enquired as to what makes people eligible to receive their own house: she currently has many people living in her house and would like her son to receive a house of his own. Chief R. McGinnis stated housing applications should be resubmitted when dependents can be added to strengthen the application. B. Cochrane Jnr. expressed that he has been asking to move for many years and his wondering what is happening with this process. Chief McGinnis replied that we will be having a separate housing meeting to make these decisions as there is currently no Housing Manager or Housing Committee. This position has been advertised. P. Morrisseau has set up and will be setting up more housing inspections with Advisory. He requested that B. Cochrane Jnr. Come and speak with him about his housing concerns.

Graveyard Map

S. Markovich stated that Craig Jourdain borrowed a graveyard map of his and is not returning it. Mr. Markovich informed Chief and Council that if he did not receive the map back, that he would be making a formal complaint with law enforcement. Chief R. McGinnis replied that a copy of the map will be made to keep for administrative purposes and returned to S. Markovich. B. Wilson stated that the crosses in the graveyard need to be better maintained.

Language Program

There was an enquiry as to why the language program was not approved to continue over the Summer. Chief R. McGinnis stated that the individual who plans this program informed Chief R. McGinnis that there was a complaint re: the language program and thus funding was cut, thus it is not able to run this Summer. However, Chief and Council do want to see this programming continue and are waiting for official word on whether the funding for this can be made through the Family Well-Being Program.

Culvert Repairs

Concern was expressed as to how long the road has been closed due to culvert repairs. Chief R. McGinnis informed all that repairs will be commencing within the week as the Band was waiting to hear back from INAC on funding which has now been approved. The road had to stay close as the structural integrity of the road was compromised and thus deemed unsafe for vehicles.

Hydro-One Clear Cut Project

M. Cochrane enquired as to when the Hydro Cutting project would be resuming as he would like to be involved as he has the qualifications. Chief R. McGinnis stated that P. Morrisseau was looking into when this project can be resumed.

Parking

B. Cochrane Snr. requested that staff park farthest away from the entrances at Band Offices and other Band buildings to ensure community members have priority access to services.

Partnership with NFN and New Gold Man- Camp

B. Cochrane Snr. enquired as to the status of RRFNs' partnership with NFN and the New Gold Man Camp. Chief R. McGinnis stated that an auditing firm has been hired to look at this partnership and the camp operations along with a lawyer and expressed that this does take a long time to complete. He also expressed that negotiations regarding the Camp ownership are still happening and that the dissolution of **Onikajigan** is still in process.

Minutes and Communication

B. Cochrane Snr. stated that the Minutes from Chief and Council Business meetings and Community meetings need to be posted to the website in a timely manner. He expressed that the Communications person should be doing this and producing a better-quality newsletter. Chief R. McGinnis stated that approved minutes will be posted.

Community Health Nurse

B. Cochrane Snr. expressed concern that he believes that the Band seems to have a difficult time keeping nurses. He further explained that he felt the CHN that is no longer working for the Band was a proactive person and thus does not see just cause for her dismissal. Chief R. McGinnis stated that the Band and its employees had nothing to do with the termination of this individual: she was an employee and terminated by Tribal Health who have their own protocols for hiring, reviews and termination. B. Cochrane Snr. stated that he believes that Chief and Council should have vouched for this CHS, however, Chief McGinnis reiterated that they have no power to do so as she is not an employee of the Band. Chief R. McGinnis stated that he did not have any involvement or knowledge as to the reason for her termination. It was also stated that RRFNs was not the only community that was serviced by the CHS. Councillor G. Medicine further explained that he is on the board of the Health Authority and assures B. Cochrane Snr. that he is sure that there were circumstances that led to her termination. Chief R. McGinnis stated that all he can do is ensure all of Tribal Health's protocols were followed correctly.

Job Postings

M. Cochrane expressed concern that jobs are not being posted in the newsletter. He explained that he heard about jobs through word-of-mouth that he did not see in the newsletter and thus missed the opportunity to apply for them. Councillor K. Bombay stated that the jobs being referred to were being reposted in the upcoming newsletter.

Metis Claims

B. Wilson stated that there seems to be many self-identified Metis people applying for and receiving First Nations resources. Chief R. McGinnis responded saying that the Treaty Three Chiefs have enlisted the services of a lawyer who specializes in this field to help develop a strategy to address these claims.

Jordan's Principle (JP)

B. Cochrane Jnr. explained that he does not understand why his submission to JP a few months ago was denied. He expressed concern that the staff member who deals with JP does not know what she is doing and what is eligible for submission. He further explained that he has completed 13 submissions to JP and has received funding for all of them and believes that we have ample access to resources and funding that we are not accessing. B. Cochrane Jnr. requested that Chief and Council ask for a report from the JP worker and Chief R. McGinnis replied that this will be done. B. Cochrane explained that there need to be assessments completed to add to the application, but that in his opinion, these are not difficult to arrange. He continued to express that he wishes to know why his JP request was denied. It was stated that the decision is in the Chief and Council Business meeting minutes which will be posted.

Lilac Bush

Gloria Short requested that we save the Lilac Bush currently located on the South side of the old Band Office when the tear down for the new Band Office occurs.

The next meeting date is August 7, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Previous Minutes approved and signed by Chief and Council

The minutes dated **Wednesday June 5, 2019**, have been reviewed and approved at a duly convened meeting dated: _____

Date signed: _____

 _____ Willie James McGinnis, Councillor	 _____ Robin McGinnis, Chief	 _____ Kathy Bombay, Councillor
 _____ Shawn Brown, Councillor	 _____ Gary Medicine, Councillor	
 _____ Marcel Medicine Horton, Councillor		