



Rainy River First Nations

Community Meeting Meeting Minutes
Location: Rainy River First Nations Drum Room
Date and Time: March 10 th , 2025 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
Council and Staff Attendees: Wayne Strachan (MOA), Dorothy Huitikka (Councilor), Kim Detweiler (Councilor), Robert Bombay (Councilor), Cassandra Kaysaywaysemat (Councilor), Karen Oster-Bombay (Councilor, attended virtually), Tim Grover (EA) and Alex Larson (EA).
Regrets: N/A
Chairperson: Cassandra Kaysaywaysemat (Councilor)
Minute Taker: Alex Larson (EA)

Smudge drum room and open meeting: 6:09 pm

Agenda Item	Notes	Action	Motion
1). Opening	Smudge and open meeting at 6:09 pm		
2). Council Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held AGM on January 15th • January 16th: Met with BMO for update on investments • Councilor by proxy attended the January 20th Chief's Meeting • January 22nd Hosted Health Forum for Giishkaandago'ikwe Health Services • Multiple Meetings with LTC Team for updates • January 28th Board Representative participated in Aazhogan for meeting • January 30th was a meeting with Policy Analyst re: multiple policy and code reviews • February 3rd Council participated in a Community Consultation with the T3PS • February 5th Senior Staff and Council Representative attended a career fair in Winnipeg for recruitment purposes • Held regular bi-weekly Council meetings • February 10th was the last Community Meeting • February 11th, Council had a board meeting with Solar Partners • February 12th Council met with Urban Systems to discuss the Solid Waste Strategy and hosted a community event for the same in the evening/survey distributed to members • February 26th a Board Representative participated in Aazhogan for meeting • Senior Staff and LTC Team met with Transport Canada about next steps for additional road and 3rd rail crossing 		

<p>2). Council Report <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended a Co-Stewardship Workshop re: Voyagers National Park in International Falls• March 4th Council held a special meeting to discuss the Election Code due to a petition received calling for all Councilors to be removed from their seats.		
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<p>3). Member Questions and Concerns</p>	<p>A petition was received from Chief M. Medicine Horton on March 4th, 2025 calling for the removal of Councilors Bombay, Huitikka, Oster-Bombay, Kaysaywaysemat and Detweiler.</p> <p>Members inquired about the ongoing situation regarding Chief M. Medicine Horton, seeking Council's perspective. Concerns were raised about Chief's attendance record, the validity of the forementioned petition, and whether he could also be removed for similar actions. C. Kaysaywaysemat explained that this is a legal and HR matter, limiting what can be shared, and emphasized that two wrongs don't make a right. Discussion followed about the cost of a by-election versus waiting for the upcoming general election. C. Kaysaywaysemat clarified that the petition must be reviewed by an Arbitrator, and that arbitration is also a costly but necessary step put forth in the Rainy River First Nations Custom Election Code once a petition is received. Some members questioned whether an early election could be called instead if all 5 Councilors resign, but C. Kaysaywaysemat explained that this would require Chief to step down as well.</p> <p>Further discussion focused on Chief M. Medicine Horton's leave of absence (LOA) from May to October, which was voluntary but recommended by the Nation's lawyer during the investigation. Chief did not reach out to return during his LOA, and Council made efforts to meet with him after the report was completed. However, meetings were repeatedly scheduled and canceled. Councilor K. Detweiler detailed the timeline of attempted meetings, emphasizing that Chief did not engage with the process effectively. Questions arose about Chief M. Medicine Horton's access to community contact information for his petition and whether his limitations on communication were justified.</p>	<p>Action item no. 03-10-2025-001 Host a meeting with the CFO about the current financials of Rainy River First Nations W. Strachan/A. Larson</p>	
		<p>Action item no. 03-10-2025-002 Meet with L. McGinnis and answer her questions about Weechi. W. Strachan</p>	

	<p>Councilor C. Kaysaywaysemat addressed concerns regarding her judicial review, clarifying that it is not to sue the Nation for monetary gain but, is a review of whether proper procedures were followed prior to and during her suspension. She noted that her suspension was due to an alleged breach of confidentiality, but she has never been informed of the specific breach. She emphasized the need for accountability and proper governance. Members debated whether this review presents a conflict of interest, with C. Kaysaywaysemat asserting that she cannot introduce new information but is seeking a fair assessment of the process.</p> <p>Governance concerns were also discussed, particularly regarding hiring and firing practices. Members questioned whether Council is overstepping its role and micromanaging operations. It was clarified that Council is involved in hiring for high-level positions but not for other roles. There was also discussion about workplace harassment and whether it correlates with micromanagement. Additionally, concerns were raised about financial transparency, with a request for a community meeting to review finances. The meeting concluded with a discussion about employee work-from-home policies and member frustrations with communication and responsiveness from certain staff.</p> <p>One member asked why she wasn't followed up with regarding her questions about the Nations agreement with Weechi, specifically the term of the agreement. Manager Of Administration (W. Strachan) offers to meet with her and answer her concerns. He asked her to come visit him this week to discuss.</p> <p>W. Strachan speaks to the CBSA re: cultural awareness/sensitivity training and confirms that the Boarder Officers are required to take it. W. Strachan encouraged Members who encounter any trouble when crossing the boarder, that the complaint process is to contact the</p>		
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	supervisor in charge and to be very specific of which Officer they were dealing with. The CBSA senior leadership will deal with it accordingly. It is an expectation that the officers will comply with the training		
5). Closing	Meeting closure at 7:59 pm		

The minutes dated: 03/10, 2025, have been reviewed and approved at a duly convened meeting dated: 03/24, 2025

Date signed: 03/24, 2025

Chief Marcel Medicine-Horton



Councillor Kim Detweiler



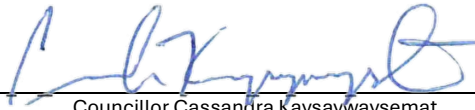
Councillor Karen Oster-
Bombay



Councillor Dorothy Huitikka



Councillor Robert Bombay



Councillor Cassandra Kaysaywaysemat