

COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Regular Meeting of Council, August 27, 2016

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Question and Answer Period



The agenda was modified to include a half an hour question and answer period so that members in attendance would have a chance to speak and voice their comments, questions or concerns.

Glen Wheeler: Are dates for council meetings scheduled for the next year? Are the dates made available to members?

Chief Mitchell: a schedule is in place for the remainder of the current fiscal year (until March 31, 2017). After that, we establish the next year's schedule. While these meetings do get set, sometimes changes have to be made.

**A commitment was made to update the events calendar with all dates of upcoming Council meetings.*

Glen Wheeler: for people like me, living out of province, we have had to submit supplemental information to support our application. What's the latest you have on the enrolment file?

Chief Mitchell: January 2017 is when people will receive letters indicating they are accepted to be members of the Band or not. There will then be a process whereby the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs will have to set up a parliamentary meeting, and a new Order in Council has to be introduced and accepted to establish the new founders list of the Band. This process may take several months.

Glen Wheeler: What about the appeal process? Will there be legal assistance or member services for members to appeal?

Chief Mitchell: Your appeal is your responsibility. We will lobby to have people on staff who can help guide you on the steps of this but, the legal action is your own.

Glen Wheeler: What portion of the approximately 24,000 members live outside of Newfoundland?

Chief Mitchell: Approximately 30%. Of the 80,000 who are applicants, 70% of those people live outside of Newfoundland.

Matt Connolly: Thanks for doing your due diligence. You're working toward the future. I hope you strive to get your infrastructure in place for upcoming growth. As a businessman, I encourage you to prepare for growth.

Renewable energy is the future. There's a local company here who has been accepted to be a speaker at some of these big events. Beothuk Energy. I know that many of you have turned away from this opportunity but I encourage you to reconsider. Sit down and take a look at what is presenting itself here in the near future. Please get on board with Beothuk and renewable energy.

Chief Mitchell: Thank you, Matt. We will be exploring business opportunities in renewable energy.

Urban Reserve Discussion



Chief Mitchell reported that an Urban Reserve Planning Committee is in place and that a meeting was held with consultant Gerry Kerr who has expertise in establishing urban reserves. The Committee also met with City of Corner Brook.

St. George's Ward Councilor Arlene Blanchard White asked why Corner Brook has been identified as the area to place the reserve and not somewhere like Stephenville or Flat Bay?

Chief Mitchell explained that the whole concept of an urban reserve is to put a business park close to where the business action is ongoing and close to urban areas. He said "That is how they work. There has to be opportunity for the businesses who would like to set up there. There are a lot of possibilities. Anybody can come and work on the urban reserve, you do not have to be aboriginal. Business improves our self-sustainability."

Councilor Blanchard White reiterated her concern that the focus is often on Corner Brook and we have nine wards. Chief Mitchell explained the importance of having a population base, and existing economic activity, to ensure the success of an urban reserve. Further, after presenting the opportunity to municipalities in our nine wards, the greatest level of support and interest was found with the Corner Brook city council.

Review of Income Statements: Finance Committee Report

Rob Dicks, Director of Operations, led the review of financial statements and subsequent discussion.



There was a discussion around a \$64,000 allocation (50/50 ACOA and Qalipu) to complete renovations of the Grand Falls-Windsor community room and to improve communications between our office locations with telecommunications. The funds have been allocated but are not yet spent. The project is being overseen by Service Qalipu Director Ralph Eldridge along with

Central Vice Chief, Joe Bouzanne.

It was noted that the income statement as presented was showing the project only as a renovation of the community room. Councilor Blanchard White noted that this would imply that Council was over budget on what had been allocated for the renovations. A recommendation was made to change the statement to reflect the true nature of the allocation and improve accountability.

Band employee benefits discussion: the money that Qalipu contributes to employee benefits is received from INAC to help with employee retention. Staff are eligible to have their RPP contributions met at 4-7 % for regular staff, 8% for management, 9% for Band Manager. After three months of service, full time employees are obligated to sign up for this.

Some employees (e.g. those working under the MAMKA budget) do not qualify for this benefit under INAC rules, Qalipu has picked up the cost of matching those employee contributions in order to treat all employees fairly.

The Women's Policy Office Budget was for the Dancers of the New Dawn project.

The purpose of the project was to enhance young girls', aged 9-15, overall ability to communicate and feel good about themselves, to be aware of bullying, harassment, and overall abuse of women and girls. The program relied on community partnerships and cultural teachers. Organizers have reported a desire to add an element to include young boys. The project was a pilot that can now be moved into other wards.

Ward Councilor Calvin Francis spoke to issues in his community, and how nice it would be to bring this program to Gander Bay. He encouraged greater involvement of Qalipu in the wards outside of Corner Brook.

He said, "When we are offering programs, we should be thinking of how this can be put into all wards."

It was noted that the shawls and program manual would be available to be signed out by other groups wishing to offer the program in any of the nine wards.

Rob Dicks, Director of Operations talked about enhanced administration of the NIHB program which will include bringing on more Wards with the medical transportation benefit. The budget will increase from approximately \$300,000 to over \$1 million. This could lead to job creation for Qalipu.

Dicks said, "We have members all over the world, in Canada, and the Atlantic provinces. We are working toward taking on all of Atlantic Canada for our membership only. There are also other programs currently administered by government that we could eventually take over for other Bands in Canada. As a long term goal, we are working our way toward that. We complete regular internal auditing, checks and balances to police ourselves. We are also monitored by INAC."

The AFS budget showed an increase to funding this year for two new positions (temporary). This will be budgeted for next year and have to get DFO approval.

Scholarships and Change to Education Policy



Keith Goulding, Director of Work Force Qalipu, discussed the Bernie Hanlon Scholarship and the concern of some members that this scholarship is only available to students that are already being funded. The question had been asked 'what about members who are paying their own way?' Goulding explained that this scholarship money comes out of the PSSP funding.

The student only qualifies if they have been accepted with the PSSP funding. They also have to have been in school in the previous year and returning to school. These are rules laid out by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) rules.

He said "If we offered another scholarship it would have to come out of Band funds. We could have an annual scholarship. This is at the discretion of Council who can then set the guidelines and application requirements."

As Qalipu does not currently have the funds set aside to offer scholarships, the Council challenged Goulding to develop a scholarship fund and make more scholarships available to our members. Goulding went on to say that there are a number of scholarships available for aboriginal students, these are listed on our website.

Goulding also brought forward some recommendations for changes to local guidelines to better benefit our members. These changes will be implemented, and posted on Qalipu.ca, in the fall of 2016.

The next regular meeting of Council will take place on October 15th at the Qalipu Community Room in Corner Brook, 1 Church Street. Please pre-register with Mabel MacDonald at (709) 634-5111 or by email at mmacdonald@qalipu.ca

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