

Millbrook First Nation's Regular Chief and Council Meeting
Council Chambers
April 13, 2021
10 am – 4 pm

Chief and Council:

Chief Robert Gloade, Councillor Alex Cope, Councillor Barry Martin, Councillor Carley Gloade, Councillor Colin Bernard, Councillor Gordon Johnson, Councillor James Stevens, Councillor Leana Kennedy, Councillor Lisa Marshall, Councillor Natasha Bernard, Councillor Peter Gloade, Councillor Stephen Marshall, and Councillor Ward Markie.

Staff:

Claire Marshall, Executive Director (by video conference)
Nigel Gloade, Communications
Gerald Gloade, Project Consultation

March 9, 2021, Minutes

Motion to approve the March 9, 2021, minutes. Moved by Councillor James Stevens and seconded by Councillor Stephen Marshall. Motion passed unanimously.

Presentations to Council

TE Wealth & TD Wealth

- Presentation on investment strategies for the Millbrook First Nation's 1919 Land Trust Account (i.e., how much money MFN could earn if the money is invested for a long period of time versus if MFN wants to spend the money on community projects immediately or in the short term).
- Chief and Council expressed their intent to engage the community on general ideas on how to spend the money before making any long-term investment decisions.

Energy Efficiency NS

- Presentation on the Community Building Energy Savings Program for all commercial building.
- Through Millbrook's energy assessments, \$20,000 a year of energy savings and/or opportunities were found where the investments will be paid back over 8-10 years.
- Millbrook had the most participation in the Community Building Energy Savings pilot in the entire province.

Millbrook Finance Department

- Presentation by CFO, Richard Skelhorn, proposing a robust new software system for financial and operations management. The system can handle the budgeting and reporting requirements of the funds, departments, and programs managed by the organization. **Motion to approve the new software system moved by Councillor Leana Kennedy and seconded by Councillor James Stevens.**

- Presentation by CFO, Richard Skelhorn, proposing to work with MNP to develop a comprehensive financial policy and procedures manual for Millbrook First Nation. **Motion to accept Millbrook Finance Department's proposal to hire MNP to assist with the development of financial policy and procedures manual moved by Councillor Colin Bernard and seconded by Councillor Ward Markie. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Housing Related:

After receiving the staff update about the status of the Housing Repairs Grant, **a motion was made to increase the maximum per household Housing Repairs Grant from \$500 to \$750 and for seniors from \$750 to \$1000. Moved by Councillor James Stevens, Seconded by Councillor Lisa Marshall. Motion passed unanimously.**

Moved by Councillor Colin Bernard and Seconded by Councillor Carley Gloade to make the overall housing repair grant budget unlimited and evaluate the budget in March 2022.

An off-reserve member requested a housing subsidy to buy a house off-reserve. The member submitted an application and supplied the proper paperwork. **It was moved by Councillor Carley Gloade and seconded by Councillor Stephen Marshall to provide the off-reserve housing grant to the member. Motion passed.** It was noted that the off-reserve housing grant information on the website needs to be updated.

Repairs and Renovations Related:

Repairs and Renovations request to clean gutters from a band member's house was discussed and denied. A band member's request to cut the dead trees in their yard was approved and referred to staff to implement.

Repairs and Renovations request to fix windows, door, clean lawn and fix roof from a band member was discussed, and it was reported back that the work had been completed already. This matter was referred to staff to follow up on.

A Request was made for new kitchen cabinets from a member. No discussion or decision occurred. More information is required.

A band member requested a bathtub instead of a shower in their home. This matter was referred to staff to review and decide on.

A band member requested work on her step and her door. Council referred the matter to staff to look into it.

Councillor James Stevens put forward a motion, seconded by Councillor Alex Cope, to increase the cost for a paved driveway to \$10,000. Passed unanimously.

Lands Related:

Council discussed pursuing the purchase of two private properties in Beaver Dam adjacent to Millbrook's reserve to be added to the Beaver Dam reserve if the acquisition of the properties is successful. This was agreed to by consensus.

Council discussed the overall infrastructure plan (what's possible) for building houses in Beaver Dam and Sheet Harbour. **Motion to begin infrastructure planning for building houses in Beaver Dam and Sheet Harbour by reviewing and re-visiting the existing infrastructure plan. Moved by Councillor Ward Markie, Seconded by Councillor Lisa Marshall. Motion passed (11 for, 1 absent).**

Health-Related:

Millbrook Health Centre staff have been adhering to the Council's decision to provide physician services to Millbrook band members and community members, including spouses/children of those members not living in Millbrook (i.e., off reserve non-band members). This leaves staff with having to figure out who is a community member (a non-band member), particularly when they are unknown to the staff. Asking them for proof of residency (e.g., addressed mail, license) does not always work. By consensus, Council agreed to resolve this issue by developing a registration form for non-band community members to receive services from the Millbrook Health Centre.

A member requested funding for naturopathic treatment. This special request was referred to the Health Centre to see if they will cover it under the normal policy. Other councillors reminded the table that there was a previous motion made by former Councillor Michael Stephens to cover up to \$500 in alternative medicines, and therefore this request should be approved. However, there was no clear decision and was referred to the staff for follow-up and review.

Fisheries Related:

A band member requested a five-year tuna license contract. It was decided that this matter be referred to the fisheries team for decision.

A non-member requested use the Sheet Harbour wharf. This request is referred to the fisheries team. The new Commercial Fisheries Director will manage the wharf.

Millbrook First Nation to join all NS First Nations in seeking a Declaration from the courts stating that DFO's management of the fisheries is an infringement on Mi'kmaw rights. Moved by Councillor Carley Gloade and seconded by Councillor Stephen Marshall to support this Declaration. This motion was passed unanimously.

Moderate livelihood coordinator position job description to be developed for posting.

Donation Requests:

The Council received a request from the Immaculate Conception Church asking for a donation towards the enhancement of art features and a new statue of Mary. **Motion to provide a donation of \$5000 to the Immaculate Conception Church towards the enhancement of art features and a new statue of**

**Mary. Moved by Councillor Peter Gloade, Seconded by Councillor Lisa Marshall. (7 for, 4 against)
Motion passed.**

Council agreed to provide a donation of \$5000 in support of the search efforts for fishing captain Jumbo Sock and vessel Tyhawk. Moved by Councillor Gordon Johnson, Seconded by Councillor Ward Markie. Motion passed unanimously.

Cole Harbour Apartment Name Contest:

The Council reviewed the submission of names for the Cole Harbour Apartment. The Council decided to extend the contest and re-post for another month.

New Business/Roundtable

Councillor Lisa Marshall put forward the following motion, seconded by Leana Kennedy:

Should a successful candidate for employment within the Millbrook First Nation (MFN) be a current, sitting member of Chief or Council, they must vacate their Council position immediately from the date of acceptance of employment with the MFN from this time going forward.

Council discussed this motion; however, it was not voted on and tabled for a future meeting following further input. Some Councillors felt that the Custom Election code is an opportunity to resolve the conflict-of-interest issue that Councillor Lisa Marshall was seeking to address. Others felt that an amendment to the HR policies would be required. This was referred to executive director and HR consultant to review within the HR policies.

Councillor Lisa Marshall suggested that a digital board be placed in front of the Administration office to post important information. Councillor James Stevens volunteered to price it out and follow up to see if it is within the by-laws.

Councillor Lisa Marshall brought up housing and repair concerns raised by a band member. This is being followed up on by the staff.

Councillor L. Marshall suggested a fence around the playground to keep out bears and stray dogs.

Councillor L. Marshall requests exploring more mental health supports for the community, especially the kids.

Councillor L. Marshall expressed concerns with the firebugs and asked if Millbrook will be doing controlled burns this year. This practice is no longer done for environmental reasons.

Continue to provide financial support for band members work in St. Anne's Mission in Merigomish.

Councillor Barry Martin shared that there is a person interested in opening up a boxing club.

Motion to donate \$1000 to Red Tribe Boxing. Moved by Councillor Natasha Bernard and seconded by Councillor Lisa Marshall. This Motion was passed unanimously.

Councillor Colin Bernard recommended that the summer camp proceed should COVID rules allow.

Councillor Natasha Bernard shared that a band member has an issue with her window that needs repair and that another band member has a rusted door.

Councillor Peter Gloade wanted to know when the Health Centre office was going back to normal hours.

Adjourned 5:20 pm