

Special Council Meeting – Annual Budget 2016-2017

Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Thursday, March 31, 2016 – 10:00 AM

The Special Council Meeting was held on the above-date in the Administration Complex Council Chambers scheduled for 10:00 A.M.

Council Members Present: Chief Chris Plain, Councillor Darren Henry, Councillor Ted White Sr. (Excused 2:30 pm), Councillor Sherri Crowley, Councillor Shawn Plain (Excused 12:00 noon), Councillor Ronald C. Simon, Councillor John Adams, Councillor Errnol Gray, Councillor Lareina Rising, Councillor Randi Rogers (Arrived 12:00 noon)

Others Present:

Kelly Williams, Assistant Band Administrator
Natasha Goulais, Finance Assistant
Carole Delion, Business Development Officer
Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator
Brian Bois, Public Works Coordinator

June Simon, Finance Coordinator
Sharilyn Johnston, Environment Coordinator
Jamie Maness, Community Service Coordinator
Sara Plain, Health Services Director

Budget Overview – June Simon, Finance Coordinator

The Finance Coordinator, provided an overview of the consolidated financial statements and noted that there are not many changes for the budget, as opposed to those of the past. The budget for all departments was reviewed with key changes being noted. There was a question regarding CPP, it was noted that all employees have to agree to participate in the program and if not no one can participate. Programs that are supported 100% through Band Contributions was also reviewed, and it was noted that Own Source Revenue is where those funds are drawn from. Own source revenue includes; Chippewa Industrial Developments, Pipeline Leases and Gaming Revenue.

Administration/Employment/Infrastructure – Kelly Williams, A/Band Administrator

The A/Band Administrator, informed Council that the Housing Coordinator will be in attendance at the next Regular Council Meeting to present the Housing budget. The A/Band Administrator, noted that there are no major changes in the budget with the exception of the following: increase in the Special Events budget; increase in the Clench Defalcation budget for anticipated events and legal costs, but these expense will be recouped; there will be no new positions created; and, there has been no budget prepared for the Constitution Development, however, a budget will be forthcoming. Further discussion included: Enhanced learning opportunities for the youth; investing in the Summer Student Program; and staffing in the Employment and Training department.

Environment – Sharilyn Johnston, Environment Coordinator

The Environment Coordinator, provided an overview of the budget and noted that the department consistently looks for opportunities to acquire funds for the departmental operations to offset the amount of Band Contributions. Past and current projects were reviewed along with the corresponding funding source. It was noted that some funding received must be used for a specific project. After the overview, further discussion included: Honorariums and concern regarding the budgeted amount. It was noted that at times there is a need to bring in consultants who assist with bringing a more clearer understanding of technical information, environmental issues, government regulations, and policy of industry. Another key area of discussion was Impact Benefit Agreements (IBA). It was noted that this issue has been being discussed for many years now and local industry should be approached and be held accountable for the direct impact of their operations that surround Aamjiwnaang. Many factors need to be considered before moving forward with the development of IBA's. It was mentioned that perhaps an IBA process may be included in the consultation process.

Follow-up:

- The Finance Coordinator, to look into adding the Greenhouse structure to the Bands insurance.

Economic Development – Carole Delion, Business Development Officer

The Business Development Officer, noted that the budget will remain the same and have been reviewed with the A/Band Administrator and Finance Coordinator. Further discussion included: current support staff; committee honorariums; consultant fees; and grants. It was also noted that extra revenues that are generated are used to offset unbudgeted items. Appreciation was also expressed for the retirement event for the former Economic Development Officer.

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Thursday, March 31, 2016 – 10:00 AM

Community Services – Jamie Maness, Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator, noted that there are no major changes to the budget. It was noted that the honorarium budget more due to the larger committee. Other noted budget line items were: recreation, now included the summer youth baseball league; special events; and, the Pow Wow. It was also noted that the Youth Worker Program is now covered by Band Contributions.

Follow-Up:

- The Youth Worker to submit a program report to Council with target group, activities and all recorded program statistics.

Education/Day Care – Vicki Ware, Education Coordinator

The Education Coordinator, provided an overview and noted that there will be an increase in Band Contributions to cover the Education Awards, due to an increase in students graduating. There will be an increase for the Pre-Kindergarten based on an audit review which reflects higher nominal role. The special education needs at the Day Care were also reviewed. There was further discussion regarding the needs of the Native Education Workers, it was noted that the workers simply need to make a request as there are funds available to those programs. The Education workers have funds available to them for professional development and are required to include in their annual work plan.

Discussion and review of the Day Care included: Childcare Transformation funding; food costs; and, the annual Christmas party. It was noted that the annual Christmas party is solely supported through fundraising efforts of the Day Care staff.

There was a brief discussion regarding funding for post-secondary student who reside in the United States, discussion included: the Band assuming control of post-secondary funding; further development in this area may be determined when the Education Constitution is being developed; and, there may be more flexibility and consideration for other students who currently do not qualify for funding under the Southern First Nation Secretariat funding criteria.

Also discussed was the new Visions of Harmony project. Council was provided with an update and it was noted that the new van insurance, fuel, and driver is being covered through Employment and Training. And, the driver reports to the Education Coordinator or the Public Works Coordinator.

Follow-Up:

- Transportation budget line item to be added in the budget for tracking costs of fuel.
- Education Coordinator, to update the staff on requesting funds from the education department.
- Education Coordinator, to provide a brief report to Council with statistics on the number of students on the nominal role and their movement through the education system.

Health Centre – Sara Plain, Health Services Director

The Health Services Director, provided an overview of the presented budget noting changes for each line item and department that is being effected. It was also noted that special needs and events are covered under funds that are obtained through submitted and approved proposals. Further discussion included: Meals on Wheels funding; Medical Transportation (unexpended funds have to be sent back and does not affect the annual funding contributions); current status of the development of a salary grid for PSW's; and the new accessibility van and medical transportation funds may be used to assist in supporting the fuel needs.

Follow-Up:

- Health Director, to confirm the use of Medical Transportation funds to support fuel costs for the accessibility van.

Public Works – Brian Bois, Public Works Coordinator

The Public Works Coordinator, provided an overview and recommended that a permanent labourer be hired full-time for the department. The A/Band Administrator, noted that the position would be posted as contract to permanent. Also discussed was the Animal Control position and community needs, garbage collection fees and temporary workers.

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Closing Discussion:

a) Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

There was a question as to when the last wage increase for employees took effect. It was noted that the last wage increase was two years ago. It was also mentioned that COLA increases were not budgeted for inclusion in the 2016-2017 annual budget.

Follow-Up:

- Finance Coordinator, to prepare new spread sheet to reflect a 2% wage increase across the board for all permanent employees with the final 2016-2017 Consolidated Budget to be presented at the next Regular Council Meeting.

b) Band Administrator Position

Councillor Lareina Rising, provided an update to members of Council and noted that the recommended individuals have agreed to assist with the interview and hiring process for the Band Administrator. The interview question have been reviewed by the A/Band Administrator, and suggested changes provided.

Follow-Up:

- A Motion in Council will be required to appoint the Hiring Committee.

Motion #1.

MOVED BY: Randi Rogers

SECONDED BY: John Adams

That this Council adjourns at 2:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED

Recorded By:

Lynn M. Rosales,

A/Band Council Clerk