

**Special Council Meeting
Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Friday, December 18, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

The Special Council Meeting was held on the above-date at Maawn Doosh Gumig Community and Youth Centre scheduled for 10:00 A.M.

Council Members Present: Chief Chris Plain, Councillor Ted White Sr., Councillor Shawn Plain, Councillor Randi Rogers, Councillor Errnol Gray, Councillor Sherri Crowley

Council Member Regrets: Councillor Darren Henry (Work), Councillor Ronald C. Simon (Work), Councillor John Adams (Vacation), Councillor Lareina Rising (Work)

Others Present:

Kelly Williams, Assistant Band Administrator

Shailyn Johnston, Environment Coordinator

Doug Develin, Manager Aboriginal and Tribal Relations

David Slauson, Senior Dangerous Goods Officer

Dany Chilton, Manager Aboriginal Relations

Presentation and Discussion:

The Special Council Meeting was requested by CN representatives to provide a private briefing to Chief and Council, and is in response to requests for information on the transport of dangerous goods through Aamjiwnaang Territory.

Chief Plain welcomed thanked all for their attendance at the Special Council Meeting and provided some background work of the Environment Department and noted that for some time now there have been requests for information regarding the Transportation of Dangerous Goods through Aamjiwnaang Territory. The information has been requested based on recent events where there have been major spills and incidents involving railway transportation.

Chief Plain also noted that over the years several community members have expressed concern about what is being transported through the community and along with potential safety issues. It was stressed that the community concerns about the goods being transported is relevant and should be addressed. It was mentioned that a safety protocol be developed along with more open communications about the transportation of goods through Aamjiwnaang Territory.

The Environment Coordinator also provided an overview of the Environment Department efforts to gather information and stressed the importance of Aamjiwnaang being informed of the goods being transported in the even that there is an incident. To date the requests for information not been successful and with little to no information being received from CN. It was suggested that the Emergency Management Planner also be involved and perhaps at a future date a mock emergency exercise could be conducted.

After the opening remarks and background information, round table introductions took place prior to CN's presentation and open discussion.

CN's presentation included:

CN recognizes the importance of meeting with Chief and Council to answer questions, it was also noted that CN routinely does not do community meetings; CN website provides information related to what commodity is being moved, the rights of communities where goods are being transported through, CN's response time for emergencies, and how emergencies are handled; CN is required by law to report to each community what is being carried through the community. No train schedule is provided as this is not for public distribution; All railcars are labeled and tracked, the flow of railcars are tracked electronically (via

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App), the tracking system lists the commodity that is being shipped; and, CN would like to move forward and form a partnership with Aamjiwnaang.

Council Discussion:

Safety is very important to know and what is being shipped; Training initiatives and opportunities; responsibility to work with emergency responders and inform the community on potentially harmful situations; The Band is working on building capacity internally and bearing cost to do so and recognizes that importance of sending out notifications to the community for any safety issues; The community has a right to be informed of CN's procedures and protocols in an emergency; There is expressed concern about the number of railcars moving through the community and blocking roads, and in some cases blocking emergency vehicles; There was a real emergency and it created havoc within the community and roads that run through the community were blocked for long periods of time; and, concerns about track maintenance, inspections and reporting.

Recommendations:

- Develop a formalized contingency plan.
- More training for emergency response.
- More information made available about long trains – scheduling.
- Emergency Management Planner involved in the process.
- CN would like a Confidentiality Agreement developed prior to any information sharing.
- Schedule a meeting to begin the process for information sharing.

Noted Resources:

- S-Rail Program
- E-Rail Safe
- ASK Rail Guide
- CN Website
- Railcar Tracking APP

Closing:

Chief Plain provide a few closing remarks and noted that CN has been provided the opportunity to present and meet with Chief and Council as requested. Chief Plain also noted that the community and staff work very closely together and community safety concerns are high priority. Ultimately it is the responsibility of Chief and Council to protect the community assets look out for the safety of all community members.

Recorded By:

Lynn M. Rosales,
A/Band Council Clerk