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**MICHEL FIRST NATION**

**BAND #472 – IR#132**

**FRIENDS OF MICHEL SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

**Saturday, September 14, 2019 at Villeneuve, Alberta**

**Council Present:** Chief Gil Goerz, Councillors Dayle Callihoo-Campbell, Maureen Callihoo-Ligtvoet, Syd Courtepatte and Roy Goerz

(Celina Loyer – resigned. Jessie Loyer, absent)

**Welcome and Call to Order** at 10:45 am

**Opening Prayer** led by Elizabeth Gerlat

**Appointment of Secretary** – Wendy McDonald

**Appointment of Chair** – the individual requested had to cancel this morning because of a health crisis at home. Those present were asked who would volunteer when there was disagreement about following the agenda without a chairperson. A member volunteered, then declined upon learning she would not be able to vote. Elizabeth Gerlat volunteered and was accepted.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Rosalind Callihoo – requests the Unity group be added to the agenda

Judy Lewis moves unity group be added, Diane Ireland second. Motion carried. **(2019-1)**

Call for adoption of Agenda was disrupted by members asking about quorum.

**Introduction of Leadership Team**: Chief Gil Goerz called Dan Godberson, Brandy Callihoo-Shott and Kim Beaudin forward. Various members commented on the validity of non-838 members having a voice up at the podium. Chief Gil stated that four groups who had contacted Government were instructed that mediation was necessary to determine what the majority of band members were looking for and were invited to discussions. Three groups remained with mediation and were going to report on the outcome of those meetings, noting they would walk away from the leadership team to support the true Council and Chief to be elected at todays meeting. Various comments ensued with some calling for people to move forward in agreement as we would not be getting anywhere by continuing to argue.

Chairperson Elizabeth Gerlat said we should get on with the agenda and called for a break for lunch that was provided at 12:15 pm.

**Called to Order** by chairperson Elizabeth Gerlat at 1:30 pm.

Chief Gil Goerz said we will forgo the reports and move quickly through items that need to be addressed at this meeting. Can we have a motion for adoption of agenda as amended.

Allan Goerz – motion to accept adoption of agenda as amended. Stan Daniels second. Motion carried. **(2019-2**)

**2018 AGM Minutes** – any omissions or errors?

Bev Asmann listed on page 14, was not there, please remove her name

Tera Elwood on page 12 – Elaine not her sister, but grandmother.

Judy Morin Callihoo – motion to accept 2018 minutes as amended. Second – Leona Callihoo Pearson.

Motion carried. **(2019-3)**

**Chief and Council Reports** – included in the package. Any discussion?

Chief Gil Goerz - motion to accept reports. Second – Rosalind Callihoo. Motion carried. **(2019-4)**

**Financial Reports** – included in the package. Any discussion?

Discussion on format and transparency, balance sheet and notes are missing. Dayle Callihoo-Campbell stated that Income and Expense Statements have been done this way since the beginning. MNP LLP Accounting firm does a Notice to Reader. According to the bylaws – the books/accounts shall be audited at least once each year by a duly qualified accountant OR by two members of the society.

Amanda Middleton – motion to not accept financial statements as presented. Second – Joy Callihoo-Lizzee.

In favor 34, opposed 22. Motion carried. **(2019-5)**

Chief Gil – caveat – these will have to be re-printed and if we do not accept it could jeopardize our status.

Dayle Callihoo Campbell said notice to reader submitted only to Chief and Council according to current bylaws.

Chief Gil – to solve we can have copies of notice to reader printed and sent out to those who request them.

**AGM expenses** - Chief Gil – we need a motion to pay AGM expenses to a maximum of $8000 for the caterer, hall, electoral officer, sound system, and customary allowed meeting expenses per Councillor.

Amanda Middleton – motion to pay AGM expenses to a max of $8000. Second – Dan Godbersen Jr.

Motion carried. **(2019-6)**

**Presentation on NOVA Edson Mainline Project -** Chief Gil Goerz –– this project affects where we hunt, fish, pick medicines, berries, exercise treaty rights, maps are in the back of the hall if you want to follow along. The reason we are involved is the National Energy Board has contacted us as we are recognised as intervenors, we are on their radar and mailing list – they sent a letter stating we are aware you are in this area. We responded and requested Intervenor status. We requested and attended a NOVA meeting with their delegates, on Monday May 27, 2019 at Sawridge, south Edmonton, Chief and 3 Councillors. They wanted to know who Michel First Nation is, how this is going to impact us, and we gave preliminary info, even though we are not recognized by government, we are still Treaty 6 peoples and we have a constitutional right to exercise those treaty rights. They were reluctant. We contacted Natural Resources Canada that Nova was not talking with us and they contacted Nova and we finally heard they would accept us. We explained that because we do not receive any government funding, we are in limbo for resources, we don’t have the capacity to participate in their sessions. We agreed to put in a request for funding with a budget. The budget we presented was what other First Nations typically send, $300,000 - they came back stating we can’t fund that kind of money. What we did agree on is about $40,000. This is so that we can have a community meeting, explain the project and get feedback from members on how this impacts any of our membership, regarding hunting, gathering etc. The project runs south and east of Edson, between the Brazeau & Pembina rivers that flow into Brazeau reservoir. What they propose is to expand their pipeline in that area, they have many pipelines all over Alberta. Since we’ve never been involved in any of those we want to be involved in this project, because its more land taken up from our Treaty 6 territory that we have trouble getting access to. The pipeline activity may destroy the medicines, berries, and they are required to replace as they remove them. We do use this area for hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering. If any of our membership here who do use any of this Treaty 6 area for our treaty rights, we want to hear from you. We did have a traditional land use study done a few years ago, but it only included 18 or so members, so we would like to expand the list of our members involved – we need to know that info so we can be involved in these projects. Our mandate is to present this info to members and get a report back to them.

Discussion followed regarding our participation in this – is it just for the money, why does this impact us? Do they have to restore what they remove? Are our children included in this impact statement? Chief Gil responded by saying our treaty rights are impacted if we don’t participate and retain our access to our traditional areas, the money is used for our meetings and expenses in being involved etc. and yes they are required by law to restore what is removed and yes again it is vital our children are included in this process as it impacts future access.

**Indigenous Capacity Support Program**: One other request we received from the Canadian Environmental Protection Association, is that they have what they call the Indigenous Capacity Support Program. Federal and provincial governments are becoming more aware of active involvement of First Nation groups in these regulatory projects – and are offering First Nation groups a program to train FN people in order to be able present their knowledge, their concerns, their desire to be actively involved in these projects. They’ve designed workshops to train people to be monitors on these projects. What companies are now required to do is have FN groups who are granted Intervenor status. To be monitors on a daily basis, and industry is looking for better qualified people who can do this. On Enbridge line 3, a couple years ago, we were involved, not as monitors, because we had no training yet. There are 21 First Nations involved from around Alberta, along with 40 in Saskatchewan. These groups have people involved in industry with the qualifications to be certified monitors. This support program trains FN people to be active and qualified members in the monitoring and construction of pipelines. We’ve submitted the application for funding. The main focus of funding is to allow Michel FN to set up an office, with computers, phone, hire staff and all the proper structure to run it on our behalf. We are waiting for a response on whether we are accepted or not. The way we are operating right now, we’ve all got boxes of records, and some documents are still with our lawyer, they are all over the place, with a central office that could compile it all, we could maintain a membership list, we can do phone calls, emails, right now info is hard to get out there. Hopefully, your new Council follows through on this.

Discussion followed asking why Friends of Michel are consulting on behalf of the people. Chief Gil responded that we do this in our capacity as elected Chief and Council, who have been elected by members to represent the people and this is what we have been doing since we re-formed in 1985. Some asked if our non-status young people with environmental training can be involved, and can we have a list of our tradespeople made available for these companies – yes to both and this is why we want to establish an office so we can recommend our people as projects come up.

**Maps of Michel IR #132** - Dayle Callihoo-Campbell – we have maps of Michel Indian Reserve #132 – 5 separate maps showing Orders in Council and Surrenders – one fully colour blocked; one black and white with colour cross hatched (to show underlying features); one on 2018 aerial photography and one on 1950 black and white aerial photography. The last one is the county map combining Parkland and Sturgeon as of 2019 & 2017. These are on the back table for everyone.

**Elders Words of Guidance** -- Maureen Callihoo-Ligtvoet -- It’s time to take a deep breath – we came in with guns blazing. We never gave a formal welcome – so welcome, we come from a place of compassion.

Who is an elder? Well it’s one living in good standing in the community, proven available to community, residential school survivors, those who attended Michel school etc. We will have our elders come up and clean the air, as there has been the use of harsh words, hurts, we had smudge planned – but the elder was sick and unable to attend so we did not do that before we started. (Malcom Callihoo to take mike around to elders.)

**Randy Calahoo** – come from Michel school, what should happen, we’ve gotta work with elected Chief and Council. Got to face government as one. When reserve people fight within, we lose.

**John Calliou** – been working province 83 years, I remember fishing, hunting, with clean water to drink. Lakes polluted, everything so different. I worked with TransAlta; did not admit I was native. Chief Gil Goerz is doing the best he can. Rosalind was Chief in the past. Thank you to all who show up. We are gonna be a family.

**Harold L’Hirondelle** from Edson – started elders cultural classes there to pass on traditions, culture, herbs etc. to help younger generation.

**Ernie Callihoo** – my dad asked me (Maureen) to speak for him – our elders lost their voice in residential school – we’ve had many conversations about people and what we look like, together we’ve been doing lots in the community, to acknowledge Michel at Treaty day – orange shirt day, so Michel FN is not forgotten. We try to use our ears, not our mouth, for we are processors first. In order to move forward, we need to acknowledge our past, dad remembers the fist fights of 1958, sometimes the louder you speak the harder it is to hear what you say.

**Shauna L’Hirondelle --** I want to speak on behalf of my grandmother – Delphine Callihoo L’Hirondelle – I remember the words she spoke of residential school, brothers and sisters being killed; she was a very spiritual person in prayer. If you want to be heard here today, I suggest you start praying. We have to pray for our leaders, nobody is going to be happy for all decisions made. My grandmother was on her knees in prayer, we have that power within, to get what our people need. Start being grateful for what we fight for. I remember going to church, our generation, the native people are spiritual, we need to start coming back, some of our traditions don’t matter but our spirituality does. And we are spiritual people, we can go in prayer so we can make things happen. Not in complaining. My grandmother prayed and got things done. If you want our lands back, start praying. This was instilled in me, to be grateful.

**Elizabeth Gerlat** - we got together as families, loved one another, going to Michel School in a sleigh as our school bus, had a stove, light it up to keep us warm. How many of us here did go to Michel School?

**Maureen Callihoo-Ligtvoet** – There are three residential schools here in this area. Our survivors are those we need to acknowledge – they are a big reason we are here. Losing more each year. They are tired of hearing the fighting. They had faced such trauma in past times – to relive it again is hard on them when we fight. HiyHiy!

**Election Process**

Michel First Nation term is 3 years, with one Chief and six Councillors. A deposit is requested to be made by a qualified candidate and is $100 for Councillor and $200 for Chief. This addition to our election process is to be voted on prior to process.

Harold L’Hirondelle -- Motion that we amend our election code to include a non-refundable deposit of $100 or $200 for those running. Second by Sharon Russell.

Discussion surrounded the acceptability of this motion, and a call to vote was made.

Motion defeated. **(2019-7)**

**Appointment of Billie Turner as Electoral Officer**

Billy Turner – I have a political science degree – I have been the deputy returning officer for a number of government elections. I have experience with on reserve elections and have completed training to become a Certified First Nations Returning Officer. I’m a professional rodeo cowboy, Bootstrap Bill. In 2015 I completed a law degree. Your election process is safe in my hands. Usually there is a nominal fee to run in band elections. The process we will use today is to have one eligible member nominate another eligible member with a seconder. Once you accept and are qualified, you will have two minutes to tell us why you are running. Once all nominations are in, we will print ballots, which will be given to eligible members to vote, done by a secret ballot. In the event of a close call of one vote between candidates, it will be an automatic recount. After all ballots are counted, the newly elected Chief and Council will be revealed, and board duties will commence. During the counting process each candidate can have one scrutineer who can monitor the process.

Nominations for Chief –

Malcolm Callihoo - I nominate Gil Goerz for Chief, second Dan Godberson, Jr. Gil accepted.

Joy Callihoo-Lizee - I nominate Rosalind Callihoo, second Judy Lewis. Rosalind accepted

Bonnie Gordon - I nominate Sydney Courtepatte – second Debbie Mitchell. Syd accepted

Catherine Beaudin - I nominate Dan Godberson Jr, second Dan Godberson Sr. Dan accepted.

Vote for Chief undertaken – ballots being printed.

Billy acknowledges he is on Treaty 6 traditional territory. Nominees are given 2 minutes to say why they are running.

**Rosalind Callihoo** – I am the former Chief of Michel band, involved in this for 37 years, we set up the unity group, we believe we have history and knowledge, I have the history and the knowledge. I know, Canada can say all they want, that the enfranchisements were voluntary. I have the proof they were not. House of Commons they talk about Section 112. If it was a pure and clean thing and Canada says it was voluntary, why did they change the Indian Act in the middle of it? The strengths I bring – with all respect to previous Chief and Council, we do not want a modern day treaty, we do not want new band creation, because we will never get justice on land claims. My grandfather, the 1928 and 1958 enfranchisements. We have the highest survivor rate of 60s scoop. I know what happened, I heard Thomas Callihoo just before enfranchisement, and said I represent the people who don’t know what’s going on. I believe I can take us to table, I will fight for our descendants, with integrity, honesty and facts. Thank you.

**Sydney Courtepatte** – I am a current Councillor – I want to run for Chief for our descendants to get them reinstated, to be recognized by government. I’ve worked the last 30 years on the family tree, helped members get genealogy info to show they are Michel people. I have been involved in many hours of research to help people find where they connect and to get status. Future looking.

**Dan Godberson Jr.–** I’ve been working with Chief and Council on leadership team, I want band reinstatement, with no treaty descendant left behind, this is what we need to do. I think that moving on without descendants is not going to happen. My main reason is to carry momentum of the leadership team in talks with Canada on band reinstatement for treaty descendants. I don’t have any more right to be here than any others, but I want to have a voice here.

**Gil Goerz** – Thanks for the nomination, I’m the current Chief. I would like to remain on as your Chief, my goal has always been to get Michel First Nation to the table with the government and begin meaningful discussion on how we want to move forward. How we want to move forward, it’s not up to me, it’s up to the membership. Once we get a table established, then we will involve members in what they want, and I know there’s going to be many ideas of what we want and how we want to proceed. Those are going to be part of the negotiations. The people doing the negotiations, are going to be consultants and lawyers and people working for us. We have our own expertise that we can use as well. So, I would just like to continue on, to continue the process we’ve started. To continue working with the communities in the area, that we have been involved with, the town of Devon, the county of Sturgeon, St Albert. Our members have been presenting Michel First Nation to the populations, to the schools, in doing ceremonies, blanket exercises etc. We’ve been active in the communities around, we’ve been involved with projects with city of Edmonton, who appreciate our input. We are part of a group of nations, I think 21 or 22 other First Nations groups that the city of Edmonton is working with, on any of their projects in the river valley or LRT, or whatever it is. We are recognized by industry; we are recognized by the people around us and now all we need is for recognition from the government. My goal is to get us there. Thank you.

Billie Turner – showed everyone the empty ballot box, then sealed it. Ballots are open until closed for counting. Voting is open for members with blue cards, 838 members and their status card.

Once voting ceased, Billie counted the ballots over the mike as scrutineers monitored the count.

**Results for Chief (at 3:34 pm)**

Gil Goerz – 42 = **Elected**

Rosalind Callihoo – 36

Syd Courtepatte – 9

Dan Godberson Jr. – 2

Total of 89 ballots cast and counted for Chief.

**Michel First Nation Elected Chief Gil Goerz** –I’m a little overwhelmed and I’m glad for your confidence in the vision I have and in the way we want to move forward. Hopefully, we can have a cohesive Council that can work together to move forward and let’s get this done. Thank you for your confidence.

**Nominations for Six Councillor positions**:

Maureen Ligtvoet nominates Dayle Callihoo-Campbell – second Leona Callihoo-Pearson. Dayle accepted

Melanie Lavoie nominates Syd Courtepatte – second Allan Goerz. Syd accepted

Margaret Anne Martineau nominates Dan Godberson Jr. - second Gary Sutton - Dan accepted

Kim Beaudin nominates Bev Asmann – Bev declined

Michelle Callihoo nominates Mavis Callihoo – second Sharon Russell. Mavis accepted

Beryl Pugh nominates Maureen Ligtvoet - second Allan Callihoo. Maureen declined

Kim Beaudin nominates Rosalind Callihoo – Rosalind declined

Carmen Callihoo-Payne nominates Roy Goerz – second Dan Godberson Jr. Roy accepted

Allan Callihoo nominates Malcolm Callihoo – second Judy Lewis. Malcolm declined because of a conflict of interest.

Dan Godberson Jr. nominates Kim Beaudin – second Margaret Beaudin. Kim declined

Vivian Strawson nominates Bonnie Gordon – second Jane Gibson. Bonnie accepted

Electoral Officer Billie – do we have anymore nominations from the members for Council? We will leave nominations open for one more minute… Okay, the floor is closed so we will accept these 6 qualified candidates as Councillors:

**2019 Council Members for Michel First Nation**

Dayle Callihoo-Campbell

Syd Courtepatte

Dan Godbersen Jr

Mavis Callihoo

Roy Goerz

Bonnie Gordon

Rosalind Callihoo– I would like to propose that the unity group is going to continue to be in discussion with Minister O’Reagan’s office with our mandate to be reinstated under Indian Act. We will still be in negotiations. I am hoping to continue with our previous offers to work together. Is your mandate to work on modern day treaty – or for new band creation?

Gil Goerz – we are going to work for whatever the government is willing to negotiate. Whether that’s a new band, band reinstatement, whatever criteria they come up with. A modern treaty if it doesn’t work for the membership, we won’t pursue it. It’s as simple as that. That’s not up to us, its up to all the members.

Rosalind Callihoo – I agree 100 percent. Will you be willing to work with unity group or are we to continue discussions with O’Reagan’s office? We have support of 110, 120 members, 838 members, we believe there is cause for reinstatement and we will fight for that.

Chief Gil Goerz - We should probably get together and see what we can come up with. We can invite you to a Council meeting. I have no problem working with you guys. My goal is to get us to the table.

Rachelle Callihoo – Through democratic process today, we’ve elected a new Chief and Council, so let’s let the democratic process work and support our new Chief and Council, to do the job they were elected to and to pray for their continued support and wisdom. We hope over the next 3 years we will see great things done.

Chief Gil – as per our Electoral Officer, he’s going to hold onto ballots for 14 days in case there are any challenges or anything else like that. Chief and Council will get together and continue with what we have to do.

**Gravesite issues** -- Gerald Delorme – I’ve been a land protector for the past 20 years, our graves here in the city of Edmonton – when graves are destroyed our ancestor’s footprints are gone. From 1908. Edmonton has been digging out our ancestors and disposing of remains, some have taken skulls into houses, or to dumpsters. City to desecrate more of that land down at Rossdale – there’s a lot more in this grave area. Rossdale area has at least 1500 people buried there. Area in question some say we’ve done what’s right, but officials are talking about such a small area. I’m speaking out for the people who just simply don’t know, who don’t understand. Laws they are not following, human rights are not being supported. Another area is out at Villeneuve. These are our inherited rights, our land. Stand with land protectors, inherited rights they are stealing from you each time they dig out an artifact or our ancestors. No consent. They say we have monitors, but we need to speak for our seven generations.

**Adjournment – Closing prayer at 4:15 by Elizabeth Gelat**