



Hamlet Council

Special Council Meeting – Wednesday May 20, 2015
Hamlet Chambers @ 7:00 P.M.
Special Meeting # 004-2015

Present:

Mayor Bob Leonard

Deputy Mayor Eric Anoe Jr

Councillor Jamie Kablutsiak

Councillor Elizabeth U Issakiark

Councillor Chris Mikeeuneak

Councillor Joe Savikataaq Jr

Councillor Martha Main

Absent:

Councillor Nathan Caskey

Councillor Peter Shamee

Staff:

SAO Steve England
Council Clerk Roxy Illnik

Guests:

Premiere Peter Taptuna
Minister Paul Quassa
Minister/MLA George Kuksuk
MLA Joe Savikataaq
Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - **Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**
2. **OPENING PRAYER**
 - **Deputy Mayor Anoe Jr led the opening prayer.**
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion # 047/2015

Moved by: Councillor Main

Seconded by: Councillor Mikeeuneak

Be It Resolved that the Agenda for Wednesday May 20th, 2015
Special Council meeting be approved

-Carried-

4. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

5. **Delegates**

- **Premiere Peter Taptuna**
- **Minister Paul Quassa**
- **Minister George Kuksuk**
- **Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik**

General discussions:

- Premiere Taptuna thanks Council for the invite and Mayor Leonard for showing him around town and our new office building and our gravel crusher.
- Mayor Leonard expressed appreciation for the gravel crusher program support
- Community freezer:
 - Small now for the size of our community & old with equipment not working
 - Premier Taptuna's response: \$3 million Community Freezer initiative with ED&T
- Deputy Mayor Anoe Jr:
 - Biggest asset to our community, youth:
 - Believes it should be looked into support more of our youth's arts, as Arviat has a strong dramatic arts program
 - Arviat's dramatic arts finding it hard to find funding and resources for traveling to show their performances and shows; whereas Sports Nunavut have it easy to travel, would like to see something similar for Arts in Nunavut.
 - Premier Taptuna's response: Education is key, Full Bright Organization, who administer a bunch of scholarship and bursaries.
 - Gives thanks to our MLA's Joe Savikataaq and George Kuksuk for always being available and attend our Hamlet Council meetings often

- Anoe Jr helps youth utilizing tv and film, check out Arviat.tv
- Premier Taptuna: in Kugluktuk, through the hamlet they access funding from Justice Canada for renovating a building no one uses anymore and turn it into a youth centre and more money to run a youth program.
 - Also, a diamond mining company across the Nunavut border donated money for a youth program.
 - Kugluktuk got over \$2 million dollars that went into the Ulu Center.
- Councillor Joe Savikataak Jr:
 - Gives thanks to the Premier and his staff for coming into Arviat
- Councillor Martha Main:
 - Happy that the government has made a priority in Education
 - Asked what has come up because of that priority?
 - What are the major things that are happening that are furthering education?
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - Changes: Trying to amend the Education Act
 - Community Consultation with the Minister of Education, committee members, Mr. Savikataaq (Education Committee member) actively visits communities, recently was in Pond Inlet.
 - Public Consultation session in the legislative Chambers in Iqaluit, NTI were in the witness table pushing forward for changes in the education act
 - One of the things trying to be changed, that a graduate should be able to read and write
 - Education just got a partnership with Sisco and Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto to have direct access to Physiatrist for young students through Sisco's system.
- Councillor Martha Main:
 - Would like to see a change in the Education Act, some jurisdictions in Canada base the number of teachers on the number of students and not on enrollment. That's what we need to do because;
 - In Arviat, we lost a whole bunch of teachers all at once based on the fact that kids aren't going to school, that's not going to help us, with fewer teachers we not going to be able to encourage kids to go to school any better, in fact it's going to make it harder
 - Feels strongly that we should be basing our number of teachers on the number of school age children not on the attendance
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - There is a formula that every jurisdiction uses
 - When the number of students go down, and not actually participating in school, it is very difficult to try and maintain the funding levels and teaching positions
 - Since 2012 there has been a reduction in kids that go to school by 193
- Councillor Martha Main:
 - Another change that would be good to have in the Education Act:
 - Has to have more 'teeth' about attendance, come up with strategy to encourage attendance
 - Things we can do as a territory, educate parents, that school is compulsory

- Put it in writing in the education act rather than just saying it's up to each community
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - Department of Education is starting a campaign for parents to get their children to school
 - We don't want to get to a point like in Greenland, they actually take their child away from the parents. Parents are taking the rights of a child away by not giving an education. Hopefully we don't become that drastic.
 - There has to be an attitude change from the parents
- Councillor Martha Main:
 - Saw in the newspaper about Nunavut:
 - as part of trying to raise the standards to make sure graduates can read
 - trying to improve our schools, they're trying to cut down on social promotion
 - like this idea that people are going to automatically go from grade to grade just based on their age
 - Do you know anything more about this, is it going to go in the Education act or is it going to be each community that decides on their own?
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - It's very difficult, somethings will have to change, we can't keep our children at a disadvantage
 - If you go back 20-25 years, there are some simple entrance exams in trades, ie; Cars Operator, you will notice grade 6 drop outs can actually pass it, now-a-days grades 10-12 cannot pass it.
 - Through the education committee reviewing the Education Act, Premiere is hoping they come up with a great recommendation. Once the recommendation comes it will be up to the house of the legislative assembly to have it accepted and passed as recommendation for the amended Education Act.
- MLA Joe Savikataaq who is also on the Education Committee:
 - Teacher/student ratio have been talked about within the Education Committee but have not received much comment or submission from Communities.
 - Non-Attendees: the previous Education Act did have 'teeth', if parents didn't send their kids to school they could be fined.
 - It wasn't enforced because someone took it to Department of Justice, they were supposed to be the ones making the fines and they wouldn't do it. Took it out in the 2008 Education Act.
 - Social Promotion: in all our submission and community consolation, no body want's it. Not a good idea.
- Councillor Jamie Kablutsiak:
 - Education bilingual certified teacher through the NTEP program, it is a 5 year program. First year is the Foundation year, the next 4 years are through the University of Regina. Believes Foundation year gives a delay in graduation and sees no use to it. Would like to see it taken off. Directly have it just a four year program.
 - With the NTEP program, they go through a lot of different Instructors. Would be more comfortable for the students to have the same instructors throughout the program.

- CG&S: funding for equipment, if remembered correctly is \$120,000 for each community. Given that Arviat is larger in size, and population, for example; larger than Chesterfield Inlet. Can we be given a larger amount for our equipment? Instead of giving each community the same amount, can the funds be measured by the size and population of the community?
- Hiring Process for the CG&S; Arviat has always had 2 CG&S workers, would be nice to see them have 3 employees. And employees who are certified OBM's.
- MLA Joe Savikataaq's response:
 - NTEP is not in the Education Act as it is under the Nunavut Arctic College and not the Department of Education.
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - Advises Mayor Bob Leonard to send an email so he can forward it to the Minister of GC&S.
 - Hiring process goes through the Department of Finance.
- Councillor Elizabeth U Issakiark
 - If in Greenland they can take away children from their parents for not sending them to school, this may sound crazy but is known high school students that are 18 and over, if they want their welfare, it is based on the attendance the month before. As a lot of people here are on social assistance and depend on Child Tax. Would it be possible to start doing the same thing with the parents that don't or aren't sending their younger children to school that are on income support and child tax?
- MLA Joe Savikataaq's response:
 - No one has raised it and did not discuss it. Because of the Constitution, Joe does not think it can happen.
 - Cannot deny food and shelter because of legal issues
- Premier Taptuna's response:
 - Cannot tell a person how to spend their money even when it's from income support
- Councillor Chris Mikeeuneak
 - People with physical disabilities, has it been discussed? For help with funding or programs. Such as, caregivers, special needs teachers, as Nunavut has a growing population and there will be more people with disabilities.
 - Working at the ECE it is hard to find funding for children with disabilities.
 - We do get funding from Health Canada but did not find any within our own territory.
 - Disabilities such as deaf children, have to communicate with sign language, we need resources for such.
 - Also for children with FASD, we would like Specialist's to come in and observe them so we can better help the child with his/her learning capacity.
 - It is very hard having to work with children with disabilities as they are not like regular children.
 - Suggest that Nunavut gets their own doctors for children with special needs and disabilities. As having to fly out to the south all the time is very expensive.
- Premier Taptuna's response:

- Advises Mayor Bob Leonard to write that in an email and he will do a follow up and point out in the right direction for funding.
- Mayor Bob Leonard:
 - Went to the Water Fill station with the Premier. Observed it and it took quite a while to fill one truck. To the Premier's knowledge, that it is still on track to get the extra fill arm and take care of this filtration system this summer. Looks like it will still moving forward as we hoped it was.
 - SAO & I will have a meeting with the Minister of Education tomorrow morning. One item that will be discussed is the Arctic College Learning Centre, not a lot going on there
 - Our Hamlet does our own programs. Such as, driller training and job entry program and yet we cannot use the empty classrooms at the NAC Training Centre
- MLA George Kuksuk:
 - Library; was not notified until he read about it in the Nunatsiaq News by the DEA, some comments that area not fully true, being the media, twisted the words.
 - The funding is there, there was no intention of closing or cancelling the library here in Arviat.
 - Funding is now in place to administer the Library
- Councillor Joe Savikataaq Jr:
 - Says thanks to the Premier for making Education their Priority as our children are our future, they will be the ones to be taking care of us in the future.
- Minister Paul Quassa:
 - Says thanks to the council for inviting him to the meeting. Already was at meeting with Arviat's DEA
- Deputy Mayor Eric Anoe Jr
 - Our Hamlet has a Drilling/Mining program, and the Deputy Mayor is wondering if NAC can help out and have the programs be taught in their empty class rooms
 - Would like to see a trades school or more trades programs provided in Arviat and decentralize
- Minister Quassa's response:
 - In Iqaluktuusiq they're working on a Mining Training Centre and for a place to stay a residence
 - Nunavut Arctic College has apprenticeship programs and is always looking for apprenticeships
 - Nunavut Arctic College is open for comments and questions with communities and hamlets
- Councillor Joe Savikataaq Jr:
 - Pre-apprenticeship; would like to see more promotion to get more apprentices. To get more of our people to become certified journeymen. Example; electricians, OBM's, plumbers
 - Nunavut has a shortage of journeymen, always have to find people from the south to come in and do the job
- Minister Quassa's response:
 - Completely understands and agrees that there is a shortage of journeymen from our own territory, our own people
 - There is a trades school in Rankin, and believes there is only one OBM

- One of the main focus they have been working on is reading, literacy. Has heard various times that there are grade 12 graduates and yet they cannot read
- Want to standardize the education system across the boarder
- 43 new positions called Learning Coaches for all schools across the boarder
- Councillor Martha Main:
 - Realized there is a big gap between Nunavut Arctic College and high schools. No programs, as far as we know, no literacy program in Nunavut to help people who are no longer in school but who don't have enough literacy to get into a NAC program.
- Deputy Minister Kathy Okpik:
 - Speaking from the Department of Education, we do have a literacy person, adult learning division and we do have a contribution agreement with the literacy council. We do provide them monies directly
 - Also have a contribution agreement with NAC for specifically literacy programs within communities
 - In Education we have the pathway for adult secondary students, which is what they call "Mature Graduation Program"
 - For people that have left high school but want to get a high school diploma
 - For those who need English and Math
- Councillor Jamie Kablutsiak:
 - Asking again directly this time to the Minister of Education, if they can take the foundation year off for the NTEP students. Believes 4 years is enough and not 5.
 - Standardize writing system, Qaliujaaqpait, will it be removed?
 - CLC, Arctic College's learning center; it is 30+ years old
- Minister Quassa's response:
 - As the NTEP program is following the University of Regina guidelines, the foundation program is to see who can and will go through with the rest of the NTEP program. It's like an entrance program.
 - It is being looked into to see if our teachers can switch to teach Roman Orthography.
 - Has not received any questions or concerns about the CLC, this is the first he's heard of it. Will look into it
- Councillor Elizabeth U Issakiark:
 - Would like an update about the new school that will be built here, is it still a go or was that cancelled?
- Minister Quassa's response:
 - The tender documents have been prepared for the new middle school, the project may be tended for the fall of 2015 and estimated completed project June 2017.
- Councillor Chris Mikeeuneak:
 - For the new upcoming middle school, our ECE will be in the new building as well. Happy to hear the tender is out now.
 - Is a committee member with the Aboriginal Head Start, there are only 7 in Nunavut. When there was an ECE conference in Iqaluit, we gave a presentation on how Arviat's ECE works. Not a lot of other communities knew about how ECE works or can work.

Would like to see more involvement from DEA's and more support and promotion about ECE.

- Minister Quassa's response:
 - Impressed with Arviat's ECE program, will go see it tomorrow.
 - Agrees that there needs to be more knowledge and promotion given to other communities.
- Deputy Minister Okpik:
 - There has been 2 conferences for Aboriginal Head Start
- Mayor Leonard:
 - NTEP; number of NTEP programs have been held here, it is popular. Never wasted, great program. Hope it continues in many communities as well as it leads to bachelor's degree or more, a master's degree.
 - Noticed a revolution amongst our young people regarding apprenticeships, more now than he's ever seen.
 - We've got a strong relationship with the Mining Company in Baker Lake as we too have a drilling program and job entry programs. Very popular. We now have drillers all over Canada and even outside of Canada.
- Mayor Bob presents a gift to the Premier Peter Taptuna

- **Motion # 053/2015**

Moved by: Councillor Savikataaq Jr

Seconded by: Councillor Main

Be It Resolved that the Hamlet Council approves to adjournment of the Special Meeting of May 20, 2015 at 8:45pm.

-Carried-