Chief and Council Meeting
October 28, 2026 | Council Chambers, Band Office

Call to order: 5:15 p.m.
Conclusion: approximately 8 p.m., followed by closing prayer.

Attendance
Chief: Sakom Allan Polchies Jr.
Councillors: Barb Paul (note), Mandy Meuse, Shelley Polchies, Erica Paul, Percy Sacobie , Frank Paul, Candice Paul, Paige Matheson, Dennis Paul, Leonard Brooks, Nicole Carty and Mike Bear.

Administration: TJ Smith, Director of Finance; Shasta M. Paul-Hitchcock, Director of Operations; Sarah Rose, Council Manager; Mary Paul, Executive Assistant to Chief and Council.

Barb Paul left before the royalty distribution and core remuneration votes. All Council members were present at the beginning of the meeting.

Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

Moment of reflection and welcome
Sakom Allan Polchies Jr. offered an opening prayer.

Approval of agenda
Motion 2026-10-28-001
Moved by: Dennis Paul Seconded by: Shelley Polchies
Carried by show of hands.

Vote: 12 in favour; 0 opposed; 0 absent.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY among Council.

Amendments discussed included adding solar panels under Finance and addressing the housing subdivision update.

Conflict of interest declarations
No conflicts of interest were declared when this item was called.

Motion 2026-10-28-002
To accept minutes for October 14, 2026
Vote: 12 in favour; 0 opposed; 0 absent.
Moved by: Mike Bear Seconded: Erica Paul
Carried by show of hands.

Business arising from the agenda

Chief and administration updates

Council discussed governance responsibilities and handling community concerns. Members requested supporting documents before meetings and advance notice of community communications.

Report update on recreation programming and Evan Sacobie is serving as Interim Director of Child and Family Services while the permanent Director position is prepared for posting in the new year.

Organizational structure

Council discussed exploring Allison Brooks's role from Chief Operating Officer to strategic support, operational responsibilities and understanding within the authority of the Financial Administration Law. Council requested written duties, reporting structure, compensation and proposed term. No appointment or revised structure was approved.

Housing subdivision update

Council received an update on the proposed development of Parcels C and D, including the NB Power easement and infrastructure access issues affecting progress. Further information and a community question and answer session were discussed.

Financial review

TJ Smith presented the financial review, including operating results, cash flow, outstanding reimbursements, own source revenues and financial reporting under

the Financial Administration Law. Finance advised that cash flow was tight, while current bills and program expenditures continued to be met.

Council received updates on economic development projects, including the casino, crab licence, wind farm and property/land purchase opportunities. These were presented as updates.

Finance proposed a detailed orientation session and regular quarterly reporting through the Finance and Audit Committee to Council. Council member expressed interest in serving on the committee. Community representation was also discussed; no additional committee appointment was approved.

TJ Smith provided an overview of Sitansisk's finances, including progress, current pressures and future planning.

- The financial position is improving. TJ reported an operating surplus of approximately $2.2 million for the year ending March 31, 2026. After capital purchases and debt repayments, cash outflows still exceeded inflows by approximately $620,000.
- Cash flow remains tight. At the time of the presentation, approximately $6.6 million in ISC reimbursements was outstanding. TJ confirmed that bills were being paid and these delays were not preventing programs from operating.
- Community support remains a priority. Approximately $8 million annually goes directly to support members through distributions, power payments, housing assistance and other supports.
- Revenue opportunities are developing. Council received updates on the casino, crab license and wind farm. These projects are expected to increase future revenues, although some returns will take time.
- Financial reporting is being strengthened. Finance outlined plans for regular quarterly reports through the Finance and Audit Committee to Council, along with further financial orientation for Council members.

Band Admin presented that although Sitansisk's finances are improving, there is not enough to recommend increasing the community Royalty payment. The return of the provincial tax agreements has helped, but tobacco rebate revenues have been lower than expected. Retail had anticipated approximately $1.5 million annually in tobacco rebates; the amount received was approximately $600,000.

Available cash is also affected by delays in government reimbursements from ISC. At the time of the presentation, approximately $6.6 million was outstanding. Sitansisk continues to cover those costs while waiting for reimbursement, which limits the cash available for other payments. These reimbursements are not additional revenue or a surplus. They repay funds the Band has already used from

other program accounts to cover departmental expenses while waiting for government funding. Once received, the money replenishes those funds; it does not become extra money available to spend.

Finance recommended maintaining the current distribution amount this year, with the possibility of reviewing an increase as revenues and available cash improve. No future increase has been approved. Last year's distribution was set higher than the revenues ultimately supported, based on anticipated increases in casino and HST revenues. Those expectations were considered when setting the amount in 2024, but the additional revenue did not fully materialize.

Royalty distribution

Motion 2026-10-28-003

To approve the royalty distribution on November 24, 2026, in the amount of $1,200 per registered band member.

Moved by: Mike Bear Seconded by: Leonard Brooks

Result: Carried by written ballot: 11 in favour. 1 absent

Barb Paul was absent for the vote.

Council core remuneration

Council reviewed the existing annual remuneration schedule of $42,200 per member: $25,000 in band core; $8,000 from Retail Sales; $8,000 from the entertainment entity; and a $1,200 phone allowance. Each $8,000 amount comprised $6,000 in board remuneration and a $2,000 Christmas payment. These were existing amounts presented for discussion.

Council considered annual access, instalments, and cash flow. The Band Administration requested that Council who could do so delay accessing band core until the new calendar year. This request was not included as a condition in the adopted motion.

Motion 2026-10-28-004

To access core annually as per the governance manual for Chief and Council.

Moved by: Mike Bear Seconded by: Percy Sacobie

Result: Carried by written ballot: 8 in favour, 3 opposed and 1 absent. Barb Paul was absent.

The governance provision read at the meeting allowed core to be received in a lump sum or in instalments during the year, with Council approval required for an exceptional advance of the following year's core. The Director of Operations undertook to update the manual to reflect the four-year term.

Core requests are to be submitted to Sarah Rose, Council Manager, for tracking and processing. Sarah will circulate payment timing for the board remuneration and Christmas payments.

Next meeting and orientation

The next Council meeting was scheduled for November 10, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Council orientation was scheduled for November 16 and 17, 2026. Administration will coordinate the arrangements.

Adjournment

The Chair closed the meeting, followed by a closing reflection. Adjournment time: 8:02pm.