

Village of Queen Charlotte

February 20, 2006

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Village of Queen Charlotte held
February 20, 2006 at the Queen Charlotte Village Office, Queen Charlotte, B.C.**

Adopted

PRESENT:

Council:

Mayor C. Kulesha
Councillor E. Ross
Councillor G. Martin
Councillor K. Olsen
Councillor G. Noddin

Staff:

A. Yeates, Chief Administration Officer
D. Uliana, Manager of Corp & Financial Services
S. Brown, Receptionist/Financial Clerk

Public:

Heather Ramsay, Walter Noddin, Kevin Gibson, Sergus de Bucy. Joanne
Ames, Jacques Morin

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor C. Kulesha called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA:

R2006/06/02 **MOVED** by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to adopt
the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

MINUTES:

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, Feb. 6, 2006

R2006/06/03 **MOVED** by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Martin to adopt the
minutes of Feb. 6, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

b) Village of Queen Charlotte Meeting of the Whole, Feb. 13, 2006

R2006/06/04 **MOVED** by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to adopt the
minutes of Feb. 13, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

For Information

a) Jacques Morin, Energy Plan Update, Feb. 11, 2006

R2006/06/05 **MOVED** by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Ross to receive
and file Jacques Morin's Energy Plan Update of Feb. 11, 2006.

CARRIED

b) Ministry of Health, Legal Obligations of Water Suppliers, Feb. 13, 2006

R2006/06/06 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Ross to receive and file Ministry of Health's notice re. Legal Obligations of Water Supplies.

CARRIED

c) City of Courtenay, RCMP Funding, Feb. 12, 2006

R2006/06/07 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Noddin to receive and file the City of Courtenay's RCMP Funding letter of Feb. 12, 2006.

CARRIED

For Action

a) Laskeek Bay Conservation Society, Request for Letter of Support, Feb. 17, 2006

Note: Councillor Martin left the Council Chambers for the Laskeek Bay request for a letter of support– Conflict of interest 7:48 p.m.

R2006/06/08 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Olsen to send a letter of support to the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society for their application for funding from the Coast Sustainability Trust for the project "Enhancing our Capacity to Safely Provide a Truly Unique Ecotourism Program on Haida Gwaii".

CARRIED

Note: Councillor Martin returned to the Council Chambers at 7:50 p.m.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE, COTW AND COMMISSIONS:

a) Requests for Letters of Support:

- Living & Learning School – Travel Assistance
- Village of Port Clements – Community Park Road Improvements
- Ngystle Society – Youth Leadership & Volunteer Program
- Ngystle Society – Children's Self-Esteem Building

The above requests for letters of support were approved in principle at the Meeting of the Whole Feb. 13, 2006 and are recommended for approval by resolution at this time.

R2006/06/09 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to send letters of support to the Living & Learning School for their Travel Assistance, Village of Port Clements for their Community Park Road Improvements, Ngystle Society for their Youth Leadership & Volunteer Program and also for their Children's Self-Esteem Building.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES:

a) Mayor & Council

Mayor Kulesha:

B114 OIL AND GAS MORATORIUM Prince Rupert

WHEREAS preliminary science suggests that the north coast of British Columbia has offshore oil and gas reserves that may equal or better the offshore Hibernia oil fields, and the federal government has had a moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Queen Charlotte Basin since 1972, and the science of exploration and extraction has been highly developed to ensure protection of the environment;
AND WHEREAS the royalties from the development of offshore oil and gas could provide significant net revenues to federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments to fund health care, education, transportation and other services to the benefit of all British Columbians, and exploration and development will create business and employment opportunities throughout the province, most significantly in those coastal communities currently suffering the highest unemployment rates in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities fully support the lifting of the federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Queen Charlotte Basin.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, to table the resolution, was defeated.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, to call the question on the resolution, was endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B115 OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS offshore oil and gas exploration is an important issue, particularly to coastal British Columbia;
AND WHEREAS there are many different perspectives on the advisability of proceeding with offshore oil and gas exploration:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the provincial and federal governments to convene a multi-party interest process regarding offshore oil and gas exploration with a view to developing a consensus on if or how both governments should proceed with offshore oil and gas exploration;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this multi-party negotiation include local parties deemed to be affected, including local governments.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

In 2004 at the UBCM the above motions were brought to the floor. Though we organized a block to vote against lifting the moratorium and the Island local government officials were firmly on side, we lost the vote. As well, the oil fields themselves may or may not fall within the waters surrounding our area. In other words, development could take place without us i.e.: against the mainland shore or south to Port Hardy. It also became evident that oil and gas exploration, if desired by the federal and provincial governments could happen with or without our input despite the fact that we would share the risk. Increasing world wide desire for what is considered politically safe oil and gas development areas also adds to the possibility.

Because of the above 2 resolutions, the UBCM and the Ministry of Energy agreed to an MOU to establish a joint working group. The mandate of the group is to identify the interests of local government and explore how the interests of local government could be addressed through fiscal, regulatory and environmental regimes. The purpose is to gain knowledge and an understanding of the relevant issues related to exploration and development, provide input and feedback on those issues to the Province, identify issues to be addressed and discussed and foster frank and open discussion that will facilitate a broader knowledge base of offshore oil and gas issues. The working group will meet quarterly and a summary of the key decision points from meetings will be reported after each meeting.

At this working group our area is represented by Mayor Barry Pages, myself, SQCRD electoral area director Des Nobles and Mayor Herb Pond. Membership includes Mayor Blood, District

of Pt Hardy; Mayor Furney, Pt McNeil; Director Harry Nyce, Kitamat Stikine RD; Chair Jim Abram, Comox Strathcona RD; Chair Brian Lande, Central Coast RD; and VC Rod Sherrell, Mt Waddington RD. The group itself appears to be quite varied in its opinion of the pros and cons of an offshore oil and gas industry. The provincial representative spoke of a separate process with First Nations though one of the recommendations from this meeting was that there be joint meetings as well.

This agenda was to review the background information on where oil and gas exploration is today, discuss the TOR of the working group and hear presentations from Mark Shrimpton, Principal Jacques Whitford Consulting on impact of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Newfoundland and Labrador and Mayor Chris Morey of Ft Nelson, on the impact of the industry in the Northern Rockies. **The presentations and the commentary I heard will be sent to me in the near future and we can share the information in detail.**

Future agendas will look at - if the moratorium was lifted where and how could we establish stopping points for a scientific review of impacts so far, how could research be phased and what recommendations would be made for research. Other suggestions were for panel presentations including proponents and environmental organizations, presentations at the UBCM and beginning discussions on how information could be widely circulated.

Councillor Martin:

The Visitors Information Centre is working on logo designs.

b) Chief Administration Officer

The work in the office has focused on administrative tasks, consulting with our engineers on the upcoming water project, addressing Provincial reporting requirements and outlining some guidelines for the subdivision process. Strategic Planning sessions are ongoing with Council.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) Appointment of Approving Officer and Deputy Approving Officer

R2006/06/10 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross and resolved that the Council appoints Mr. Andrew Yeates Approving Officer for the Village of Queen Charlotte and Ms. Debra Uliana as Deputy Approving Officer as per the Land Title Act.

CARRIED.

b) Application for Provincial Planning Grant

R2006/06/11 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross that Staff seek a \$30,000 planning grant for the creation of needed Development and related bylaws, specifically a zoning bylaw as per the Letter of offer \$Ref: 109593) from the Province of British Columbia Signed by the Honourable Murray Coell, then Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services.

CARRIED

8. Policies:

a) Communication Expenses of Council

Village of Queen Charlotte

COUNCIL POLICY

Name of Policy: **Communication Expenses of Council**

Reference No: **1.0**

Date Adopted:

1. This is a policy to reimburse members of council for their expenses as they relate to communications on behalf of the village.
2. In carrying out business on behalf of the village members of council may incur expense for such services as Internet connection for research and e-mailing or facsimile services and supplies.
3. Upon receipt the village will reimburse members of council for this expense to a maximum of two hundred dollars per annum.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

R2006/06/12 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Olsen to adopt Policy Reference No. 1.0, Communication Expenses of Council as amended.

CARRIED.

b) Letters of Support
Village of Queen Charlotte

COUNCIL POLICY

Name of Policy: **Letters of Support**

Reference No: **2.0**

Date Adopted: **February 20, 2006**

4. When individuals, groups or organizations are requesting letters of support from the council the staff of the village will encourage those soliciting letters of support to attend the council meeting where the request is being considered.
5. Attendance at council meetings is encouraged by the council so the proponent may be on hand to answer questions or provide clarification to members of council on the request being sought.
6. Staff will make those requesting letters of support aware their request risks being tabled for consideration to a future meeting should questions arise and a representative is not present to answer or provide clarification.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Date

Chief Administrative Officer

R2006/06/13 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Nodding to adopt Council Policy Reference No. 1.0, Communication Expenses of Council as circulated.

Date

CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

J. Ames: Suggested the following concerns:

- It would be a better for both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal communities to work together on the Oil and Gas issues rather than go with the separate consultations being proposed now by the Provincial Government..
- BC Ferries – While attending a meeting in October in Prince Rupert discussions about the design for new ferry vessels indicated that only 6 commercial spaces were being planned. Currently 12 commercial spaces are needed to provide current levels of service to the Islands. The other side of the issue is local producers need commercial spaces to get their product off island. Barge services are also being reduced with only two barge operators working in the northern waters – one being a fuel barge. These issues need to be brought to BC Ferries Inc. through the advisory meetings.

J. Morin: Will there be a public process in the Official Community Plan review.

Ans: Yes, a series of public meetings will take place in this process.

H. Ramsey: As the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District is signing the Protocol Agreement, will the Village of Queen Charlotte be signing?

Ans: Area D of the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District is signing an amended version of the Protocol Agreement after consultation with those living in Area D. In the past it has been agreed that the Council will seek the views of residents in the Village before signing the Protocol.

ADJOURNMENT:

R2006/06/14 MOVED by Councillor Olsen that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 6 2006.

Mayor Kulesha, Chair

D.L. Uliana, Recording