

Village of Queen Charlotte

July 17, 2006

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Village of Queen Charlotte held
July 17, 2006 at the Queen Charlotte Village Office, Queen Charlotte, B.C.**

Adopted

PRESENT:

Council:

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

Staff:

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

Public:

Kevin Gibson, Sergius de Bucy, Ruth Wheadon, Andrew Merilees
Heather Ramsay – Observer

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Agenda:

Delegate: Andrew Merilees – Haida Gwaii Tourism Association, Northern Fund – BC
Ferries

R2006/19/02 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to adopt the
agenda as amended.

CARRIED

Minutes:

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, July 4, 2006

R2006/19/03 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Noddin to adopt the
minutes of July 4th, 2006 as circulated.

CARRIED

Delegate:

a) Andrew Merilees – Haida Gwaii Tourism Association

Mr. Merilees, President of the Haida Gwaii Tourism Association and Northern Fund
Management Committee member, presented an outline of the goals for the Haida Gwaii
Tourism Association during the next year which included: a) Continuing marketing
strategies; b) Developing an all Island approach to tourism and having this strategy in
place for future funding as it becomes available; c) Increase the partnerships with off
Island groups. He also presented the plan worked out by the Northern Fund Management
Committee for the \$450,000 provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and Arts for our

area which include: a) Hiring two additional summer counsellor positions located in Prince George to target the northern transportation corridor; b) Launching a Northern BC Summer Signature Series to promote the festivals in the north; c) a Queen Charlotte Island connector brochure will be distributed (100,000 copies) with information about travelling to the Islands targeting Southeast Alaska and Northern Alberta; d) Great Northern Salmon Classic to be held in Prince Rupert with a top prize of \$100,000.

Correspondence:
For Information

- a) Vancouver Island Library – News Brief June 2006
- b) 2006 UBCM Small Talk Forum – Soliciting Topics & Format Preferences October 24, 2006
- c) Seniors Housing & Support Services Options for Local Governments – UBCM Conference Registration Form September 20-21, 2006

R2006/19/04 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Noddin to support costs, based on our budget, for a staff or council member to attend the Seniors Housing & Support Services Options for Local Government September 20-21, 2006.

CARRIED

- d) New Revised UBCM Act – June 28, 2006
- e) UBCM Commentary on Competition Council Report – June 28, 2006

R2006/19/05 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to write a letter of support for the UBCM's response to the Province concerning the Competition Council Interim Report with respect to municipal taxation.

CARRIED

- f) 3rd Annual BC Communities in Bloom Awards – Prince George September 8th & 9th, 2006

R2006/19/06 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to locate a volunteer from the community to participate in learning how to beautify our community through the BC Communities in Bloom Awards Program.

CARRIED.

- g) Northern Health-Community Potlucks
- h) Northern Health – West Nile Virus
- i) KevinGibson – WFP
- j) Water In The City Conference – September 17-20, 2006

R2006/19/07 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Ross to receive and file correspondence a, b, d, g, h, i and j.

CARRIED

For Action:

- a) Village of Hazelton – celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of incorporation August 12, 2006

R2006/19/08 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to send a Gift (\$50. max) and card to the Village of Hazelton, marking their 50th Anniversary August 12, 2006.

CARRIED

b) Rediscovery Society – Request to Sponsor a Participant June 30, 2006

R2006/19/09 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to support in principal sending a pre-teen, (\$340.00) and a teen, (\$360.00) from Queen Charlotte to Rediscovery Camp with the understanding that we have input in who goes and after a review of Gwaii Trust funding levels.

CARRIED

Action: Councillor Noddin will investigate how much more funding is needed, would the pre-teen and teen come from the Village of Queen Charlotte, what is the timeline and to call Mr. Ron McKee as to Gwaii Trust funding. Councillor Noddin will call and email the information to the Council.

Resolutions:

a) Advisory Planning Commission

Village of Queen Charlotte Advisory Planning Commission

R2006/19/10 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Martin and resolved that : Clyde Greenough, Jacques Morin, Ruth Wheadon, Keith Moore and Bruce Ives be appointed the Village of Queen Charlotte Advisory Planning Commission.

CARRIED

Reports of Committee, COTW and Commissions:

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Meeting of the Whole Minutes, July 10, 2006

R2006/19/11 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to adopt the minutes of the July 10th, 2006 Meeting of the Whole as circulated.

CARRIED

b) Health & Wellness Advisory Committee Minutes June 20, 2006

R2006/19/12 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Ross to receive and file the minutes of the June 20th, 2006 Health and Wellness Advisory Committee as circulated.

CARRIED

Reports of Council Members and Chief Administrative Officer and Manager of Corporate and Financial Services:

a) Mayor & Council

Mayor Kulesha:

North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD)

This was a meeting and a strategy session for future planning. The NWRHD supplies 40% of the funding for health centres.

SQCRD This was another meeting plus strategy session. The finance section of the RD is regrettably losing its employee and we used this as an opportunity to look at restructuring. We will try to work with PR and Pt Edward who are also looking for senior finance personnel by advertising, interviewing and maybe even sharing appropriate people for finance. We need also to hire a deputy administrator for the SQCRD.

FACT FINDING MISSION Gulf of Mexico

As you watch on TV, the politics and economics of the world today brings the question of offshore oil and gas development in our own country to the forefront. Lifting the moratoria for exploration is a question of great consequence to all of us and it is a decision that our society needs to make after it has examined the risks and rewards. Lifting the moratoria will also necessitate CHN and other First Nations' support.

I have no more knowledge or training than most of you but I have been asked to participate in information gathering meetings and a fact finding tour of the Gulf of Mexico. What I intend to do is bring the information I receive to you, be open and frank as to what I see and hear and encourage your comments and questions in order to help me ask the questions and try to find answers. We have established a link on the Queen Charlotte website for the meeting minutes I have attended. It is not yet complete as the last meeting and this trip have not been added and we are not yet sure of the format.

I must give credit to Minister Neufeld and his team for the invitation to participate as it is understood that I come with a marked trepidation towards offshore development. Those who were invited varied from municipal mayors, Nishga nation representative, Chiefs of small and large First Nations from the central coast and Vancouver Island and the Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations = 7 of us, the Minister, his team of 4 and a representative from Duke Energy. For today I would just like to say that some things I observed were better than I thought and others I hadn't even realized could be a problem for us. The Gulf is not the same as here. It is a shallow body of water with 2 foot tides with the reserves that I observed within 45 miles of shore allowing the gas to be piped to shore facilities, though collector vessels were also used. The water was clean, I could see no spills or tar on the beaches and people were playing in the surf despite the not too nice weather. There are fail safe devices on the platform and the pipes; Valves that need pressure from both sides and will close otherwise. In this way when the hurricanes hit and some platforms came free of their anchors, oil or gas loss was limited. As there was advance notice platforms had already been shut down and were evacuated before the hurricane hit but a pipe was broken by an anchoring vessel and the safety valve prevented large leakage. There was a spill that needed remediation in the Port of Galveston in 1998 when a barge was hit by a ship. There was nothing visible now but each group, tourism or Coast Guard spoke of it. Tourism is a large component of the economy but it is a different type of tourism. We were in an industrial looking area with the beach just off the highway without any green barrier and it was full of families having fun. There was a casino in the middle of an industrial park and no one minded. On the horizon I could see a few towers from the beach and when taken to a platform I could see that we were in the middle of hundreds of towers. There were shipping lanes and shrimp trawlers were working and delivering amongst it all. There were fish swimming under the platform and

some of the workers fished in their free time. You needed to wear ear protection when outside the living quarters and that is a concern. The University was conducting a study of noise pollution and its effect on sea mammals.

There is a lot of jobs here – grade 12 education and extra courses for certificates and zero tolerance for drugs and alcohol. They work 2 weeks on and 2 weeks off, 12 hour days. There are also a lot of jobs in the shipyards tending to the platforms and their vessels as well as in the plants. Those yards and the facilities to treat the gas would not likely be here but PR or Pt Hardy. The platform workers lived within a couple of hours travel time from the rigs.

I will be receiving photos and will add them and more detailed notes to our website.

MASSET HOSPITAL Attended the ground breaking ceremonies with members of the NWRHD. The cement forms are already laid

Q'AY CENTRE Attended the ceremonies with other members of Council. The center is strikingly handsome and will serve as a great draw for people visiting the Islands and as an educational facility for all of us.

HWAC MEETING Attended with Councilor Noddin who will report

Councillor Noddin –

July 5/06-Attended a social dinner with the federal Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon Gary Lunn. July 7/06 Informally talked with the Hon. Nathan Cullen, MP for Skeena. We discussed Northern Living Allowance, Marine Use Plan, Gwaii Haanas, Oil and Gas Moratorium and Fish Farms in the Northwest. July 10/06 Attended the Committee of the Whole Meeting. July 13/06 Attended a gathering at Skidegate's new heritage centre where Premier Gordon Campbell announced funding for the project. July 14/06 Attended Health and Wellness Committee meeting – discussed plans for the upcoming Health Fair/conference, TAP, and NITAOP changes and Ambulance Improvement of BC Rural, Small and Isolated Communities. (Full report attached.)

Councillor Martin – Attended the opening ceremonies at the Haida Cultural Centre. Worked on a highway line painting project near the ferry at Skidegate Landing to encourage residents to park elsewhere when the outside white lines were being painted. This should enhance the safety for pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Thanks to staff for their work on this project .

Councillor Olsen – Attended Haida Gwaii Youth Society meeting in Masset, Skidegate Days youth dance – 3 local groups playing, and attended the opening ceremonies at the Haida Cultural Centre.

Councillor Ross – Appreciated Councillor Martin's line painting project. Would like to see diagonal lines for parking in front of the hospital. Also there is a problem with the alders blocking line of sight for the ambulance crew when pulling out onto highway.

b) Chief Administration Officer

Water Treatment Plant upgrade – Engineering drawings are complete and tender should be ready in 3 or 4 weeks. The application for the road to Stanley Lake is submitted, topographical survey and the environmental study are complete for the Honna River Project and we are on schedule.

Water meter installation continues with approximately 50 more to go. During this process some leaks have been found and repaired. Level 2 water restrictions are still in effect as the reservoirs are still pumping at a high rate with the reservoirs not recharging sufficiently. Work has begun on the operations and master plan for the village calendar including safety procedures and should be completed by the end of the year. Update on property taxes – 81% of current taxes are paid, 70% delinquent and arrears have been collected. Provincial legislation requires that delinquent (2004) property taxes be collected by the municipality. A registered letter will be sent to notify those property owners with outstanding delinquent taxes that their properties will be included in a tax sale September 25th, 2006. The property owners name, address and taxes due will be advertised in the Observer two weeks in advance of the tax sale. After the property has been sold the property owner has one year to pay all outstanding property taxes to redeem the property. The skateboard park should be ready for tender by the end of July.

c) Manager of Corporate and Financial Services:

The implementation of the municipal software is going well. Both the property tax and utility modules are up and functioning. The utility billings are being mailed out this week. The general ledger module is being refined currently.

Public Participation:

Kevin Gibson – Commented again on the points he had offered for Council's consideration in his presentation on the shortage of oil, air pollution and the condition of the forests when they make decisions on their input concerning oil and gas development. He also asked if the public could make comments on any topic during the public participation portion of the meeting. Mayor Kulesha thanked Mr. Gibson for his comments and clarified that the public is welcome to comment on the discussion of issues that had taken place in the current Council Meeting and should ask for delegate status at a future meeting for new topics. Of course, any member of the community can talk with the Mayor or any of the Councillors at any time about their concerns outside the regular Council Meeting.

Ruth Wheadon introduced herself to Councillor Ross and Councillor Olsen and thanked the Council for appointing her to be on the Advisory Planning Commission.

Adjournment:

R2006/19/13 MOVED by Councillor Noddin to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday September 5th, 2006.

Mayor Kulesha, Chair

D. L. Uliana, Recording