

Village of Queen Charlotte

August 7, 2007

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Village of Queen Charlotte held on Tuesday August 7, 2007 at the Queen Charlotte Village Office, Queen Charlotte, B.C.

Adopted

PRESENT:

Council:

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

Staff:

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

Public:

Sergius DeBucy, Ceitlyynn Epnors, Russ Fleming, Don Plumb, Rolf Bettner, Charlotte Tarver, Betsy Cardell, Kevin Gibson
Observer – Jeff King

CALL TO ORDER

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

Agenda:

R2007/29/02 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Martin to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

Minutes:

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, July 16, 2007

R2007/29/03 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Noddin to adopt Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, July 16, 2007 as amended.

CARRIED

Delegate:

a) Betsy Cardell – Artists of the New Moon, Thank you

Betsy Cardell thanked the Council for their support for the July 13, 14 and 15th Artists of the New Moon event in Queen Charlotte. The group is planning on holding another event next year. Local businesses were very supportive and did not have objections to the partial closure of the roadway.

Correspondence:

For Information

a) Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) – Re: Climate Change/Green Communities, August 1, 2007

R2007/29/04 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to send a letter to Minister of Finance with some ideas about climate change-green communities.

CARRIED

b) Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) – New UBCM Executive Director Appointed, July 27, 2007

R2007/29/05 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to receive and file Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) – New UBCM Executive Director Appointed, July 27, 2007 letter.

CARRIED

c) Homeowner Protection Office – Re: Important changes to the homeowner Protection Act, July 16, 2007

R2007/29/06 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to receive and file Homeowner Protection Office – Re: Important changes to the homeowner Protection Act, July 16, 2007 letter.

CARRIED

d) Public Works Association of British Columbia (PWA) – Annual Technical Conference September 17 to 20, 2007, July 16, 2007

R2007/29/07 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Ross to receive and file Public Works Association of British Columbia (PWA) – Annual Technical Conference September 17 to 20, 2007, July 16, 2007 notice.

CARRIED

For Action

a) Moresby Island Management Committee (MIMC) – Re: “Moresby Camp Recreation Gateway Project” Letter of Support, July 19, 2007

R2007/29/08 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to send a letter of support to Moresby Island Management Committee (MIMC) – Re: “Moresby Camp Recreation Gateway Project”.

CARRIED

b) Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site – The proposed Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, July 16, 2007

R2007/29/09 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to set up a meeting with Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve to discuss the proposed Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve.

CARRIED

c) Coastal Community network – Background: Community Economic Adjustment Initiative Phase 11

R2007/29/10 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Martin to send a letter of support to Coastal Community network - Community Economic Adjustment Initiative Phase 11.

CARRIED

d) Road Health – “Sharing the Road” Conference 2007

R2007/29/11 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to table Road Health – “Sharing the Road” Conference 2007.

CARRIED.

e) British Columbia Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA), July 30, 2007

R2007/29/12 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Martin to take the letter from British Columbia Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA), to Island Solid Waste Advisory Committee’s (ISWAC) next meeting.

CARRIED

f) Boat Ramp – Parking – stored boat trailers at boat ramp

R2007/29/13 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to table Boat Ramp – Parking – stored boat trailers at boat ramp until more information is available from staff.

CARRIED

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

a) Mayor & Council

Mayor C. Kulesha: see attached.

Councillor Ross: I was concerned to see a near accident at the Wharf & Causeway intersection. The combination of a delivery truck stopped in the road and cars parked too close to the intersection obscured visibility and a young woman and her child in a stroller were almost hit. The situation is dangerous for pedestrians.

Action: The ICBC-Ministry of Highways Study Report discusses this area. ICBC was going to provide some paint for line painting for parking. This needs to be followed up.

Councillor Olsen: Attended the meeting with the Ministry of Health and brought forward the problem paramedics have getting training. Started a clean up of the cemetery on the 23th. There is more to do. Attended the Committee of the Whole meeting on Aug. 3rd.

Councillor Noddin: Will attend the Regional District Museum Board meeting on the 17th.

Councillor Martin: No report. Just mentioning the cd with the wind farm research is available.

CAO: The waste water lift stations upgrades are taking place this week. The water line cleaning is scheduled for the week of Sept. 10th. A notice will be issued to the public. The APC has a limited meeting schedule during the summer but work is going forward on putting together a draft of their work-to-date in readiness for public dialogue. The skateboard park forms are being poured. Piteau and Associates are on Island for the Stanley Lake project. Samples were taken from the landfill and the water and results should be back within a few weeks. Estimating costs of relocating the intake above the

landfill and other engineering work is going forward. Staff will research funding for a potential shortfall.

Public Participation:

Ceitlyynn Epnerns: Is a full water testing report available to the Council and public?

Ans: Yes, it is available on our web site (queencharlotte.ca).

Don Plumb: Why is the public participation held after the meeting – shouldn't the public be able to speak throughout the meeting?

Ans: No, this is a meeting of the Council. The public is invited to observe and is sometimes asked for their input while a topic is being discussed. The floor is open to the public at the end of every Council meeting. Any member of the public can request to be a delegate and they will be given time during the Council meeting to speak. Other ways that are open to all members of the public to communicate with the Mayor and Council include; sending emails, letters, telephone calls, or making an appointment with the Mayor and/or Councillors to discuss issues. Council is also considering setting aside time each month for a public forum where the Mayor or Councillors would be available for face to face discussion.

Don Plumb: There are open meetings in other parts of the Province.

Ans: The Mayor and Councillors all attended a course for newly elected councils where policies, procedures and duties were covered. This is a part of that.

Don Plumb: This is the only town where the sewers smell. Why?

Ans: Odour is not unusual. There has been an air cleaner installed on the lift station across from Lams.

Don Plumb: Could we make a storage container for used oil?

Ans: Maybe, you could have that discussion with the British Columbia Used Oil Management Association.

Don Plumb: Why are you putting an intake in a salmon river? Did you talk with the Haida?

Ans: The process for this project started several years ago. All agencies involved including the Ministry of Forests, Northern Health, the CHN, Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Community Services have been part of the planning process. The CHN has been working with us on the project and approvals from the other agencies have also been obtained.

Don Plumb: Members of Haida Fisheries were not aware of the project. Water should not be taken from the fish creek.

Ans. Fish creeks are used for drinking water. It may be your opinion that fish creeks should not be used, but other agencies do feel we have a good plan. The Honna River has a huge drainage area. The plan will not be interfering with the fish. We will be using two systems – resting the wells part of the year.

Don Plumb: This is very recent – I have heard no information.

Ans: This plan started with the Sewer and Water Commission. Councillor Ross can give you the history. The license for water from the Honna River has been held for some time.

Don Plumb: This is not the best solution – wells would be better.

Asn: Wells have already been tried – and there is not sufficient water available from wells.

Don Plumb: Not enough.

Ans: We have consulted a hydrology firm and the community has drilled 23 or more wells. We find that they are not sustainable at the levels needed for the community. There have been problems with high levels of iron and manganese. We have reached the limit of water available by wells. We are moving to using surface water.

Don Plumb: There is a place up from the Trundle Creek where there is water. We are sacrificing a salmon stream.

Ans: We are not sacrificing a salmon stream – Fisheries would not allow this.

Don Plumb: No one drilled in the place I'm talking about.

Ans: Thank you for your input.

Rolf Bettner: I have written open letters to Council and received no letters back. There is a gap in information – could the hydrologists talk about the work they have done here?

Ans: There will be an open house public meeting with the engineers and the hydrologists on island.

Rolf Bettner: Who is the hydrologist – can we talk to him?

Ans: Their report is available on the web site.

Rolf Bettner: What would have happened –how would process go from there? Was the intake planned before Aug. 14th?

Ans: The plan has been discussed in many public meetings.

Councillor Olsen: I attended some of the meetings and found that no one else attended.

Rolf Bettner: Better communication between the public and Council is needed.

Ans: This is a common problem. How do we get people involved? How we notify the community about meetings now includes posting agendas on the front of the Village Office, in the post office and on the web site as well as providing agendas to the media. Regular meetings are scheduled for the first and third Monday of the month. We are thinking about a lunch time open house once a month. We do distribute newsletters several times a year. The best way for the community to keep in touch with what is going on is to read the newspaper, check the agendas and attend meetings. The public elects their representatives to represent their interests. Each election creates an opportunity to run for Council. The Council does their best and is looking into more tests now. Tests were done before the project was funded and ongoing testing was and is part of the regular work done to protect the health of the community. Other parts of the project are going forward. More information will be shared with the public as it is available. This will take the form of a town hall meeting with the experts in attendance and newsletters.

Rolf Bettner: The Honna River should not be used.

Ans. The Honna River will be used. We have already spent a great deal of money drilling wells and have not found a sustainable supply. The chance for adequate well water is not likely. Our current wells are drawing in salt water. We need to find another source of water for the community. The Honna River is our largest water shed.

Rolf Bettner: What was the population when we were using the 3 wells above the community:

Ans. 1,222

Rolf Bettner: Are less people using more water?

Ans. No, less water is being used.

Rolf Bettner: I'm afraid that JS Jones will log our watershed.

Ans: The Council is concerned as well and is working to prevent the watershed from being logged.

Rolf Bettner: How will you deal with the dying fish?

Ans: The surface water will be used seasonally. Also, the water will go through treatment before it reaches the community.

Charlotte Tarver: Did the Council look into the dumping of fish waste at the boat ramp?

Ans: Yes, it is a matter of enforcement – and will try again.

Don Plumb: Maybe a sign to ask people to dump the waste below the high tide mark would help. Has anyone in town said they will drink water with an intake below the dumpsite no matter what the tests say?

Ans: Testing needs to be done and how we will treat the water will be decided. The dumpsite is a concern whether water is taken below it or not if there is a hazard.

Don Plumb: I'm concerned about the fish fry where the intake is placed.

Ans: The engineers and hydrologists who designed the intake know that it is a fish creek and will be working with the Department of Fisheries about the plan.

Rolf Bettner: What does “tabled” mean?

Ans: It means that a decision is delayed and will be discussed again at another meeting.

Rolf Bettner: What about public discussion? I have written open letters to the Observer.

Ans: It is not the policy of the Council to respond to letters written to the editor.

Kevin Gibson: About water quality – how do biologists ID what is being tested for?

There are 90,000 chemicals – contamination – herbicides – Round Up – metals.

Ans: Water quality is important.

Councillor Noddin – Dayton and Knight gave a long list of different substances tested.

The water passed the drinking water standards.

Don Plumb: Are there personal reasons to take water below the dumpsite?

Ans: We need to know the facts. The decision is not solely one for Council to answer.

The costs involved in the system must be considered – if necessary the community might have to borrow money to move the intake site. The town will then have a choice – to decide if money will be borrowed. Water is essential for life – we take it seriously and have gone to the best experts available for our plan.

Rolf Bettner: I want to put my name in for the advisory committee with Teal Jones.

Ans: The committee has not been meeting.

Councillor Martin: The Council has written a letter stating their opposition to renewal of the licence.

Observer: When will the public meeting be held?

Ans: In a few weeks – early fall.

Observer: Has the Public Works Superintendent been replaced?

Ans: No, we have a temporary Superintendent of Public Works.

Observer: Is this person fully qualified?

Ans: Yes, he holds the necessary certificates.

R2007/ 29/14 MOVED by Councillor Martin to Exclude the Public and move In Camera under the Community Charter: Section 90(1)(g)Legal and Section 90(1)(c)Personnel. CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday September 4, 2007

Mayor C. Kulesha

D. Uliana, Recording