

**Village of Queen Charlotte**

**April 7, 2008**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Village of Queen Charlotte held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at the Queen Charlotte Village Office, Queen Charlotte, B.C.**

**Adopted**

**PRESENT:**

**Council:**

Mayor C. Kulesha  
Councillor G. Noddin  
Councillor K. Oslen  
Councillor G. Martin

**Regrets:**

Councillor E. Ross

**Staff:**

A. Yeates, Chief Administrator Officer  
D. Uliana, Chief Financial Officer  
S. Brown, Legislative/Financial Clerk

**Public:** 11

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Agenda:**

R2008/12/02 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Noddin to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

**Adoption of the Minutes:**

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, March 17, 2008

R2008/12/03 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to adopt Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, March 17, 2008 as circulated.

CARRIED

**Correspondence:**

**For Information:**

a) Moresby Island Management Committee (MIMC) – Re: Minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

R2008/12/04 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Noddin to receive and file Moresby Island Management Committee (MIMC) Minutes of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

CARRIED

- b) Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District (SQCRD) – Re: Minutes of February 22, 2008

R2008/12/05 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Olsen to receive and file Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District (SQCRD) Minutes of February 22, 2008.

CARRIED

**For Action:**

- a) Nathan Cullen, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley – Re: \$1 billion aid package, March 5, 2008

Action: Letter to be written to Nathan Cullen suggesting projects for funding including training; travel subsidies for training; building institutes where needed.

- b) Lea Olsen – Re: Village of Queen Charlotte Community Park, Hospital Day Project Maze

Lea Olsen presented her idea for a 100 unit cement maze of walking stones to be placed in a park to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Hospital Days celebration.

R2008/12/06 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Noddin to refer this idea to the Communities in Bloom committee to co-ordinate with current plans for Village of Queen Charlotte day Park.

CARRIED

**4. Reports of Committee, COTW and Commissions:**

Village of Queen Charlotte Committee of the Whole Minutes March 31, 2008

R2008/12/07 MOVED by Councillor Noddin, seconded by Councillor Martin to adopt the Village of Queen Charlotte Committee of the Whole Minutes March 31, 2008 as circulated.

CARRIED

**5. Resolution**

- a) Borrowing Bylaws

R2008/12/08 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Noddin to direct staff to commence moving forward with a referendum on the borrowing bylaw required to fund moving the water intake structure.

CARRIED

- b) Dayton & Knight Ltd. – proceed with construction

R2008/12/09 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to authorize Dayton & Knight Ltd. to commence all remaining works of the Honna River Stanley Lake Surface Water Source Project as set out in the British Columbia Community Water Improvement Program Project Number 4220 save for that portion of the intake works that may be subject to a borrowing bylaw.

CARRIED

## **6. Reports of Council Members and Chief Administrative Officer and Manager of Corporate Financial Services:**

### a) Mayor & Council

Mayor Kulesha:

Mayors Report April 7 2008

#### HWAC - Health and Wellness Advisory Committee

The committee is supporting and offering its advice on end of life directives that Northern Health is developing across its area. End of life directives is the information a person may give to the health team, family or friends as to how they want to be treated in the instance that they are unable to communicate. Over the period of your life, these directives change and you would need to confirm them frequently or when you yourself now see your requirements differently.

#### HAIDA GWAI RUGBY

A new sport for the islands and I was a willing supporter at their money raising banquet.

#### MINISTRY OF FORESTS OPEN HOUSE

It was a pleasure to see the updated offices at MOF and meet the staff who form a significant part of our community and who are important to the health of our forests island wide. Long time staff were acknowledged for their contributions and students received prizes in an art contest.

#### MISTY ISLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Minister Pat Bell attended the MOF open house and while offering his congratulations for the signing of the Land Use Plan added to the community and economic leg of ecosystem based management by supporting MIEDS. Minister Colin Hansen's Ministry of Economic Development granted us \$500,000 as start-up and seed money. This weekend I was part of the interviewing committee to hire our CEO. By the end of April we should be able to announce who will have agreed to work with us.

#### SQCRD AND NWRHD MEETING

The budget was adopted and there is virtually no change in the requisition you will see on your property taxes from SQCRD this year. Your taxes may be different if your assessment has changed but the funding for SQCRD remains the same. User fees for garbage will rise to \$22/household and opting out while away will no longer be allowed.

#### BC FERRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We met last week and discussed:

Fares: all agreed that in the smaller or ferry dependent communities price for travel is a very important issue. BCF cannot average or charge the southern routes for shortfalls in the north. Northern communities will have to approach the province to review the price caps and look at redistribution of provincial service fees between routes. There is some

sympathy for us as in this last contract our routes received the largest increase in funding or our fees would have been yet substantially higher.

## WATER REPORT

### Background:

Council believes that the majority of the residents wish to move the Honna River intake above the landfill site. We have applied for Towns for Tomorrow grant but even if accepted (and this program is oversubscribed), its \$400,000 limit will not be enough funding. Under the terms of this proposal we may proceed to construct without prejudicing our application. We have been delayed by looking for and applying for funding, redoing the studies needed now that the intake is to be moved and timing is a major concern. Costs are continuing to rise and we have only one working well. The fisheries window is July/August and if we miss it we must wait another year. After extensive dialogue with Ministry of Community Services we understand that: we must receive permission to borrow from those who are affected by the loan (those who will pay directly for it) or receive the assent of the electors of the area. We have 3 methods under which we can receive approval to borrow:

1. Council could resolve to borrow the money and notify all property owners within the specified area (that area within which a property could physically receive water service). That is our frontage tax area today. In this scenario all property owners must be notified and be given an opportunity to *petition against* borrowing. If 50%+1 of the owners representing at least 50% of the assessed value of the area petition against, borrowing fails and council must wait one year to go to a referendum.
2. The community could *petition for* and in this instance the village office helps by supplying the correct petition wording and the property owners list within the specified area. It is up to the community to show its support by signing the petition in the same proportions as above – 50%+1 representing a minimum of 50% of the assessed land value.
3. The third option is a referendum within the specified area. All voters within the specified area are eligible to vote. You need to be 18 years old, lived in the province for the last 6 months and in QC for 30 days.

Council as committee of the whole has voted to recommend referendum for a variety of reasons: Whether or not you believe that the property owners are the ones who will be responsible for the 20 year term of the debt while renters do not necessarily have the same commitment to the community, or you believe that to be an inclusive community, all who drink the water or may eventually be made to support the debt through increased rental fees should be asked, a major concern influencing the decision is the time line, the fishery window and the increasing costs. A petition against if failed would not allow a referendum for one year. A referendum is the quickest method for council to act as we

may hold that vote as soon as the Ministry requirements are met. This still maybe a 3 to 4 month process and we may very well miss this fisheries window. We will do our best.

Though we have agreed to move to referendum as quickly as possible we understand that members of the community may move more quickly through a *petition for* and in fact there has been some interest to do so. Our office is committed to assist as timeliness is an issue for the majority of council.

Resolution: to ask the electorate for permission for the Village of Queen Charlotte to borrow up to \$900,000 over a 20 year term in order to complete the Honna River water project that will establish the water intake above the landfill. If the electorate rejects the borrowing initiative the project will necessarily proceed with the intake as originally proposed.

To note: The question will asked will be for the maximum amount of monies needed for the project but the borrowing by-law will be for the amount needed. In other words if we receive the grant, have bids come in under our budget, or find other cost saving solutions then we will need to borrow less but the referendum will note the maximum we may borrow.

Councillor Noddin:

Report for  
Councillor Noddin  
April 6, 2008

**Haida Gwaii Museum Society**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended a board meeting of the Haida Gwaii Museum Society. We were told of the postponement of the Grand Opening of the Kaay Centre (and thus the Museum) until August 2008. We welcomed two new members to the board, Amanda Reid-Stevens and Tanu Lusigna. Preparations are being made to re-occupy the old section of the museum space in the near future.

**HWAC**

On March 20, the HWA Committee discussed the draft end-of-life directives document that the Northern Health Authority provided to us.

**ALL ISLAND TRAIL ALLIANCE**

About 18 people met at the Rising Tide Bakery on March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss further their objectives and goals. Among those present were representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (Smithers office), Haida Mapping, the Alpine Association of Canada, the Over the Hill Club, Tlell Water Shed Society and the Moresby Mountain Adventure Camp. Jonathan Ebbs is the chair of that group. They have obtained money from the Gwaii Trust to hold their meetings and to develop a 5-year plan for island trails.

**Ministry of Forests Open House – March 26**

Lots of people attended the Open House to cruise through the newly renovated offices. But, the highlights of the afternoon were the presentation of the awards to winners of the children's art contest and the presentation of the \$500,000 cheque to the MIEDS.

**COW**

Monday, the 31<sup>st</sup>, I attended the Committee of the Whole meeting held in chambers.

**NORTHERN SAVINGS CREDIT UNION**

Because of extenuating circumstances, the date of the AGM of the NSCU was moved up one day, to Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Although I was invited with the intention to say a few kind words, the first speaker took up more time than expected and, mercifully, by the time my turn came along, the manager made the decision to not call upon yet another speaker – me. Their chief Director, Mike Tarr, said that although we are in the shadow of a predicted recession, our Credit Union did fairly well and also expects to continue doing so in the coming year. If you want to know more, you can contact the Director for QC, Doug Louis, or stop into the branch and pick up your copy of the report.

**BROWN BAG LUNCH**

On Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, in anticipation of some lively lunch time conversation, I attended the village council's brown bag lunch. But, no-one showed up and I had to eat my lunch all by myself. It may have had something to do with the zealot habit of all of the staff to lock the door behind them as they leave the building. Thanks, guys!

**GREAT GARBAGE GRAB – Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

I did not participate in this event directly, but I was happy to see so many of our residents out doing their part in cleaning up the ditches in and around our community. Thank-you's go to the Sierra Club who organizes this outstanding effort each year. What would we do without our volunteers?



.  
Councillor Olsen: attended the Advisory Planning Committee meeting and the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Martin: Attended the Island Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting and discussed recycling and garbage. March 28-29 attended the Vancouver Island Regional Library meeting where we discussed on line data base, digital resources and audio book downloads. April 1<sup>st</sup> attended Community Electricity Plan meeting.

Received cheque for \$5000.00 for the Road Smart program spearheaded by Constable Shannon. Money will go toward the bicycle rodeo at the elementary school, Living & Learning School and Sandspit school. Continuing with cemetery mapping.

**Adjournment:**

R2008/12/10 MOVED by Councillor Olsen to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9.10p.m

Next meeting Monday April 21, 2008

---

Mayor C. Kulesha

---

D. Uliana, Recording