

Village of Queen Charlotte

May 20, 2008

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Village of Queen Charlotte held on Tuesday, May 5, 2008 at the Queen Charlotte Village Office, Queen Charlotte, B.C.

Adopted

PRESENT:

Council:

Acting Mayor G. Noddin
Councillor K. Olsen
Councillor E. Ross
Councillor G. Martin

Regrets:

Mayor C. Kulesha

Staff:

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

Public: 1

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor G. Noddin called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Agenda:

R2008/20/02 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Martin to adopt the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

Minutes:

a) Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, May 5, 2008

R2008/20/03 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Ross to adopt Village of Queen Charlotte Council Minutes, May 5, 2008 as amended.

CARRIED

b) Village of Queen Charlotte Special Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2008

R2008/20/04 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to adopt Village of Queen Charlotte Special Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2008 as circulated.

CARRIED

Correspondence:

For Action:

- a) John Disney, Economic Development Officer, Old Massett Village Office– Re: Letter of support, recycling program

R2008/20/05 MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Ross to send a letter of support to John Disney, Economic Development Officer, Old Massett Village Office– Re: recycling program.

CARRIED

Resolution

- a) Referendum 2008

R2008/20/06 MOVED by Councillor Olsen, seconded by Councillor Martin to appoint A. Yeates, CAO as Chief Election Officer and D. Uliana, CFO as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2008 Referendum.

CARRIED

R2008/20/07 MOVED by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Martin to approve Referendum Question “Do you approve of the Village of Queen Charlotte Council adopting Bylaw 23-2008 which authorizes borrowing up to \$900,000 to construct improvements to the Local Area Water Supply and Distribution System Service, specifically, to move the Honna River Intake Works from its original position to a position above the former landfill?”

CARRIED

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

- a) Mayor & Council

Report for council meeting dated May 20, 2008

Acting Mayor G. Noddin:

As was reported prior to going, Councillors Martin and I attended the NCMA (North Central Municipal Association) convention in Prince George, May 7 to May 9. It was a full 2 days of workshops, speeches, networking, presentations and receptions --- and, two gruelling days of travel to and from Prince George.

One workshop that I attended was re: Carbon Neutral by 2012 – Getting There From Here sponsored by the Community Energy Association with key speakers being Mr. Dan Rogers, Chair and Mr. Michael Wilson, P.Engineer.

From my notes:

1) There has been an average temperature change in British Columbia over the past century of about +0.6⁰ C., (1895-1995). That temperature change was calculated from data collected from locations ranging from coastal communities to high mountain regions within British Columbia.

- 2) We were advised to be aware of the upcoming provincial legislation t.b.a. by the provincial government in the near future – Bill 27 – which will enact laws concerning municipal OPC's in the context of carbon emissions.
 - 3) The speakers suggested that communities focus on reductions rather than be too concerned about “carbon counts”.
 - 4) It was suggested that communities not be afraid to borrow money for energy efficient infrastructure such as secure bicycle parking lots and ways to collect and utilize methane gas, (which is 23% more harmful to the environment than is CO₂), from existing and future land fill sites. (This last one, they suggested, is going to become law sooner than later)
 - 5) Look into carbon off-set projects to help with carbon credits. Advertise your green projects so that other communities can invest in them and visa-versa.
- And lastly --- 6) Carefully evaluate all new projects on a ‘life cycle costing’ scale to be able to justify their capital costs at the time of installation.

I attended presentations about: Measuring Up the North; Northern Gateway Pipelines; Invasive Plant Council update; IPP's; Road Maintenance and Safety; the Climate Action Secretariat; Northern BC Winter Games.

On Friday, Councillor Martin and I attended scheduled meetings with the Northern Caucus and with the Northern Health Authority.

The topics discussed with the Northern Caucus ((John Rustad (chair), Shirley Bond, Pat Bell, Blair Lekstrom, Richard Neufeld and Tim Morrison (scribe)) were: 1) *Carbon Tax imposed by legislation in the spring 2008 provincial budget*. Our stand on the issue, as was the stand of the vast majority of the other municipalities and regional districts throughout the North Central Municipal Association region, was that the carbon tax is not regarded as a bad idea. We did not ask to be exempt from the new tax. But, because of remote locations, regional climate extremes, the necessity for long distance hauling, the scarcity of public transit systems and the general low population bases within north central communities, the government must consider ways of mitigating and equalizing the effects of the tax on north central residents. This stand, as you may imagine, was received with mixed reviews by the Northern Caucus members present.

2) *New Regulations under the BC Food Safety Act*. Again, we were just one of many municipalities and regional districts who expressed concern about these new regulations. We were asked to be patient. They are listening.

3) We inquired about *the status of our ‘Towns for Tomorrow’ application* which contains some interesting “green” initiatives. We were told that the announcement about awarding those grants was going to be very soon, the programme has been enormously over prescribed and that they are considering all of the applications very carefully.

4) We asked for clarification about what the impact of the new *Capital Planning Secretariat's* mandate was to have on the planning schedule of the replacement of the south-end Queen Charlotte Islands General Hospital. All of the members present seemed to be completely informed about the project – (good or bad?). We were told not to worry. Everything was going ahead just as planned.

5) Port Clements solicited the northern caucus's support in lobbying the provincial government to *designate and therefore adequately maintain the current logging mainline as a secondary access and emergency evacuation route between communities*. In the event of an environmental disaster occurring along the coastal sections of Hwy 16 on the Queen Charlotte Islands, the logging road is presently the only alternative route for residents to access BC ferries and therefore essential goods and services entering the islands by that means of transportation -- i.e. food. Greg and I, along with representatives from Masset, Area E and the SQC Regional District accompanied Mayor Delves to confirm our support and island solidarity for the request.

When we met with Cathy Ulrich and Charles Jago of the Northern Health Authority, we discussed the following:

1) *the Status of the hospital master plan* : They told us that things were proceeding as scheduled and as soon as the final reports from the engineers are available for distribution, they will be forwarded to us. They expect that the reports will be available to be discussed at the July NH meeting. We will hear from them. They advised us that they have been in close communication with the SBC so that plans can be made to include as many services as possible into the master plan without duplication of Health Canada programmes. They will continue to listen to all interest groups so that no possibilities are missed.

2) *A Communal Life Skills Residence for Men* : Councillor Martin is in command of this initiative and may report on it further in his report.

3) *Water Quality of the Honna River* in light of current logging within the watershed. Again, Councillor Martin is the primary contact person for this portfolio and may report on it in his report. But, Ms. Ulrich did point out that there are soon going to be changes to the Health Act and that we should refer to it as a possible source of help in regard to the logging within the Honna watershed. (Best practices and legislated regulations in regards to commercial activity within a drinking water resource area.)

The public is reminded that one-on-one ministerial contact and networking with peers are two essential parts of the job of all elected municipal officials. It is important to keep current with the issues and with the solutions which affect the present and the future of our province. The NCMA and the UBCM conventions are two of the most important venues at which to accomplish those connections.

On the home front, council has been in consultation with ILT about their activities within the watershed. Also, to that end, we have had conversations with Northern Health, DFO and MoF to monitor the level of potential disruption which may occur due to the logging of the Private land within the Honna watershed and to safeguard the source of our drinking water. Talks about the solutions to our concerns are on-going.

Ms. Uliana has kept us busy reviewing the current financial statements and reports. Submitted for inclusion in the minutes of the regular council meeting of May 20, 2008 by Gladys Noddin

Councillor Olsen: Attended the APC and May 14th Finance Meeting.

Councillor Ross: Attended ISWAC meeting.

Councillor Martin: Attended NCMA in Prince George May 7 – 9 as well as the Finance meeting May 14th. The Measuring Up project presented the film “Shameless: The Art of Disability” which was shown at the Visitor Information Centre. Attended the ISWAC meeting – landfill site is not ideal and changes are needed. Discussions with Island Timberlands, proposed logging plans. Conversations with Ron Craig, Northern Health water inspector, safe drinking water act.

CAO: Preparing paperwork and details for the Referendum. Wrapping up the year end and the annual report will be next.

Adjournment:

R2008/20/ 08 MOVED by Councillor Olsen to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8.15.m

Next meeting Tuesday June 2, 2008

Acting Mayor G. Noddin

S. Brown, Recording