



The Village of
PORT CLEMENTS
"Gateway to the Wilderness"

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, Monday, September 21st, 2020

Present:

Mayor Daugert
Councillor Cumming via teleconference
Councillor Falconbridge
Councillor Gould via teleconference
CAO Ruby Decock

Members of the Public and Press: Bev Lore, Marilyn Bliss

Meeting Called to Order at 7:06 PM

Mayor Daugert: I call to order this meeting of the Council of the Village of Port Clements being held on the traditional territory of the Haida People.

1. ADOPT AGENDA

2020-09-190—moved by Councillor Falconbridge, seconded by Councillor Cumming
THAT the September 21st, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented.
CARRIED

2. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & OPENING OF SEALED TENDERS

D-1- Housing Needs Assessment Report - Lindsay Seegmiller
Delegation not present

3. MINUTES

M-1—September 8th, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
2020-09-191—Moved by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Cumming
THAT the September 8th, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes be adopted with changing Councillor Falconbridge's attendance from "Absent" to "Regrets".
CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BA-1—Rise & Report – In-Camera Council Meeting September 8th, 2020
THAT Council has applied for the Weight Room Upgrade project through Gwaii Trust's Vibrant Haida Gwaii Communities Grant; that the 2020 municipal byelection will be held on November 14th, 2020; and that Kim Mushynsky has been appointed as the Chief Elections Officer for the Village's 2020 municipal byelection.

UB-1- Housing Needs Assessment Report

2020-09-192—Moved by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Falconbridge
THAT the Housing Needs Assessment Report be received.
CARRIED

2020-09-193—Moved by Councillor Falconbridge, seconded by Councillor Gould
THAT the Housing Needs Assessment Report be tabled until the presenter is available.
CARRIED

5. **ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE**

C-1—Request for letter to Prime Minister Trudeau – TELUS

2020-09-194—Moved by Councillor Gould, seconded by Councillor Falconbridge

THAT Council receives Telus' request for the Village to write a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau to request that his government prioritizes rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne on September 23, 2020.

CARRIED

C-2- Marine Debris Response Project Presentation - Julien Braun, CHN

2020-09-195—Moved by Councillor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Falconbridge

THAT the Marine Debris Response Project Presentation from the CHN be received.

CARRIED

2020-09-196—Moved by Councillor Cumming, seconded by Councillor Falconbridge

THAT Council direct the CAO to write a letter of response to Julien Bruan (CHN), that we support this initiative and that we hope it is open to all tourism businesses on Haida Gwaii to participate in.

CARRIED

6. **FINANCE**

7. **GOVERNMENT**

Councillor Brigid Cumming left the meeting at 7:23 pm

G-1— Permission to Provide Funeral Services – Haida Gwaii Funeral Society

2020-09-197—Moved by Councillor Falconbridge, seconded by Councillor Gould

THAT the Village of Port Clements supports George Westwood and Matthew Pierce to perform the functions of a funeral provider and funeral director under the *Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act*, within the boundaries of the Village of Port Clements.

CARRIED

Councillor Brigid Cumming returned to the meeting via teleconference at 7:25 pm

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

R-1- COVID-19 Update – Verbal Mayor Daugert

No new COVID-19 cases on Haida Gwaii. Discussion with Dr. Walker is too focused on travel restriction and communities need to focus on the necessary precautionary measures.

Mayor Daugert: UBCM meetings were a waste of Mayor's time now that a Provincial election has been called and 3 of the Ministers met with at UBCM are going to retire. Meeting with Minister Doug Donaldson FLNRORD September 17 On the Phone: Min. Donaldson; Sharon Hadway Regional District Manager; Craig Sullivan(?) ADM(?). The topic of this meeting was the lack of Timber Sales since March of 2017 and the negative impacts on our community and the economy locally and in all of British Columbia. Councillor Gould and myself presented information on lost revenues to The Province as well as the severe impacts on Port Clements. Both Councillor Gould and I explained that support for a Community Forest was not an objection to a Market Pricing system, and could be a component of such a system. Port Clements is not able to sustain continued absence of market available timber, and it is costing the Province economically in direct and indirect Revenues.

Following a request by Councillor Gould to intervene in the situation and resolve the impasse in issuing local sales, the Minister made a commitment to look into the situation, directed his staff to get more information, and made a remark to his staff regarding two sales which was not clarified before the end of the brief meeting.

Protocol Table September 16 This was not an actual meeting, as there was no formal representation from Old Masset Village Council or Skidegate Band Council. Information was exchanged on the Coastline Cleanup in Central Coast that might extend to Haida Gwaii.

NCRD regular and in camera September 18 This was a very long meeting. We had two presentations, one from Forest Enhancement Society of BC & Habitat Conservation Trust Fund who presented on their history and accomplishments. They have conducted a number of Projects on Haida Gwaii in partnership with Taan. The other was from B. A. Blackwell Associates presenting the Area E Wildfire Protection Plan. We discussed that all RDs are now required to complete a Housing needs Assessment by 2022, and began preparation for working towards this. Recycling and solid waste disposal both on Haida Gwaii and the Mainland side of the RD occupied much of the discussion, as did a proposed LNG shipping project in Port Edward.

Meetings for the NCRD: Environment and Climate Change Strategy On the phone: Minister George Heyman and 2 staff. Topic was trails and recreation sites in the NCRD. Minister will try to coordinate planning with the NCRD to accomplish more.

Municipal Affairs and Housing On the phone: Minister Selina Robinson and 2 staff. Electoral Area Official Community Plan updates. The OCP for Dodge Cove has been held up for several years. Currently Ministry Staff and the NCRD have been consulting with First nations, and it is close to finished.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, on the phone: Min. Claire Trevina and 2 staff. Topic Restoration of full ferry service, Highway 16 Overpass, and Further shoreline protection on Haida Gwaii. I did not hear a strong commitment to any changes as a result of this meeting. Finance, on the Phone: Minister Carol James and 3 staff. The topic was the BC Assessment Framework. Current methodology and timing can misrepresent property values due to one atypical sale, notification period for appeals is too short for places with sporadic mail service in wintertime. Although a complete review was not promised, some investigation was.

Ministry of Health, on the phone: Minister Adrian Dix and two staff. Topics were access to specialists, travel and Emergency Health Services. Minister Dix discussed the addition of funding to the air ambulance and rotary assets (his words) but stressed how they are currently trying to catch up on 30,000 cancelled surgeries added to the wait list during March, April and May.

Public Safety and Solicitor General & Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, on the phone: Solicitor General Hon. Mike Farnsworth and Indigenous Relation and Reconciliation Hon. Scott Fraser and staff. Topic was assistance for local government during pandemic and Emergencies. Province is currently rewriting the Emergency Health Act to reflect lessons learned. Unfortunately, the Province still appeared to lack a good understanding of Haida Governance and expectations and appeared to not understand how their position seemed to municipal governments as downloading of responsibility

Advanced Education, Skills and Training, on the phone: Minister Melanie Mark and staff. Topic Skills training programs on Haida Gwaii and the North Coast. Melanie Mark was born in Sandspit and retains family ties to Haida Gwaii. Identified that we need to determine capacity needs on Haida Gwaii for specific trades. Currently the Province is developing and rolling out online courses for health care workers.

Tourism, Arts and Culture, on the phone: Hon. Lisa Beare and staff. Topic was the impacts of Covid 19 on tourism, support for tourism based businesses and Tourism Recovery from the pandemic. The Minister responded that there was both Federal and Provincial money for small and medium business, currently the Province has enabled grants for private business hurt by COVID of up to \$30,000 with an additional \$10,000 for tourism related businesses. This is the first grant to go to private business. They have put \$29 Million budgeted for destination marketing.

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Resource Operations and Rural Development, on the phone: Minister Doug Donaldson and staff. Topic was the Community Forest Offer. We discussed frustration with the sequence of delays, not all of them the responsibility of the Ministry. Minister Donaldson appeared aware of the issues and open to discussion of some options. Did not wish to discuss possible exception to the requirement that 50% of revenues go to the Province. Agreed we

would probably need more discussion when apportionment of the AAC to tenures was completed. That process frequently took about one year after the AAC was determined, but could be quicker this time.

Other meetings attended: International Pacific Halibut Commission Special Meeting #8 Webinar with the 3 United States Commissioners and the 3 Canadian Commissioners and Halibut Commission staff and science. Commercial fishers in Canada were allotted 3 extra weeks until December 7, 2020 to achieve their catch. Canada reported that the Canadian recreation fishery would probably only be able to catch about 50% of their allocation due to COVID restrictions, and would like to roll over some of that uncaught quota to the 2021 season. This was strongly opposed by the US representatives, so the item was tabled until the Interim Meeting in November

Councillor Cumming: Haida Gwaii Community Futures adopted their budget.

Councillor Gould: VURL meeting on Saturday and adopted a new budget, nothing changing. Vibrant Commission meeting last Wednesday.

Councillor Falconbridge: Attended the NDIT regional advisory committee meeting online. Still does not have a bus and back to school in the dark. Question about elections? Attended Protocol Table meeting on Wednesday. Wondering why the Skidegate Band Council and Old Masset Village Council representatives were not present and their absence deems it not a quorum. Needs clarification or understanding of why or if the meetings are possible.

Mayor Daugert comment on Protocol Meetings: He is investigating this and wants to determine it as well because it questions whether meetings are legitimate and making quorum.

CAO Decock: Our previous Public Works Assistant has left and we have hired a replacement, that person is Mark Vanherd. He will be starting at the end of September/early October. Currently the Public Works Superintendent is alone with the temporary worker, Madison Gaspar, staying on as she does online courses. Rainbow Wharf repairs are underway, starting on 18th and will continue until September 30th. The Public Works Truck is being constructed right now, putting the items (snowplow, sander/salter, etc) that go with the truck together. It is slated to ship late October, and be received in early November. Reached out and talked with someone regarding virtual Council Meetings, but still need guidance from Council on how we are going to have our meetings going forwards in terms of how we will be doing all our meetings – virtually, teleconferencing or in person. Followed up on bussing for Tlell kids to come to PCES by reaching out to the Tlell community and received feedback from the residents. There are 6-8 children that could come to PCES if bussing was available. One resident that they wrote to SD#50 about the issue but never received a response back, while another was concerned that given the low attendance/school population that their child would not have a bonding experience with friends, so developing a long-term friendship was their concern as they wanted their kids to go to school where they can make friends. Good news is that she heard that there are 3 new kids at PCES that have moved to the community; the school lost 3-4 or more children last year (some went on to High School, but 3 children relocated). Our EOC Director, Zena Thierstein, continues to work for the Village as EOC Director as her replacement is trained.

2020-09-198 - Moved by Councillor Falconbridge, seconded by Councillor Cumming
THAT Council receives the verbal reports from Council and CAO Decock
CARRIED

10. ACTION ITEMS
A-1- Action Items List

11. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

Comment/Assertion– Bev Lore: I think that Council needs to address the bussing for the PCES as it is a huge concern for the community and that Council should go after it with the School Board. Currently one child goes from Port Clements to Masset by bus and they pick up a few more children in Masset, then the bus driver leaves the bus in Masset and returns by car back to Port. After School they return to Masset and pickup the kids and bus. Before they changed the bussing last year, the bus would bring children from Masset to Port. When they changed the bussing, they took the kids that came to Port from Masset and Tlell and took them out of our system. Instead of sending our kids to another community, I think we should fight to get the kids back into our community from Tlell. I will talk to the SD50 representative, Julia Breese, about this issue.

Question – Councillor Cumming: Who is the PAC representative? Do we have one due to COVID-19?

Answer: Councillor Falconbridge is the president of PAC. They have not had their first meeting yet, which is coming in the next few weeks. He has discussed with the SD50, and the Superintendent identified that Lao Peerless is responsible for the SD50 bus routes. He follows under the direction of the School Board. Councillor Cumming will investigate the SD50 budget information. Concern about losing school discussed.

Question – Bev Lore: I heard that there are Electric Vehicle Charging stations being installed in most of the communities of the island, but we are not having on in Port Clements? Sandspit, Charlotte, Tow Hill and maybe Tlell? It is something in the future that may bring the community into the town.

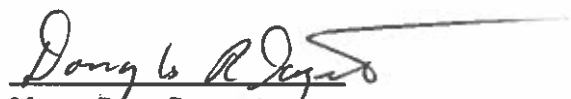
Answer: We got turned down. Staff attended their Electric Vehicle Presentation by BC Hydro in Old Masset, the discussion was that they were going to have one at each end of the Island, and that there was no need to have it in the middle due to the distance being covered by charging. There was also a lot of additional costs such as requirements for providing Village Property, paying for the cost of installing connections to connect electric facilities (such as wiring into Firehall or Biomass plan), cost of electricity (first two years free, but afterward's charging Village or Museum for it), liability, management and maintenance of the facility. They made that decision under their study, it was not our decision, the locations were not ideal in town.

ACTION – draft letter to School Board of Trustees (for SD#50) regarding the bussing as per Action Item #55 by next Council Meeting.

12. IN-CAMERA

13. ADJOURNMENT

2020-09-199—Moved by Councillor Falconbridge
THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:25 PM.
CARRIED


Mayor Doug Daugert


CAO Ruby Decock