

Gitksan Government Commission
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2004

Present: Marvin Sampson Matt Vickers
 Tony Morgan Victor Robinson
 William Starr Gary Williams

Recorder: Linda Matthews

Opening Prayer

Marvin opened the meeting with a prayer.

Review of the Agenda

Following motion was made with two additions to agenda.

MOTION#78-03/04

Marvin Sampson/Williams Starr

MOVED to accept agenda with additions of Muks Kum Ol Housing Society & Reimbursement for extra night of accommodations in Prince George due to road conditions.

CARRIED

Review and Adoption of Jan. 9, 2004 Minutes

MOTION#79-03/04

Gary Williams/William Starr

MOVED to adopt the minutes of Jan. 9, 2004 as presented.

Business Arising from Minutes

Discussion re: in-camera session.

****TASK:** Victor to work with Board to generate a summary of the in-camera session held on Jan. 9, 2004.

Social Development – Home-making

Discussions re: the need to make home-making policies more language sensitive for the elders as well as revisiting policy. It was noted that regardless of income elders require this service due to mobility and health problems.

****TASK:** Victor to work with Lyndale in terms of language sensitivity in dealing with elders and revisiting policy.

Motion #80-03/04

William Starr/Marvin Sampson

MOVED to adopt Dec. 4th minutes with addition of motion re: Board Christmas bonuses and correct spelling of CGed.
CARRIED

CEO Report (See Copy)

Matt reported all tasks were carried out as presented in the Jan. 9, 2004 minutes.

- Organized Strategic Planning Session
- Finalized arrangements and agenda
- Carried out administrative duties for Anoyam Gan Mootxw
- Visited Fairhaven Farm with Ray Halvorson

****REQUEST:** Matt requested from the Board a response to his evaluation, approval for one weeks annual leave during week of wife's operation and approval to work at home for two weeks after wife's operation.

Victor said he will work with the Board in terms of feedback re: Matt's evaluation.

Consensus was that the Board meet at Gitwangak Band Office to discuss Matt's evaluation on Feb. 16th. Board to have lunch at Norm's Restaurant at 12:00 noon then meet at Gitwangak Band at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion re: Matt's request for annual leave week of wife's operation and approval to work at home two weeks after wife's operation.

MOTION #81-03/04

Marvin Sampson/Tony Morgan

MOVED to adopt Matt's report as presented including approval for 1 weeks annual leave Feb. 16-20th and approval to work at home for two weeks after.
CARRIED

Financial Report – Matt

Matt went through the GGC income statement and noted:

- Band Support increases came in and will be dispersed to bands
- CRM proposal is for High Speed Internet and need to write a cheque from loan to cover deficit if 55,773.81
- Pension Plan dollars is interest on the pension plan
- Interest dollars \$373,671.96 will cover Prince George Strategic Planning costs as well as Bruce Harris project for \$75,000.
- ACRES covers Roger Sterritt fire training position
- Fire Safety dollars \$94,256.95 - \$85,000 will be used for fire training this year
- Social Development 1,196,146.14 – Diane and Lyndale to do program reviews – there are concerns re: deficit at end of 5 year agreement.
- Membership/Lands shows surplus because part of budget used to cover Lyn Mowatt position in lands.
- Technical Services – will transfer from administration to cover deficit of \$40,951.68
- Education \$3,487,443.12 is owed to School District for the LEA agreement.
- Noted that no funding received for Gitanyow and Glen Vowell Fire Halls so GGC is up fronting \$'s right now.

Pensions for Board of Directors

Discussion re: the Board being on a pension plan and that INAC should supplement pensions for elected Chiefs and should be retroactive. Board stated that they have brought this issue up for several years.

Consensus of the Board was that they press the issue of Pensions for the elected Chiefs politically.

****TASK:** To press the issue of Pensions for the elected Chiefs politically.

Social Development

Tony Morgan asked if the meeting with Nuu Chan Nulth has been organized to share information on what works and what doesn't with their custom Social Development Policy.

Consensus was that the Board of Directors meet with Nuu Chan Nulth Social Worker one evening during the First Nations Summit meeting in Vancouver.

****TASK:** Matt to organize meeting with Nuu Chan Nulth Social Worker one evening in Vancouver during the Summit.

MOTION#82-03/04

William Starr/Gary Williams

MOVED to adopt the Financial Report as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION #82-03/04

Marvin Sampson/Gary Williams

MOVED to approve acquiring a loan at an interest rate of 4.25% rather than pull from the investment account.

CARRIED

Summary Report Strategic Planning Session – Gary Jung

- **What are the expectations for service delivery**
- **What are reasonable levels of service delivery**
- **What service needs are not met and need to be addressed**
- **What options for addressing service needs**
- **What resources needed to make the service delivery strategy to work.**

****TASK: Consensus was that the Board read through the summary from Gary Jung and Matt summarize and bring back all the recommendations for the Board in March for any changes or additions and an action plan.**

Discussion followed and feedback from participants was that the strategic planning session process wasn't what they were expecting. It was stated that it was a totally different process than they were used to and that there was no real big picture. Victor felt there was a lack of direction from the facilitator and that he should have met with the Board prior to meeting for clarification on what was expected.

Participants were expecting to discuss the CFNFA and moving forward and end result generating an action plan with time frames. It was also noted that it is common practice to canvas each participant to establish what direction they would like to see the meeting go. It was pointed out that breakout sessions were on the agenda but was deviated from which upset many of the participants as breakout session would have encouraged more participation from the 55 in attendance.

Board decision was that they be more involved with strategic planning sessions in terms of facilitator, agenda and processes to be entertained at meetings.

Matt said the meeting was to deal with the 5 year agreement and moving forward and that he would be giving Gary Jung good constructive feedback.

****Suggestion: That a leadership session be organized for the Board of Directors.**

Fairhaven Farm

Matt visited farm with Ray Halvorson and reported all but two houses are occupied. He also reported:

- vegetable farm is operating
- green house has capacity to expand three times its size
- bake shop limited operations
- sawmill can easily start up
- cabinet shop can be revitalized
- machine shop has equipment
- commercial and industrial buildings in good shape
- drilled well services the entire community with excellent water
- Matt putting together a proposal for a feasibility study

****Suggestion: Approach Aboriginal Canada and Western Diversification for funds for Fairhaven Farms.**

Amenity Migration

Matt received a letter from UNBC Raymond Chipeniuk, Associate Professor requesting the support and participation of Gitksan Government Commission in the Amenity Migration Initiative.

Matt explained that amenity migration is the new catch phrase used for tourism. Amenity Migration is the movement of people to rural places with outstanding natural, cultural, and social environments. The communities of the Bulkley and Kispiox Valleys need information about local amenity migration because in mountainous parts of North America amenity migration has become the single most important engine of economic development. Amenity Migration could sustain our local economy.

Discussion followed and the Board felt the survey was not relevant to the Gitksan and that Dr. Raymond Chipeniuk was looking for support and endorsement as well as distribution of survey. Some thought the survey may be advantageous in knowing what is out there and others had concerns re: mass migration.

****TASK: Matt to forward Dr. Raymond Chipeniuk's letter and survey to GTO.**

****TASK: Matt to respond to Dr. Raymond Chipeniuk's letter of request for support and inform him that Amenity Migration has been TABLED.**

B.C. Capacity Initiatives Update

Matt reported to the Board that he received a letter confirming INAC was in receipt of the B.C. Capacity Initiative Proposal for governance and that it will be reviewed in March with a decision in April.

B.C. Capacity Initiative continued....

Gitanmaax will be submitting their B.C. Capacity proposal to ensure their needs are met.

AGM Motions & Discussions

Education

Board noted they have not received draft copies of Post-Secondary Policy from Marj as per her task from the AGM on Jan. 12, 2004 in Gitanyow.

****TASK: Matt to look into the draft copies of the Post-Secondary Policy from Marj.**

Governance

It was reported that Herb George is willing to work with the Commission as a pilot for governance. Discussion around Self-Government and the fact the dollars come from the government as apposed to INAC to manage a parcel of land allotted to you. Further that after 10 years you give up your tax exemption and managing traditional territory would not be included in your self-government.

Resolutions

Matt asked how the Board was going to proceed with the resolutions brought forward at the AGM.

Board said many things to consider in terms of the resolution on governance for instance all of the different organization with constitutions and their separate boards and that it will take time.

****TASK: Matt to contact previous participants involved with governance to inform them of what transpired at Gitksan Government Commission's AGM on Jan. 12, 2004 in terms of governance and suggest a meeting to discuss how to proceed from here.**

Provincial Government Request

Matt received letter from Ministry of Children and Family Development requesting a reps attendance at a meeting involving community stakeholders to discuss MCFD Service Redesign strategies and other transformation planning issues.

Discussion followed and consensus was that Lyndale attend this meeting on behalf of the communities.

UNBC – Northern Economic Vision Project

Feb. 26, 2004 – Terrace B.C. 10:00 to 4:30

Discussion re: Report processed through information provided by community members throughout northern B.C.

****TASK: Matt to contact UNBC to see who covers travel for the Northern Economic Vision Project meeting in Terrace on Feb. 26, 2004.**

Muks Kum Ol Housing Society

Muks Kum Ol Housing Society is seeking a form letter of support for the “Homeless Initiative” to provide affordable housing to Hazelton families at “risk of homelessness”.

****TASK: Matt to draft letter of support for Muks Kum Ol Housing Society in support of the Homeless Initiative.**

Hutchins, Soroka & Grant – Update – Matt

Matt updated the Board as per Peter Grant’s letter informing them of the proceedings and outcome of the Jan. 26, 2004 hearing held in Smithers.

Anoyam Gan Mootxw

Matt reported to the Board some of the developments within Anoyam Gan Mootxw and provided the Board with a copy of a letter dealing with one issue that arose.

Prince George Strategic Planning Extra Costs

It was the Board’s decision that due to road conditions participants attending the strategic planning session in Prince George had to spend an extra night so the Gitksan Government Commission should cover an additional night of accommodations for the participants.

MOTION #84-03/04

Gary Williams/William Starr

MOVED that Gitksan Government Commission reimburse the bands one extra night of accommodations during the strategic planning session held in Prince George due to bad road conditions.

MOTION#85-03/04

Marvin Sampson/Williams Starr

MOVED that the Commission become a joint venture partner with Bruce Harris’s company in the development of the Band Management Software by funding the first pilot to the amount of \$75,000. Further that the funds come from the Interest account so all five communities share equally in the ongoing profits of all future sales of the software product.

CARRIED

High Speed Internet

Matt gave the Board an update on High Speed Internet and let them know a letter has been sent to Hagwilget Village Council requesting permission to situate a piece of our High Speed Internet equipment on their Community Fire Hall creating an access point to extend the service to the community of Hagwilget and its business.

Tony Morgan Closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.