

## Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting-January 13, 2009

### Skidegate Band Council Public Meeting Held January 13, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m. At the Skidegate Community Hall

#### **PRESENT:**

Chief Councillor	Willard Wilson	
Councillors:	Ed Russ	Tanu Lusignan
	Rose Russ	Robert Williams
	James Cowpar	

Absent:	
Councillors	Godfrey Williams
	Remi Levesque

Staff:	
A/Band Manager	Sue Wood
Housing Coordinator	Trent Moraes
Executive Assistant	Marcia Piercey

<b>Public:</b> (from sign in sheet)	Robert Gorcak	Tyler Crosby
Walter Russ	Tracey Auchter	Mary Russ
Wayne Wilson	Steven Wesley	Crystal Zeller
Amanda Reid-Stevens	Fran Pineault	John Wesley
Tammy Berthicumew	Herman Collinson	Gail Russ
Gary Russ Sr.	Tom Greene	Trevor Valentinsen
Sascha Jones	Ron Casey	Kay Stewart
Clara Zeller	Marg Parker	J.K. Mills
L.G. Young	Bea Harley	Chris Chanin
Phil Gladstone	Jenny Cross	Danny Robertson
Rick McDonald	Roy Jones Jr.	Grace Jones
Denise Olsson	Vi Husband	Tommy Olsson
Rachel West	Ken Williams	Barbara Wilson
Harvey Williams	Willie Davies	Ruth Gladstone-Davies
Judson Brown	Shawn Cowpar	Paula Lawson
Harry Williams	Joanne Collinson	Les Collinson
Pete Thompson	Bev Yovanovich	Irene Bruce
Marvin Pearson	Harold Wilson	Heather DuDoward
Robert DuDoward	Lauren Brown	Taangunaay Grinder
Mark Grinder	Sue Gladstone	Pat Gellerman
Russell Gladstone	Diane Brown	Larry (Dull) Brown
Josie Hans	Alessandra Cross	Percy Crosby
Gladys Gladstone	Clayton Gladstone	Clayton Gladstone Sr
Gordon Russ	Dorothy Russ	Carmen Pollard
Mary Ann Wilson	Ed Hans	Cindy Mearns
Kathy Williams	Sheila Williams	Kathleen (Golie) Hans
David Crosby	David Martynuik	Violet Cross
Angela Williams	Sylvia Young	Thelma Shannon

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Meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by Willard Wilson.

Barbara Wilson to say opening prayer.

Willard Wilson stated our hearts and prayers are with Gloria Martynuik, Gary Hatfield and Doreen Mearns, they are not well. We sincerely hope they'll be OK in the next short while. I wanted to tell you that two councillors send their regrets, they are both ill, Remi Levesque and Godfrey Williams, won't be in attendance tonight. We have our Council sitting before you, we want to talk about our audit and our finances so everyone in Skidegate understands where we hope to go and what we have been doing in the last few months. Howa to four councillors that worked on the remedial action plan (RMP), which we'll discuss later, James Cowpar, Remi Levesque, Robert Williams and Tanu Lusignan, our Council spent a great deal of time working on the RMP, we, the Council had to back them in working with Paul Daniels.

Wayne Wilson asked will there be other public meetings scheduled, other things that have to be discussed, like the non insured health benefits and patient travel, and Council following the Inuit health guidelines, will we discuss this. Willard Wilson replied we will schedule another meeting real quick. We have to discuss the open house, always very popular, our staff always organizes this. Last year Health Canada owed us a huge amount of money and it took a few months to get it, we're probably in the same predicament, it's important to our people because we have a lot of people that have to go see specialists off island.

Roy Jones Jr was concerned about some of the stuff that's going on in our community a lot of talk about the beating that went on in this hall, it all relates to drugs in our community, other issue is the amount of pit bulls in our community. Grandson had one jump up on him. There's some serious issues, our finances is what makes you be able to do your job. There are other issues, patient travel the other thing is employment opportunities for our people, so many people leaving our islands, has to be dealt with. Willard Wilson replied we will have to schedule another public meeting really quick, we already have four items, just from two speakers. James Cowpar added once we go through the RMP, we hope to provide some answers to a lot of your questions.

Shelley Williams do we adopt the minutes from the last meeting, when do we get a chance to look at the action items that were in there? James Cowpar replied we'll tackle it as we go along.

Gary Russ stated its beginning to sound like, **couldn't hear**, why don't we schedule another meeting next week. **(didn't use the mike)**. Gary Russ was very disappointed about the newsletter that came out from the health center, e.g. all clients must stay at the cheapest place as possible, I certainly hope the Council will do the same. If we're made to stay at the cheapest place for health, I would hope Council does the same, we are all the same, we're all equal. James Cowpar replied we'll go into the agenda and give a brief update regarding the action items, we'll make the time. If we could get into the RMP, it'll help with some of the questions.

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### Adoption of agenda:

**MOTION: 13-01-09(01pmtg)** moved by Gary Russ to adopt the January 13, 2009 agenda. Second Roy Jones Jr. Discussion. Question. Carried.

### Adoption of Minutes July 21, 2008:

**MOTION: 13-01-09(02pmtg)** moved Wayne Wilson that the minutes of the July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 public meeting are adopted. Second Paula Lawson. Discussion: Question. Carried.

**Action Items:** Trent Moraes reported any requests to be put in writing, most people tend to phone my office, writing leaves a paper trail, would like to ask again, that you put any requests in writing. Drug dealers and the issue to evict them, that issue still hasn't come into play, SBC not prepared to do this at this time, there's a lot of issues around this, does that mean convicted drug dealers, known drug dealers. James Cowpar added we live in a small community, we know who they are, when we're renting units in Skidegate the priority is families, if you're single and you are dealing drugs, obviously you're on the bottom of the pile. We as a community need to get tough on this.

Diane Brown stated your policy is "anyone known to be dealing drugs will be asked to get out", why have it in your policy if your not going to do anything about it. We rented in the senior's for ten months there was a known dealer in there. The housing committee put this in many years ago, now is the time to enforce it. Your being a horrible example to your children, there's young people dying from drugs, it's not that huge a thing, but it will show this community that we're going to get tough, it's a policy and you should enforce it. James Cowpar replied we understand, it's important as members of this community we all work collaboratively. We have families, we have to protect our own, I played a role in the housing committee, in tackling the drug issues, it's addictions as well. As it stands now, we'll continue to stay firm and as your leadership, you keep demanding it will force us on the issue of drugs in Skidegate.

Trevor Valentinsen stated this is a really important issue, the SBC is a drug dealer, alcohol is a drug, Striker's is one of the main places to get drugs. How do we address the drug issue, it's a sickness, a disease, we have to talk about what is the cause. Striker's could have been a hotel, turn it into something we all want. James Cowpar replied the building known as Strikers has been sold.

Pat Gellerman stated she sees this situation that were in financially, is not good and it's not good anywhere, this Council is really trying hard to get us on a better road here, also I'm one of the ones that really feel bad about the drug problem in our community. I read the Observer and see the Village of Massett has come together as a community, I can see that working in Massett, they are all really working hard as a community. There's other ways to look at this like Massett, seems to be working for them. James Cowpar replied it is an island wide commitment,

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Skidegate is participating and are committed to playing a role with our neighbours, we share the same sentiment with QC, in regards to our youth and drug problems we face.

Roy Jones Jr. just wanted to give a couple of examples, watch the news, in our community we've lost some of our own people to drugs, time for drastic measures, and for our leadership to deal with this, at Ahousat they moved their bootleggers and drug dealers out of their community, when they changed their ways, they went to pick them up, and welcomed them. They removed a whole family. Drugs murder our children, drug dealers murder our children. Had problem in our family, we have to start taking drastic measures.

David Crosby stated the drug dealers have to be dealt with through the public, not SBC, what's the matter with the RCMP, we all have to stand up. The dance last weekend, some of guys ganged up on white guys, one of them was medivaced out. We have to start dealing with this now as a community.

Jenny Cross stated regarding the drugs, it's up to the families of the drug dealers to make that step forward to turn their families in, I agree it's up to the community as well. Years ago they we're very strict in our village, maybe we should start posting drug dealers names and make them known. Jenny Cross spoke about her nephew having problems with drugs and alcohol, ashamed of what he does after the fact. He nephew broke into his grandparents house, they are no longer here, wasn't a good feeling to see what was done, it was a tough call to make to the RCMP, to turn him in, who else but us, his family can help him with his problems. We charged him because he was trying to support his alcohol and drug habit, he is at Prince George in jail. Jenny Cross talked to him and told him we have to do this, you are accountable for what you have done, anything we do, we're accountable to ourselves and our Creator. When we go before him he knows what we have done. It's just something to think about, as families of drug dealers in the village turn your families in. James Cowpar we'll move forward and by end of night we will come up with date to address these issues. Would like a show of hands with respect our relationship to RCMP and developing a plan to deal with drugs, would you like an action plan to deal with these issues, guide us and we'll deliver.

**Finances:** Tanu Lusignan reported our plan is to do in two phases, the finance director to present the finances, and then we'll go into the written summary report which is a written action plan, summarizes all the key points we felt the community needed to see.

Sue Wood explained the first page is the audit report of the Skidegate Band Council, its normal and on every audit, the statement from the auditor stating he has audited the finances of the Skidegate Band Council. Our fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year. The audit was conducted using Canadian General accepted rules, it has sets of rules that they must follow to ensure all audits are following certain guidelines. This was signed by Carlyle Shepherd. The first part is the balance sheet, the assets is what we own, when you look at the balance sheet the first year, Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 2007, \$1,313,427 and for 2008 nothing there, restricted accounts receivable is what is owed to the Band that was \$2,465,927, this was money outstanding from INAC, Health Canada and other funding sources, but 1.8 million was funds we used for the construction of the Kaay project, housing inventory, we had houses that were built this year, they were evaluated at \$223,802. The notes are on the back pages, it is explained in

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more detail there. Property and equipment is what the Band owned at Mar 31st, the total assets was \$3,187,115, when you add up your assets, if everyone paid their bills that's what we would have, property and equipment is all the lands that Skidegate owns, roads, community and rec halls, everything that we own, \$30,412,256, we are a very rich Band, but we have to start getting our money flowing, we have trust funds which are held at Ottawa in the amount of \$546,549, this is revenue funds and capital funds, held in Ottawa on behalf of the Band. We had accessed these a few years ago to help pay for some of the deficits.

Gary Russ asked is that trust fund at the discretion of Council, before it was through the public. Sue Wood replied Council could by their choice get a referendum, before you did have to have a referendum, Council can make a decision with a quorum of Council and they can expend the revenue funds. Sue Wood added Council meetings are open except when the meeting is in camera. Liabilities are what we owe, to bank loans, accounts payable and accruals, long term debt, what is meant is what bills, loans we are expected to pay in a reasonable length of time, e.g. we have \$1,503,382 loan but we're required to pay in 10 years, replacement reserve is funds held for all social housing projects, we have to put this money in here each year, so if there are any major renovations, e.g. new roof, plumbing. Prior to last year, you had to apply to CMHC but now if the housing coordinator finds that these are happening now, he can access these funds, so we can renovate. Equity what we actually own, we have operating funds, deficit of \$951,598 and restricted deficit of \$1,847,172, social housing \$1,309,000, equity note 9. The total equity of \$30,664,260, when you determine the health of a business, you have to take the total of your assets and subtract your liabilities and the difference is the equity and that's your health. E.g. \$5 in assets, \$3 liabilities you'll have \$2 in equity. Consolidated Statement of Revenue and Expenditures states where we received revenues, we received from INAC \$6,579,467 as core funding, also are NOVA's, we also got funding for other housing projects.

Ruth Gladstone-Davies asked why is there a \$3 million difference between 2007-08. Sue Wood explained because we received money from INAC for Kaay. Out of the Parks budget of \$365,476, \$320,000 is the Haida Gwaii Watchmen budget. We received \$108,113 interest on our funds in the bank, total amount of revenue for the Band was \$11,167,657. The expenditures 1-is the money that SBC advance to Kaay, 2-everything that happened within the Band for advertising, Sue Wood read out the list of expenditures. Allowance is a cumulative total from the last 15-20 years of those debts that have been determined non-collectable, e.g. rent from a person that has left the community and never coming back. Contract services would be all contracts that have happened within the Band e.g. someone clearing the snow, or working at Swan Bay, all the activities in the Band. Insurance for everything the Band owns. Materials for the Band and Kaay, office supplies is not just the Band office, includes the Health Center, professional fees could be surveyors. When you look at the bottom line our expenditures we were \$3,376,303 in the hole, the total closing deficit for the Band was \$2,798,770.

Tom Greene stated he was hearing stories about big bills for people out catching halibut, where would this be. Sue Wood replied we have the schedules for these, each one of the items on the statement, there are schedules, all of these schedules are available to public if they go to the Band office and request them. The expenditures you were talking about would have been under schedule one.

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Trevor Valentinsen asked about the Christmas bonuses, is it no longer there. Sue Wood replied Council hasn't had a bonus in a few years.

David Martynuik asked what is the deficit today, the fiscal year ended March 31<sup>st</sup>. Sue Wood replied when we have another meeting next week, we could provide, I can't remember, I've been really busy today. David Martynuik replied someone must know. Tanu Lusignan stated our goal is to be debt free by March 31, 2010, we've eliminated a possible \$1.7 million. Willard Wilson added when we look at the question you ask, at the end of year we were \$3.3 m in debt, \$1.9 for Kaay and \$1.4 for other budgets and to date we have identified. We started shortly after our new Council got elected, we are saving \$1,757,567. We took \$75,000 and put that in our housing, a lot of people in our village needed some emergencies, e.g. ramps. By end of fiscal year we'll be close to breaking even, we don't have to do this until the end of our CFNFA, that's from the sale of assets, from tightening up, we've looked at every component of our projects, by end of this fiscal year we should be close to break even, right now we have \$1,200,000 in the bank, and we have other government agencies that owe us money, and money from INAC like medical services. We started talking to them last Oct. they owed us over half million dollars we didn't get until six months later, in January we'll be close, and we have 2.5 months to go yet. Medical services is one of the ones that owe us money. In 10 weeks we should be close to break even, but our RMP committee realized we don't have to do this by end of March we have one more year to go. We have \$1.9 million in the bank right now.

Gary Russ asked the budget for Chief and Council does it include travel. (couldn't hear) Willard Wilson replied previously we haven't charged any Councillors to any project, we have to do that now, at the end of the year, it looks like we're in debt, two or three years ago, we got \$16 million for our community and we didn't charge the project where we got the extra money, so that's what we will be doing now.

Rose Russ added she doesn't usually go on a trip unless it is reimbursable, and uses her own points, Council also bought tickets that cost \$400 return, there's no way I could spend \$75,000 per year. I don't travel that much, e.g. if I travel on behalf of Bill Reid Foundation, they would pay. Gary Russ asked do you receive an honorarium and travel cheque. Rose Russ yes it adds up to \$4000 for the last ten months. Rachel West (**couldn't hear**).

Pat Gellerman stated we have all the services in our community, we have everything in our community, in the past we had Council keeping the sidewalks clean, it's time, if your well, and have nothing to do, people should start volunteering to do things like that. Last summer Mary and Sonny Russ volunteered to cut the grass in the cemetery, that's a wonderful thing to do, and you feel good doing something. We need to help, this is our community, a little bit of volunteering is good for our community. I'm grateful for all the stuff we have. We as community should try to help by volunteering and get some of the things done that we used to, thanks to Philip Gladstone for keeping the roads all clear. I'm thinking about the next snow fall.

Willard Wilson stated Council spoke about what was owed to the Band, many years, we used to have it as if you owed the SBC any money, you could work it off. A close friend of our family, was two days late with her rent at Vancouver, they were at Metrotown, few hours later all her stuff was on the sidewalk, we have to figure this out together, in housing rental arrears, we find it

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very difficult to do that. Our membership owed over \$250,000 in arrears, it's very difficult to do this here, we're not in Vancouver, we're all related, we have a hard time to think about doing that to anyone, but when it gets up to that amount of money, and very difficult for our housing coordinator when our people owe that amount of money.

Ed Russ stated for the volunteering, would like to publicly thank Mary and Sonny Russ for working on the graveyard and thank Phil Gladstone for countless hours of cleaning up and making sure our roads are safe, thank you guys very much, I know there are a lot more people that need to be thanked, I do thank you on behalf of SBC for everything you do for our community.

Break at 8:43 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.

Ed Russ stated to start the second half of this meeting Sue Wood will finish her presentation. Sue Wood continued the closing deficit of \$2,719,770 this is evidence by the following statement of revenue expenditures is a statement of consolidated revenue and expenditures of the Band, what we spent it on, opening amounts, e.g. roads/bridges, youth programs, on the fifth page, there's all the schedules can get from the Band office, the end the closing deficit is \$27,987,770, from there Council is going on the RMP, how the Band is going to find a remedy for this, to make it successful we need total commitment from community, Council and staff and to make it work we all have to work together.

Tanu Lusignan explained the way we'll go over the RMP is Robert Williams will go over the RMP, Tanu Lusignan will go through the causes and James Cowpar will go through the remedy.

Shelly Williams wanted to speak about what Tom Greene asked about, under expenditures under "Other" we have that much to spend on social, we have to spend carefully, so not enough we have to piggy back with other agencies, troublesome to see the "other: the same amount as the budget for our social programs.

Wayne Wilson asked if the expenditures could be explained for the budget "other" \$599,000 (can't hear). Travel \$355,000 can you explain that, what that is. Tanu Lusignan explained that would be staff travel. Sue Wood added Council expenditures are itemized under Council only, the other travel would be for all of Band staff, we have about 100 staff members, Band staff go to training workshops around the province, this was the cost of travel and hotel.

Roy Jones Jr commends Sue Wood on her work, I look at the budgets and a lot of people bad mouth our Council because of the debt, being business minded and owning a lot of businesses, I don't really see this debt as a problem, it's something that has to be managed. Was always concerned when I see job time lost in our community because it affects our economy, even in our fishing industry, collapsed, fishing, logging collapsed, debt is really around \$9 million, I don't see a serious problem with it, you as Council look for opportunities for our people to ensure some kind of independence for our people, Haida and non-Haida people are leaving our islands. This is getting critical. Having gone to Newfoundland, for meetings, we're a different kind of people, we want to be home, it's hard to be away from home, we have to look to our community leaders on how we're going to change that. It's hard watching what's going on. One of the most

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hardest things I encountered among our people, are family members leaving, they had to leave for jobs. There's other issues too, what's happening in our world today, news, Vancouver's \$800 million deficit, the new mayor was looking at this objectively, that's what we have to do in our community. I'm really concerned of our SVFD, budget cuts in that area, one of the most disturbing trends in our community, four or five of us at meetings regularly, this affects every community member that owns a house, we have insurance, if insurance company wanted to do something about our fire protection, we're in trouble, our insurance would go up. There's a lot of concern about that. When you were running for Council you said you'd be there. We're trying to protect every home in Skidegate. Fire alarm went off at Kaay, firemen phoned to see if there was a fire up there, they should have just responded, we need that fire protection in our community. Urging all able bodied men and women to come forward, it's your homes, if you're not able to do any of the work, take a list to have by your phone, can call people, we need traffic control, safety officers, its about everything that's attached to that fire department. In these economic times if you lose your home you'll never replace your home. Our times changed where we have to pay for everything, we don't have the economy to support those new things. I commend you guys for what you have to do. If anyone is going to open a business be careful. I want our community to think about your homes and fire protection, SVFD needs our support.

Ruth Gladstone-Davies wanted to commend Council for what you're doing, I know many of you got votes based on your platform, your working very hard to fulfill your platforms. The deficit is huge and scary, but the public understands the deficit has incurred over the last many, many years. I see you working towards accountability structures where some of the deficits were specific, the contracts from 2007 were higher than 2008, from 1.5 to 7.5 in 2007, wanted to highlight that. I also want to have public aware a lot of the budgets were negotiated years ago and a lot of the yearly allowance hasn't changed, the budgets are horribly sad, some are the same as from 1990 and the population has increased, we see you working on the deficits. I don't have to be answerable for my opinions after 4:30 p.m. I have opinions about drug dealers, hereditary leadership and clan involvement would like to see Council working with hereditary leadership and each clan can work with Council in a way that's respectful. Some people have chosen not to take drugs, there's headway there. For the schedules, if someone had a question about the breakdown maybe you could have it on the power point, so we could see the breakdowns, maybe at the next meeting.

Guujaaw stated what you've shown us is the financial statement up to when you came into office, everyone came here to see where we're at now, everyone quite curious on how those debts came to be and wanted to see that level of detail. We appreciate that your there and knew what your getting into and you're all working hard to try get us out of this trouble. A young man in Massett, was into drugs, skinny as a rat, and living as a rat, stealing from everyone, finally got arrested, he went to jail, he put a letter in the Observer, when he first went into jail he apologized to everyone, last week he was at the basketball tournament and he visited everyone he felt he done wrong and apologized, he's in real good health. In Massett they took a heavy stand, they don't want drug dealers on the basketball teams, that's what they are doing there. We can't expect Band Council to do everything about the drugs, it has to be all of us, organizations and families. Some strangers came in here and they got beat up, wasn't just a fist fight, they were getting kicked while they were down, that's not the first time, that doesn't happen in many communities anymore. Happened a couple of years ago, happened to a man from Sandspit, it

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would be a good lesson to suspend any dances in this hall, if the level of violence is too high, someone is going to get killed here. Everyone knows who's responsible, people will look at those as to why there won't be anymore dances here. It's a scary violent place. That's something you can do now, no more dances until no more violence. Thank you guys for the work your doing. Rose Russ replied I wish we could suspend the people that fight, but I do like to dance. Ed Russ explained the Masters host the Boxing Day dance every year, and there was no fights, we do keep a security detail, we have volunteers at the door and we don't allow that to happen in this building, things escalate and carry on outside, not all dances are bad dances. Things that happen in 10 minutes could ruin our reputation, not all dances are bad, people like to come out to enjoy themselves.

Robert Williams gave a brief introduction explaining what a remedial management plan is, this is a contract between Indian Affairs and the Skidegate Band Council, based on our most recent audit which demonstrated the Skidegate Band Council was at a -8% deficit, which means the Band has to enter into a RMP or third party. Council has been working with Paul Daniel, on the RMP who has worked with Gwaii Trust and Kaay. 3<sup>rd</sup> party is INAC comes in and takes over Band Council operations and terminates everyone's employment keeping a skeleton crew of 3-4 people until debt is wiped out, the Band Council is reinstated under strict rules. The RMP is the Band Council has full control over, and designed to eliminate debts, primary objective is to outline areas of weakness in Band operations, policy and procedure, financial management and Band management, also outlines solutions to the weaknesses. Solutions to the weaknesses generally include stricter policy and procedures in areas of finance, we have implemented regular controls e.g. Band credit card, purchase orders. We have eliminated the culture as Council as a dictatorship, we've made a move to empower management, Council has to best of our abilities, stuck to our department head recommendations. Along with policy and procedure we've also implemented other cost measures, Band Council operations have been cut down to four days per week, should point out 4 day week solution was not dictated to Band Council staff, it was an agreement by consensus made with department heads and participating Band staff. Trevor Valentinsen asked did Council volunteer to cut their time. Robert Williams explained currently we work five days and get paid for four and no longer have banked time.

**Causes for default:** The RMP document summarizes, one of primary reasons was overpayments related to contracts and various other projects, poor cash management, e.g. purchase orders and Band credit cards, there were also numerous cash advances, Chief and Council were not accountable to the community, Council shown little growth in economic development. Another primary indicator for our current insolvency is lack of understanding of financial statements, e.g. past financial statements indicated quite clearly heading for deficit, Council did not implement measures to fix this.

Trevor Valentinsen asked who was responsible for this. Robert Williams replied Chief and Council was responsible for taking this direction. With the Heritage Center a large portion of the deficit interlinked to the operations, no clear direction of leadership, business plan was fragmented almost nonexistent, fictitious numbers used to access funds for construction, no real business plans, therefore with no business plan you have no clear direction. Endowment initiatives lack of accountability, we are currently pursuing endowment initiatives, this was a key issue with Kaay to ensure it can operate on its own and separate from SBC business. Housing-

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there is a serious need to reconcile housing records with finance records, right now they are quite different, different amounts owing, many clients are not paying rent. With the capital funds that were targeting towards housing were spent in other areas, INAC refers to this as the freeze list. O&M was allowed to grow and INAC funding agreements did not address this. Education-moneys allocated to students were not strictly adhered to this has a great impact on students attending school today, and was really handicapped. Some students are receiving extra money while others were forced to remain strictly within the budget, some students were funded programs which INAC does not cover, primarily trades, this is all in the RMP. Council especially education portfolios had made a commitment to stick with recommendations of the education committee, this will allow a greater number of student to attend school.

**Corrective Actions Taken:** James Cowpar reported improving financial management, reporting and procedural controls, e.g. if you're not going to do your job, we'll find someone who will, we have all the procedural controls. Council operations under the RMP we have the finance committee, Remi Levesque, Tanu Lusignan, Robert Williams, and James Cowpar, with the Chief or deputy. We have monthly targets to meet, we have to report and adhere to the reports, ongoing financial planning and management. We will have a plan in place if we go on lobby trips, and it's measurable, management of related entities, e.g. Kaay, yes we have a deficit at Kaay, but its saleable, we have a saleable product. We have to market to our communities both on and off islands. With GNC we went to a strategic planning session, we acquired Mel Woolley, we're going to let our corporation act like a corporation, Council will not intervene where the board will make the decisions, we all own it and all have responsibilities. We'll have another public meeting to address economic development. We're working with CHN on other economic development initiatives and to address the economic development concerns of our island. We're staying focused, we welcome the challenge. Staff management has Council taken a cut, no, we're in review, under the RMP we're also liable. We will go on trips that are reimbursable; we will know ahead of time what our plan of action is. We've developed new guidelines with respect to travel, will be booked ahead of time. With job descriptions we're going to run this like a business, and we're going to profit, job descriptions pertaining to our administration, we are looking at salaries. We're identifying what we need first and foremost, performance measurement and evaluation. It's our right and responsibility to answer your questions, we need change, it's working toward the positive, before we get to the positive we'll go through negative, we task our managers to deliver, there's targets and deadlines. After that follows improving financial management and procedural controls, if we stick to this we will be debt free by 2010. Being debt mode, we have freed up opportunity to correct our deficits and mismanagement and go from there. Program managers will have to be involved in their budget monitoring. We did ask are we elected managers or Council, we did swear we would not micromanage. Council will be more involved in portfolio management. Staffing has been reduced to a four day week, Council will target reimbursable travel, new policies have been implemented for credit card use, purchase orders will be monitored. The community has recognized new leadership, we're committed, but we'll keep our mind to you for your support to implement what we have to. Policy and procedures were worked on, simple we follow the rules were honest and accountable, decision requires quorum of Council. We have a member of our community revamping our website, we will put names on our website. Portfolio holders will be accountable for their portfolios, I'll do my best, honoraria for banked days has been eliminated. We're running about \$700,000 debt, where does that come from, we will make moves to remedy

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Council expenditures, these things take time and we're doing our best as you're Council. I thank our administration for their dedication to work four days a week, but until we're out of this, we'll walk the talk as well. Economic development we're working hard with CHN, we're asking those tough questions, and we're coming to those meetings with plans in place. The shellfish is one, working with Turning Point and working with OMVC and CHN. It's something we're looking at, there's opportunities for Kaay working with Old Massett and CHN there are opportunities that will help out. Logging initiatives, local energy initiatives, we have a new tenant in our commercial center, they are looking to hire a manager, encourage you to look into it. Education/training, this is key, in talking with Old Massett, their budget is \$1.5 million, ours is \$475,000, that's a thorn in our side, we'd like to see that increased. We're also seeking opportunities on island, we're working with Min of Forests, we've entered into agreements with NWCC, we're going to try to get opportunities here on island. Hiring of economic development officer, we've exercised the idea, consensus of Council to hire economic development officer to distinguish the role of our present manager. We hire a savvy person to come up with ideas and go out to look for the businesses, there's potential for training dollars. Council will receive basic training in reading financial statements, communication to the community will be followed, we do have a date which the Chief will announce, will be next week. It's something we have to commit to, we as a community. Third party is the next step, we don't want that, work with us hold us accountable, ask us those questions, that's what we're here for. We're one family we live under one roof, that's the community of Skidegate, remember one thing we all live together.

Tanu Lusignan stated Kaay is a huge deficit for our community, we have to be able to separate Council from Kaay. In Sept we've enacted an interim board, includes members of SBC, community members, with Miles Richardson, which we are designing a new structure which will be hands free from Council. We also identified by INAC and the ministers of the province we have to continue lobbying so we could set up an endowment so we can continue to operate Kaay. We have to make deli operational, work towards getting the gift shop running, get training, we're thinking about going after SNDS, we should be getting money from them, we've received minimal amount of money from them, we flagged that as we pursue this.

Housing-policy and procedures: We have \$230,000 in rental arrears, but that figure is going down, people are working on paying off their debt, we encourage the rest of the community to start paying their arrears, Old Massett set up 10 year repayment plans. Housing sales we've been doing we have to use to cover our capital costs, we have to redirect this to housing, a lot of money targeted for housing was not spent in housing. We're actively going after accounts receivables, e.g. final reports to Gwaii Trust to get monies back. We're being accountable we're also holding Indian Affairs accountable, we met with Indian Affairs they were very impressed with what they see, we're holding them accountable. Our snow removal has gone up, INAC has not given enough money, but we proved to them and got that money. We realized we are in debt mode, and we have to sell our assets, we sold houses, our boats, possibly some of our vehicles, and sale of bowling alley. Education has a firm commitment that we have to revamp the post secondary policies, money not meant to pay for everything. There were inconsistent policies, we don't want to burden students. We received notice from Janna Wilson that she won't return, won't continue with her position when she returns from her maternity leave. Right now we are looking at reopening for rehire, in next month or so. This RMP, will be posted on our website, it

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is a public document, may also come to Band office to look at it, you'll be able to get financial info on Internet as well as updates on our portfolios.

Roy Jones Jr was pleased with direction you are taking right now, pleased you are standing together, his daughter works at Kaay, pleased with working there. I go to Kaay because it's out my back door. I really want to see our employees at Kaay be more professional, maybe uniforms, we're trying to sell our culture. I spent time in Hawaii, our family went to a Luau it cost over \$1000, we have to create our culture to create revenue. The way Kaay is now is an investment for the rest of our community, our community has gone a long way out, people call it a white elephant. I talk to the lodges and tell them their terms are coming to an end. Talk with the Hereditary Chiefs, in the north, talked about university of Haida Gwaii, cultural studies, oceans, botanical gardens, there's so much here, these things could all be generated here, start educating our people at home. WCR researched a lot of that stuff, there's a lot of opportunities that have to be researched. Like the way you've presented yourself. Today guys that lived off the ocean are struggling now, individuals trying to create opportunities for our people, time for Council to step out and support these individuals. In order to change economics in our community as a Council you have to step up. I wrote a letter in support of Lenard Brillon, when I worked on Raven Center it was an uphill battle all the way, when I wrote that letter, I said nothing has changed. We need those opportunities. These are things that you have to look at. I want to congratulate and hope you follow through, stand behind what you put in front of us.

Trevor Valentinsen asked what was the trust fund five years ago, what was it ten years ago, what is that money for, credit card reform, we've heard different amounts, can public look at the expenditures, who purchased and how much, are we going to get a list of all expenditure and who used it. Willard Wilson replied 16 months ago I turned in the credit card, when it's appropriate will bring it forward, only other two credit cards, Lauren Brown has one for the Health Center and one at Kaay. In regards to the trust fund, we rarely ever touch that, before we touch that we bring it to a public forum, we don't want to touch that, even if we're in the deficit, it's everybody's money.

Shelly Williams stated thank you for the presentation, it was really good, even though we find ourselves in this situation, it's almost a blessing. For financial controls there was indication we were going to be in trouble, does finance administrator have signing authority for all the cheques, who knows more about this than the financial administrator. Reporting and accountable on travel, we have committees, and we have managers, if there was program reports every month, when I was on CHN, I was on policy, at CHN if no reports, can't attend meetings, a lot of information on websites. Regarding the housing committee heard a comment, taking program manager's recommendations, beg to differ, last Council made a commitment to host a community forum to address housing arrears, Thank you for your work I'm impressed on how your handling this.

Barb Wilson stated thank you to Council, some of the things I came here about was looking at the kind of funding for people that go off island on medical, my dad has to go twice per year, when he goes the money is very tight. We need to look at how much money we give to our people, the costs are a lot higher at Vancouver, we need to be more respectful of our people, and give them more money, and give them a place where they will be comfortable and where they

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will feel safe. Education-because they are our future, we need to be very respectful of them, I know our young people need to learn responsibility of money, we should be a little more supportive. Drugs and dances-we need to give notice to drug dealers ask them to stay away from anything, basketball games, anything that our young people are involved with, if you need I'll be available to help you. Education-our language needs to be looked after, I've spoken at CHN, wherever we can we need to be there, at the class too. Some days just my dad there, we all should be attempting to save this language together, its part of our culture. Howa, we elected you to do a job, you're doing a great start.

Willard Wilson replied what we're going to be doing, we've scheduled another public meeting, to address the social, health and economic issues, Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 7-10pm.

Willard Wilson continued we wanted to tell you the superintendent of the Fraser River Pile came to see me this afternoon to talk to me about the fight that happened here last Saturday night. He told me a number of people from Skidegate went to see them on their work site, the four individuals that got beaten up, the four individuals decided to press charges, that's what they will be doing. I told them our Council spent over \$26m on our cultural center at Second Beach, all that is about is people coming to visit us. If people come to visit us, that makes our cultural center that much more viable, if people don't come, we cannot support that by ourselves, what we've been doing is telling people to come and visit us. We will have more to do in our cultural center in our second season. I told them we want people to come and visit us, and not come and get into a fight and end up in the hospital.

Our council traveled since Sept, only three that went on reimbursable trips, but what we have to do, our Council has always been good at getting money, what we will be doing, and hopefully we can do it by other means than travelling. I know of half a dozen people that don't have fuel for their furnaces, and don't have food, I cannot help them and our social development has rules they have to go by. It makes me sad people don't have fuel for their stove, it's been cold, our social development know how many people are going without heat and food, surely we can do something about this if we can get the money. Any money that we get, and we got a commitment form INAC for \$300,000, we have to make sure we leave as much as we can for our local economy. It worries me when told of Band members without heat and food.

What were going to be doing at Kaay with revenue generating areas before our second season, we must make our Kaay center generate more money in our operation in year two. Today and at end of March we had \$1.9 million in debt, on our Kaay center. We've negotiated a deal with the Royal Bank to pay back a loan over a 10 year period. We are \$1.4 million in debt in our O&M, one budget took up over 50% of our debt, that's our road maintenance, streetlights, water/sewer and garbage collection, that one item alone, accumulated over a 3 year period. Our Funding Service Officer (FSO), because we're in a CFNFA agreement, told us to leave that debt, he'd help us with that debt. I hope before the end of the fiscal year, if they help us for one year, they'll help us for the other 2 years, which is equivalent to approximately \$300,000 that would bring our total debt down dramatically, because we negotiated the deal. Hopefully by the end of this fiscal year with the cooperation of INAC we'll be close to a zero balance in the \$1.4 in our O&M. Also wanted to tell you our Haida language program has priority with our Council, we have a big village and we recently met with Diane Brown and Kevin Borsario and we hope we

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could have more people attending. Our roe and kelp season, for three/four years we didn't do it because we didn't want to start with a deficit, this year our roe and kelp will be operating. We put our name in the lottery and our name was the first one picked. We are negotiating with a number of captains. I didn't really know how we would get out of a \$3.3 million debt, with these young guys I'm working with, it's not going to be long before we're out of debt. We'll be close to zero balance in 10 weeks, close to it by end of 2009.

Gladys Gladstone stated thank you for all your reporting and being up front of your reporting, people in Skidegate are aware of what's going on, over the years we've been given non-answers. Can see that you are working really hard on fixing this situation. Have one concern, our money is so short, concern of number of people that have transferred to our Band, I know Bill C31 increased our numbers, now I see a lot of people transferring to our Band, the work is not here. Our Band doesn't have a lot of money, these people that transfer are using our housing, education, medical dollars, I know the extra people is supposed to bring in extra money, but this isn't balanced. Our housing is at a minimum. 30-40 years ago our own people couldn't live in Skidegate, now Skidegate's wide open, I'm beginning think we're almost a minority now, hope you really think about this, other Bands don't allow this so easily. Glad to hear your thinking positively for the students, they need help and not be discouraged. Thanks you for being up front.

Rob Gorcak stated I was a lost young man at Vancouver until Tuddles found me and brought me home, I fell in love with Haida Gwaii, I almost lost her in '92 and I went to jail, I'm sorry for the wrong I done in my life, I can't take it back, in fear of losing her, my fear instilled anger. I probably hurt a lot of people's feelings, I'm sorry, after she was gone, I got more angry, I come home I say howa to my family and this community for welcoming me, I'm at peace, I love it here, I'm going to transfer my status here, I don't want anything, I could be of some use, here today to offer my services. Will work hard at it. Howa. Ed Russ replied thank you Rob Gorcak, the services you provide are appreciated.

Jenny Cross had a couple suggestions for next week's meeting, congratulate new Council for new direction taking for our community, they are trying to turn around the direction. My Dad was proud of the new Council, he got to see that before he passed away, he would be very proud of them in their commitment. Post secondary-I have a son in Nanaimo, I had concern about their travel, they get \$1200 per year, they only get these payments in three, which is not sufficient for an airline ticket, even booking a month ahead, I questioned it. I understood post secondary students get funding four times per year that was my email concern. I thank you for emailing me back. Didn't get answer for the second portion of my email, which was the high cost of text books and supplies, my son is still searching for an apartment, that is very stressful for him and us, when he's trying to get an education. That was one area that a lot of people are wanting to see happen, a lot of our people want to see change in education, would like to see that travel issue be the number one revamped. Would like to see copies of the RMP at the next meeting, we would like to see, let us know who is on the education, housing committee members, what Councillors take part in the each portfolios, good thing to get updated on. Thank you for putting meeting on Monday instead of Tuesday, tonight is my dance practice night, kids signed petitions please don't rent hall out, this is our culture.

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Roy Jones Jr wanted to talk about an experience I went through, medical travel, few years ago, I had to go to Terrace for medical, going on medical travel again, don't know if I will be here on Monday, might medivac dad down. I went to Terrace, they put tube down, they released me, I was very drugged up, got in the taxi, rather simple procedure, I was alone, your process for medical travel has to be reviewed, people going out, should be reviewed on whether they need an escort or not. I wasn't functional, it creates a real serious problem, one subject that should be looked at is medical, who will take responsibility if anything happens to anyone, there's a liability issue. The doctor recommended an escort for Dad, will be Mom, but she's an elder. Suggestion to have people on payroll to look after these people. I've been thinking about this since I read your guidelines for medical travel. Congratulations, hope you can show us a minimal amount of debt by 2010.

Gord Russ stated a few years ago, when I was running the Haida Provider, when my grandson got sick, was meaning to thank you for the help, many people helped. Whenever there's a new venture down in the village here, Council pays \$10, how about raising the wage to \$15.00. Read a note, about a healthy vital society. Thank you.

Willard Wilson thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Philip Gladstone if meeting is next Monday, I can't go to language school if meeting is on Monday. Willard Wilson thanked Philip Gladstone for all the work he does around our community and for all the work that you do. Thank you, Howa.

Trevor Valentinsen asked with the block of airline tickets, can students use this also, you know every year there are students that will travel. Willard Wilson, don't think our Council will say no to that, those tickets are a lot better than paying \$600 per ticket.

Willard Wilson stated thank you and thank our young Council. Barbara Stevens is in Hawaii on one of our courses, Barbara Stevens is our longest term employee that we have, 36 plus years, show our appreciation to Barbara Stevens as our Band manager. Told Barbara Stevens you have to get your healing center built, table it with our Council so it will become a reality, Health Canada is coming into a lot of money.

Gord Russ added your doing a good job.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m. by Willard Wilson.

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**Action Items:**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>DONE ON</b>
Drugs dealers-to be dealt through the public and with RCMP, not just SBC		
Schedules for budget items available at Band Office for public		
Community should try to help and volunteer, get things done like we used to		
Urging all able bodied men and women to come forward and join the fire dept.		
Would like to see Council working with the Hereditary leadership and clans		
Suggestion to have schedules on power point so we could see the breakdowns		
Suggestion to suspend dances until no more violence		
Council will receive basic training in reading financial statements		
Council needs to make deli and gift shop operational (at Kaay)		
Get training for Kaay (deli and gift shop) from SNDS		
Encourage people to start paying their rent arrears		
Education Coordinator-look at reopening this position for rehire in next month or so		
RMP will be posted on SBC website and is available at the Band Office		
Financial info will be available on website and updates on portfolios		
Suggestion that staff at Kaay have uniforms, more professional		
Can public look at credit card information, get a list of all expenditures		
Medical-need to look at how much money we give to our people, give them a place to stay where they will be comfortable		
All community members should be attending Haida language, that's our culture		
Request that SBC look at the Band transfers, other Bands don't allow this so easily		
Education-high cost of text books and supplies-to be looked into?		
Education-travel budgets not enough?		

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Medical-who will take responsibility if anything happens to someone (with no escort)		
Suggestion to have people on payroll to look after people on medical		
Education: can students use the books of tickets which Council purchases?		