

SBC Public Meeting-June 7, 2011

SBC public meeting June 7th, 2011

Those present;

- 1) James Cowpar, Councillor
- 2) Duane Alsop, Councillor
- 3) Robert Williams, Councillor
- 4) Godfrey Williams, Councillor
- 5) Robert Mills, Chief Councillor
- 6) Billy Yovanovich, Councillor

Those absent;

1. Willard Wilson
2. David Crosby

Minutes taken by Bonnie Jones.

Members of the Public

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|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Sue Wood | 9) Lynndale George | 17) Susan Gladstone |
| 2) Lisa Kendall | 10) Ruth Gladstone Davies | 18) Vanessa Whiteknife |
| 3) Wally Pollard | 11) Phillip Gladstone | 19) Betty Richardson |
| 4) Ooka, Michelle Pineault | 12) Shelley Gladstone | 20) Lonnie Young |
| 5) Herb George | 13) Kathy Williams | 21) Pat Gellerman |
| 6) Mic Williams | 14) Leora McIntyre | 22) Bev Yovanovich |
| 7) Lauren Brown | 15) Vi Husband | 23) Lisa Dignard |
| 8) Barb Robichaud | 16) Tyler Crosby | |

Chief Councillor Mills: What we are doing is waiting; we have a new policy for public meetings to have 40 members in line with CHN.

Shelley Gladstone: Can we change the quorum? CHN has 5000 members.

Chief Councillor Mills: With staff we have 20 members here.

Susan Gladstone: It is the responsibility of members to come.

Chief Councillor Mills: If we go forward – and with small numbers – the community is mad at us.

Susan Gladstone: It is up to the community to come forward, damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Chief Councillor Mills: Our community wants us to go ahead. Betty Richardson, can you do the opening prayer?

[Betty Richardson opened with a prayer at 7:40 pm. There were no Minutes available from the last meeting; they will be presented at the next meeting. Council moved right into their "Activities" reports]

Councillor Robert Williams: Good evening all – thank you for coming out tonight and sharing your time with us. I want to begin with a brief update on the Band’s financial position. As we have indicated over the last year and a half, the tides of change have been turning and they have been turning in our favour. Some of you might recall this Council’s initial public meeting held last May. At that time, we reported to you that our FSO was happy with the progress made to date on the RMP and that we were in no imminent danger of entering into third party management. Now, fast-forward nine months to February 2011. At this time, myself and Band Administrator, Barbara Stevens, attended some INAC Finance Agreement Management Committee meetings and garnered a better glimpse into the fortunes of the Band. It was at these meetings that we learned that our block funding agreement has been extended for 5 more years, through to 2016, because under INAC’s new “General Assessment” standards Skidegate has been rated “low risk,” coming in at 16 points, with any score between 0-25 considered “low.” The General Assessment also had one major recommendation to the Band, and I quote:

“The Band is ranked low risk. However, the Band is currently focused on the viability of the Haida Heritage Centre. The legal separation is there but the Council still continues to support the entity [. . .] This has and will continue to put the Council and its programs at risk. If the Council continues to fund the Haida Heritage Centre and not pay some other program expenses the ranking will be affected [. . .] Thus the Council must ensure that they are working towards more economic independence of the Haida Heritage Centre and in the meantime balance their focus between this and the Band’s programs.”

Not surprisingly, our FSO recommended that Council seriously heed this recommendation and continue distancing itself from the Centre while at the same time finding ways to make it a viable independent entity without taking away from Band-funded programs. This recommendation, in my opinion, is one lingering aspect of many that Council will have to follow in the forthcoming years to ensure that the Band Council never slips, again, into Remedial Management status.

With that, you have all seen our news release, distributed in March, indicating that all SBC staff and Council have been returned to “full time” with our formal emergence from the RMP confirmed on March 8, 2011 by our FSO, David Seymour via e-mailed letter. The letter reads, in part: *“Our review indicates that as of March 31, 2011, your financial solvency ratio was negative 15.5% [. . .] However, we have received evidence that you have received a significant grant of \$1.67 million which the Council has used to pay the debt of the Heritage Centre that was the cause of this insolvency [. . .] In light of this we will not require a renewal of the RMP.”* In other words, the Skidegate Band Council has – after 3 years – emerged from the Remedial Management Plan and, recognizing the hard work and sacrifice of our staff, we agreed, last month, with a recommendation from our new Labour Management Committee to increase all non-union Band Council staff wages by 5% retroactive to April 1, 2011.

This emergence is obviously a cause for celebration, but it is also indicative of the amount of work yet to be done; namely, the measures the Band Council will implement or continue to follow that will keep the Band out of RMP in the future. As we noted in our news release, for instance, the Remedial Plan has proven to be a rich learning experience: Significant administrative overhead has been eliminated; Band Committees have been given a clear mandate and role within the Council’s governance structure; Council travel has been substantially reduced; and, perhaps most important, Council has begun developing positive working relationships with Program Managers, external partners and each other. These will no doubt have to continue if we are to be “prudent financial managers” throughout the rest of the year.

Now, I want to talk about some of these developing partnerships and visions, first, within a historical context. In 1913, Chief Councillor James Sterling described a time when the Haida Nation was “once the

rulers of the land and sea throughout this country.” We governed our own affairs and, concurrently, had a sustainable land and marine base to look out for the good of community in the form of a commonweal. For most of us, Sterling enunciates what was once a familiar scene. In the times he describes, Haida Gwaii was an untouched, unspoiled wilderness. No matter where you lived, you were touched by rainforests and could easily come across the prerequisite sustenance necessary for community.

In the many years that followed, when the colonial governments began visiting Haida Gwaii more frequently, the Haidas began getting decimated socially, politically, economically and physically. As Chief Sterling observed in 1913, the “thousands [were] reduced to hundreds” as smallpox and TB negatively impacted the population. Moreover, as the Dominion government carried its agenda forward, we were more or less silenced socially and politically. Again, Sterling’s words prove insightful: ““Most of our land, of former days, is gone forever from us [. . .] Our fishing and hunting grounds, our graveyards and woodlands, is all taken up by others.” He went on: “Our hearts have been made heavy [. . .] to see strangers come among us, stay a few days, put a stake in the ground and go away [. . .] We are more and more reminded that what we supposed was ours is paid in many cases to belong to men who never saw these islands.” Economically and politically, then, we were placed in a tough situation as we had little to no voice in the affairs of the imperial government and were placed on the reserves to be governed by the *Indian Act*.

Yet, amidst so much change (in every sense of that word), there were individuals who had the foresight to begin that dialogue to protect our precious natural resources and, indeed, our Islands in the most trying of times. That is part of the reason why the Band Councils engaged in a dialogue with the imperial governments in 1913, eloquently pointing out that “As far back as we can remember we can claim that the Islands fairly belong to us.” Indeed, dialogues such as these, as we are all aware, would eventually lead to the creation of the Council of the Haida Nation in 1974, which has as its primary mandate the protection of “Haida Gwaii and surrounding waters.” Through the work of that body, and the protests at Athlii Gwaii, we would eventually sign the *Gwaii Haanas Agreement* in 1993, which protects roughly 570 square miles of land and, in section 1.2 of that agreement, designates Gwaii Haanas as “one of the world’s great natural and cultural treasures.” Thus, the Haida Nation, inclusive of the Band Councils, will sustain their culture while at the same time “allowing for the enjoyment of visitors.” Our land thus becomes a historical agent, dramatizing the integration of cultural and ecological processes – a theoretical space through which place enters into the dialect of history.

In other words, conservation became not only important to us, but it became one of our greatest exports unto the world. That is why, for instance, the Band Council has begun focusing its economic lens on the tertiary sector and is looking to develop partnerships with entities that will see us maximize our potential within the natural tourism industry, for instance. Our Kaay Board portfolio holders, in conjunction with the GNC, are working hard on that and we hope to see a proper synthesis of the Heritage Centre with the “Ambitious House” – the economic arm of Band business – in the near future. The overall possibilities, when one thinks about it, are endless.

These days, though, our lives are only getting more complicated as we further entrench ourselves in that technological revolution that has come with globalization. We’re glued to our cell phones, iPads, and laptops for hours on end. We see our youth spending more and more time on the couch or computer and significantly less time outside. As Robert Putnam once put it, we are living in an age that lacks social capital and we are, in essence, “bowling alone.” Indeed, times are a far cry from those of our ancestors and even a far cry from the times of James Sterling or Councillor Amos Russ. At times like these, we have to sit down and ask ourselves: What can we do to break free of the same old routine and reconnect with

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the world – natural, spiritual and social – around us? What can we do to get our kids off the iPad and out the door?

It is tough questions like these that our Youth Council has been dealing with since its inception in 2008, all with great support, I should add, from our political leaders at both the Band Council and CHN levels. For example, in past addresses, I've already noted some of the great initiatives spear-headed and supported by the Youth Council at the grass-roots level: their support of the Haida Power Initiative; support of the Don Burnstick SAD workshops; the "Gathering our Voices" conference this past March, and support of the SBC's Summer Recreation Program, to name just a few. It was also through some key networking done by the Youth Council at the Young Entrepreneurs Symposium last November that Alvin Powell came to visit Haida Gwaii in March of this year to give his highly successful and well-received inspirational talks relating to drug and alcohol abuse.

More recently, the Skidegate Youth Council has been working in close partnership with the North Island Youth Council up in Old Masset. Our primary objective in working together is to pool our resources, where appropriate, to achieve the best possible outcomes for our youth in both communities. A great deal of this collaboration focuses on getting the youth outdoors to enjoy the best of what our Islands have to offer. We held our first official joint meeting on May 14 up in the Tow Hill region. The day began with an informal tour of the Hill itself and the Blow Hole, during which time the youth from both communities engaged in informal discussion about what the two groups might do together – all of this, as you can see, in the context of our natural environment. The remainder of the day was spent brainstorming ideas that we hope to transform into action over the coming months – be they fundraisers, recreational activities or potential training initiatives created for the youth, by the youth. We had another follow-up meeting yesterday to help carry forward much of this initial brainstorming.

Speaking of the youth, you can all see that the Skidegate Youth Centre is well underway. We hope to have it completed by the end of June or early July, with a grand opening to take place prior to summer's end. Yes, we are a year late in that statement, but thanks to the tenacity of the Skidegate Youth Council we, as your Band Council, have been kept on track and have not lost sight of our earlier promise to build this Youth Centre and see it through to conclusion!

The Youth Centre itself, as we've emphasized previously, has been significantly driven by the youth. They've held meetings to discuss the revised traditional longhouse design and how it might look in terms of the floor plans. To that end, they've made some marvellous recommendations, including a revised kitchen design. There can be no doubt that we value the input from the youth and thank them for playing a key role in this process.

Perhaps just as importantly, the Youth Centre has helped to spur our local economy. It's allowed us, through our project manager, to create a number of local jobs in its construction. Once the Centre is complete and a firm operational plan finalized, there will no doubt be a number of significant spinoffs that will benefit not only the youth, but community in general. In many respects, then, you could view the Youth Centre as sort of a microcosm of the current Band situation: working in collaboration with partners to create jobs (both short term and long term); supporting our elders and youth; and working towards a sustainable, yet environmentally friendly, economy that embraces our cultural traditions, norms and values.

Partnership is obviously a key theme in this discussion. That is why, for example, we continue to meet with the CHN to discuss areas of like concern, overlap and organizational process. Our last meeting with them occurred on January 25, 2011, and was a good session for "clearing the air," so to speak. We will

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be scheduling a follow-up session which, much like the meeting that preceded it, will include our friends and colleagues from up north – the Old Masset Village Council.

Speaking of the Old Masset Village Council, we met with them jointly on March 30 to reaffirm our friendship and cooperation between the two Councils. In our many meetings together over the last few years, we've both come to focus on getting results when it comes to our respective villages and more broadly speaking in the economic education sectors. That is part of the reason why our two Councils will be meeting again in the coming weeks, following a formal documentation review, to discuss the budding aquaculture industry in relation to a company by the name of Panasea, which is hoping to "ramp up" the scallop operations – a venture you might've heard something about. Assuming both Councils agreed to proceed there would no doubt be a demand for trained aquaculture professionals and, concurrently, jobs created. Indeed, at day's end, both Councils recognize that in an age of expanding opportunities, we share fundamental interests and values just as we share common challenges – an all too common thread that echoes loud and clear in the words of our predecessors, both distant and recent.

Such challenges are also echoed, I should note, in both Council's dealings with the School District as of late. In early March, the School District announced that it was "considering the feasibility of offering Kindergarten in the 2011/12 or 2012/13 school year as a 'partial immersion.'" During our joint Council meeting of March 30, members of the OMVC expressed concern around this, namely because contrary to signed agreements, neither Band Council was consulted prior to the announcement being made. Both Councils subsequently agreed to a follow-up meeting on April 11 to discuss this very issue. The primary action item coming out of that discussion was an agreement by all to meet with our Haida School Board representatives and keep them accountable to the communities they represent. To date, due to some levels of miscommunication, this "Haida caucus" meeting has yet to happen, but we hope to have that absolved soon. Again, in working together with our partners and colleagues, we can seek to maximize our efforts by planning together to avoid duplication of grades targeted and materials developed.

Speaking of positive collaboration and partnership, I should mention the Ipod language app. currently being developed by our Education Department and SHIP, which we hope to release by September 2011. The source material being utilized for the App comes from the First Voices website, which currently contains 2000 words and 500 phrases in the Haida language. Because the words and phrases were uploaded many years ago, they need to be checked and double-checked for accuracy. As a result, the Education Department had reached an agreement to keep Albert Hans and Dwyer Cross, originally hired under the Mentored Skills project, employed at SHIP until the end of June; however, Mr. Cross has recently left to pursue other opportunities. Regardless, through their mentored skills work, the two students have learned SHIP's orthography and how to translate other dialects into SHIP's. Thus, the two youth have played a key role in reviewing and correcting the First Voices material while working with the Elders at SHIP. The SHIP Elders will confirm that all of the materials have been properly corrected. In terms of a timeline, we hope to have all corrections noted and confirmed by the end of June.

There is still, no doubt, much work to be done; however, this App represents a significant step in the long road and history that is the revitalization and preservation of the Haida language. In this increasingly modern and technological age, we continue to be challenged to find ways to preserve and enhance our culture in the "global village" while actively maintaining a distinct identity. That statement almost seems to be a paradox, but through this App and the valuable ongoing work of our SHIP Elders, we are doing that – "unsettling" technology, as it were, and utilizing it to advance our own culture, our own language and our own identity as a Haida people.

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Before I wrap things up, I'd just like to return, for a moment, to discussions around policy. Not too long ago, we received an e-mail from one of our community members asking about policy and policy changes in light of the improved fortunes of the Band. I think I provided some vague answers to some of the questions asked but, just to be clear, I will address them a little more directly.

One of the questions asked was about reimbursable travel – has this been lifted yet? This is a good question and I think it is imperative that we are clear. When Council entered into the RMP in late 2008, we committed to cutting travel costs by “only committing to off island business trips if they are reimbursable, else if justified by a quorum of Council.” That statement comes directly from page 6 of the RMP document and is obviously clear in its message: Council sought to target reimbursable travel, unless the expense could properly be justified. There never was a freeze “proper” on travel. But with that said, our Council remains committed to this overall objective and has even begun asking third parties, like BCFC, to cover travel costs for non-reimbursable travel should they require our time.

The second question asked was about Band Council wages. How are we accountable for the work being done? As we have alluded to in previous public forums, the work of a Councillor does not end at 4:30PM when the office closes. More often than not, we spend a significant amount of hours doing portfolio follow-up work or attending evening meetings after the office closes. It can be tough as any one of my colleagues can attest.

Finally, the last question asked was around Program Managers and if they can report out on their respective programs during a public forum. I personally would have no issue with this; however, I think this action would be more at the discretion of the Band Administrator rather than the will of Council.

Thank you all for listening. As you can see, there are plenty of amazing projects underway – all done in the spirit of collegiality and partnership. My colleagues will touch a bit more on some of these and others within the context of their respective portfolios. Thank you.

Chief Councillor Mills: It has been tough with the RMP, but we are out of the RMP. We developed a plan and eliminated all debts at Kaay. We are in the black; that was no small feat, thank you to this Council for the hard work they have done in the past year.

[Councillor Duane Alsop did a greeting in Haida]

Councillor Duane Alsop: I'm working on the Youth Council with Bob. We're working on allocations right now. Through the Youth Council, we've applied to the Legacy Fund for \$5,000 to go towards sporting equipment at the George Brown Rec. Centre. We hear all the time that there is nothing to do but basketball, so we're purchasing new equipment – baseball – skipping ropes, etc. to offer more opportunities for the youth and more activity. We've also applied to the NRT (New Relationship Trust) to execute a mentorship program which will have youth and elders working together. The idea is to focus on the education aspect. One example of an activity is like what Linda Tollas does for Parks – Spirit Lake Trail walk. We're still waiting to hear if the application to the NRT has been accepted.

On the Health front, I went on a journey in Richmond. At this meeting, they discussed transferring health to the hands of Native people and held a vote – the result was 87% in favour. This will lock in all of BC. Also, FYI I voted in favour. 18 voted against or abstained.

Next week I will be going to Prince Rupert for a meeting with Northern Health. I would like you to submit health-related topics to discuss on your behalf.

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On July 5 a public information session regarding patient travel will be held probably here in the Community Hall. The keynote speaker will be Paul Clairmount, who is the Medical Transportation Program Coordinator for Health Canada. Time to be announced, but I encourage you to come and voice concerns.

Chief Councillor Mills: Council has a surplus of \$1 million dollars.

Councillor James Cowpar: I will be reporting on Aboriginal Justice and will also touch, a little further, on the Finance portion reported on by the previous speakers. Thank you, Duane, for your Haida.

Aboriginal Justice is a community lead initiative. In fact, we placed a call out for the aboriginal justice. We talk a lot about the drugs and alcohol on reserve and how the RCMP will police on reserve. In placing the ad, we got 2 community members that cared enough to come forward. This initiative is 10 years overdue. We need to do this. The ad will be reinserted in the newsletter. We all have nieces, nephews and relatives who have walked that fine line. The RCMP is interested in working with our community. We have our first nations policing in the Raven Centre. We have our RCMP members attend our potlatches. We will put the callout in the paper again. Please take the time and volunteer and work proactively with the RCMP. Work with youth and children.

On Copper Bay – with this Council we cleaned up copper bay, took a stand, and have challenged our CHN with respect to our mandate. The right to conserve supersedes our right to hunt and fish. Take only what you can eat; better yet, make sure our elders get fish. If you are planning to build a cabin get in touch with the Skidegate Band Council. Do not destroy other people's property.

I share the finance portfolio with Robert Williams. We operate under Indian Affairs with a small budget. We are a working Council and we are working with Program managers to fine tune internal processes.

If you have concerns we have a night watchman, Steve Collinson. Through the fisheries portfolio, we hired George Martynuik. We are trying to keep public informed through facebook and our website.

On Health, I want to touch on the concept of the Skidegate Fire House. You all see the model in the back. At this time of the year, think of the Smoke houses. Haida Child and Family is looking to do a communal smokehouse and work with the Health Centre on their Skidegate Fire House. The Band Council is in support of these initiatives. With the Skidegate Fire House we want to construct this open longhouse with an open fire pit beside SHIP to be used by our health centre. This concept has support from SHIP and we wanted to put it out there to the community. The Health Centre is fundraising for this themselves – they are not asking the Band Council for financial support.

Parking at Kaay should be in the parking lot and not in the front of Kaay; potholes are developing from parking in front.

Chief Councillor Mills: Thanks, James. This Council is willing to make the hard decisions and we are trying to make community safer for everybody. Copper Bay used to be managed by fisheries and oceans, but the CHN said we can manage the resource so it was handed over.

Councillor Godfrey Williams: Before I begin – one of my main portfolios is fisheries – I have to apologize. At the last public meeting I announced that we will be getting by-catch from the Ocean Pearl, but they

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never dropped it off. It was trucked to Port Ed. There wasn't much, so what we did was give it to the Haida in Prince Rupert. That was a onetime thing; next time will be first nation.

The sockeye run is good. The CHN is doing a good job on logging. George Martynuik is keeping an eye on that river. He told us that he drives to the fence. There are lots of Sandspit people, not our people. We just take what we need, now we are reaping the rewards, Now people are getting 70, 80, and 90 a night. We've recently asked for 200 sockeye from the CHN to give to people who have not received sockeye; there are a few, not many. The anniversary of Kaay is coming soon. Babs is putting in for sockeye.

We are out of RMP and we definitely don't want to go back to that. Thank you to the employees, stay out of there and never go back!

This spring Old Masset, CHN and Skidegate – we got 7000lbs, of roe on kelp. Conrad Collinson did the fishery and gave 5 lbs to everyone in Masset and Skidegate. With our tripartite approach we want to look at other fisheries. 11 out 46 roe on kelpers did their product – 3 licences on Haida Gwaii. 5 applied for the lottery. The HROK sold for \$4.25 last year, and we went in the hole last year. 5 of 7 licences in the Prince Rupert area are doing their licences this year. This year there is still one more chance. Fuel is not getting cheaper – food – Alaska. Money is coming out of our ass pockets.

I also sit on the Northern Native Fishing Corporation. My 2 years as board member is up. Champ Davis will start his 2 year term. The younger generation don't want to go out. 74 licences were unused last year. The Fraser River did good – there were 35 million in the Fraser Skeena River; alju this year gotta go out for IE

The GNC Board hired Marla Pryce as CEO. What we see is that she is doing an excellent job, but as with any job – the Board will evaluate in 6 months. The Board has also hired Terri Walker as the accountant. Ginette Pineault has moved on to Parks. Marla will be looking for a receptionist.

On the scallops, we lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of them in big storm, but have saved a bit for eating, but most will go to seeds. It was a learning process for the GNC Board & SBC; we learned quite a bit about the pros and cons of scallops.

Councillor James Cowpar: GNC is open for business. We want to bring your ideas to fruition; GNC has changed direction from being mere property managers. We are moving ahead in collaboration with our Council. The Gwaii Trust will be moving into the old GNC building and Taan Forest will also be transitioning in here at Skidegate.

Councillor Billy Yovanovich: Councillor David Crosby is dealing with private matters and Councillor Willard Wilson is in Vancouver at the BC First Nations Summit meetings. I'd also like to acknowledge a couple of our staff – Marci Piercey and Doris Daschuk – for their continued service.

On SHIP, Council is pleased to announce that we have a three year deal with Kevin Borsario.

On Sturdy creek dam, QCC, BC Hydro is decommissioning. We had a brushing contract there and completed it a week ahead of schedule. The 2nd phase will begin in August. We are on the contact list for village of QCC. Small contracts have come up. We are actively looking for employment. O'Brian has hired some of our members and they are working out of Masset.

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On our Woodlot, Taan Forest is working with SBC and will be tendering that out In August. We will be harvesting 10,000 meters, which will generate revenue for the Band. We should know more by next public meeting.

The Band is working with HYCO and TAAN. One way to work harmoniously is to create 6 jobs for this project. By next public meeting we will have more info on this. It will generate good revenue and will employ 6 people.

The Slarkedus Lake Dam is an ongoing process. We do annual site-visits using helicopters, which are paid for by INAC. We are pushing for weekly visits because the dam has been deemed high consequence by the Province.

BC Ferries wants to hook into our sewer and water because they can't just pump into the water any more. The user fee connection is \$316,000.00 to hook into our system with \$15,000.00 for maintenance.

I attended a Health meeting with James Munroe and Angela Szabo Sable to discuss an assisted living facility in our community – it's time for something for our elders.

I am available to meet with anyone with personal issues. I have no professional training but can help to steer people in the right direction.

Chief Councillor Mills: Willard is away, so I will report on a couple of his portfolios.

On the Watchmen, Council met with archipelago board, Parks and CHN to discuss the future of Watchmen program and voted to allow them to form their own society and free up more money.

The Kaay board is up and running. Myself, Duane and James sit on that board and want 2 community members to sit there also. The separation with Kaay financial has been put to September. We want them to take over their own books, but we're still dealing with some residual stuff. Jason Alsop is back, and applied to work at Kaay. He has historical knowledge; happy he is back. The Kaay board is working with NWCC. GNC is also working the Heritage Centre. The Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society is still working in there. We have essential skills wind up and it was heart warming to see what so many were working on. Thank you to Ruth for help with that program.

The Band Manager is not here to give a report.

Ruth Gladstone: I started working with Pat in 1990 and under WOP in daycare all these years I have never worked with a more productive and accountable Council. I mean no disrespect, but as a community member, we felt we had to bring this to public forum. I know you have been busy with RMP. We understand that you have been busy. You spoke of the block being extended to 2016 [. . .] I wonder what kind of negotiations you look at when you negotiate with CFNA. We have not been privy to that information. Social Development's budget should be much higher than it is. We only get about 700,000 to half Assisted living within social development. Council is not including in the budget for special needs. You also mentioned the 5% increase for non-union staff. The Union is getting less than that. This does not seem fair – thought it would be more equitable, it's like a slap in the face. With Gwaii Trust, I commend Jamie for encouraging people to come to the meetings. The changes seriously affect social programs. Look at healthy humans. I fear with policy we could end up in 3rd party management or RMP

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again. Staff should be included in policy development. We could shut down for a week to do this. In social development, we hear more negative than positive. We have done a good job.

Chief Councillor Mills: As part of the working relation with Council, when I was on Council last time, I tried to initiate a process where we would work with program heads, but it did not work, tried twice. This was partly because Council was not showing up to the meetings – not this Council. We are not intentionally ignoring program heads. We were working on audit and budgets today. This Council wants to meet with you – what do you need? We are open to do this. When reviewing our budgets, we looked at past budgets, actual, increases and worked those in. On the 5% to non union – under RMP no pay increases were given to the non-union staff, but it was built into the union agreement.

Ruth Gladstone: Band staff has always gotten more than union staff.

Chief Councillor Mills: We just got out of RMP; we don't want to go back in. The recommendation for the increase came from the labour management committee. I like the idea of reading out names of graduates and putting them into the newsletter. Policy development will include staff. I understand your department will be going into policy development.

Councillor James Cowpar: I attended Gwaa Trust this past week [. . .] we really to invest in meaningful programs. We have changes to make, challenge people to show up to the meeting. Language is important; so is keeping money on island; please attend! We are here to help. Get involved!
90 million dollar fund

Ooka: You have done a phenomenal job, but I've been here ten years. It seems as if we are an S/A building. We could develop community programs, looking for money, doing proposals for that. I am asking Council to have our money back – 1.2 million. Back in the day WOP, ANC, (others she mentioned) this is supposed to come to us. Babs calls and tells us that the Band Council is getting people to cut the grass for WOP. What are you doing with our money? We do not get all our money -- \$400,000 per year and you want \$1000.00 a month for rent.

Betty Richardson: This Council is doing a good job. You look after youth, elders and babies. Thank you to Billy for coming to SHIP. Thank you, I am getting a new roof Starting on Monday, Howaa!

Chief Councillor Mills: I like to hear this stuff. Thank you, Ooka. We agreed essential skills were a great success and want to continue this. More that we can return to the program the better. When I was on Council last time, we tried meeting monthly with Program Managers, but it didn't work. We tried before. Maybe we can meet quarterly; then no surprises for you or us. The budgets were based on what you were using, we budget accordingly.

Lisa Dignard: What are essential skills?

Chief Councillor Mills: Essential skills are to assist people who are shy on EI.

Shelley Gladstone: Communication is not happening, boards should have retreats. What happened to the lunch specials at the gas station? Maybe I was asleep, but I didn't hear anything about housing or education.

Chief Councillor Mills: Communication is key. I agree we must deal with financial reality. We are task oriented and want to get Kaay out from under us. Whatever correspondence we get we try to answer in a week. Communication is starting to improve.

Councillor Robert Williams: To reiterate, communication is basically a work in progress. Some letters do fall through the cracks. I like to mention that Motion that was passed back in 1994 regarding communication to the Band office. It's such a simple, yet difficult task. Obviously, communication is paramount. I recently crunched the numbers, and this Council has been communicating regularly to the membership via these public forums. This Council has been the most consistent and has held the most public meetings in recent memory. I did give a brief report on Education regarding the Ipod app, but maybe people were getting a little drowsy by that point [laughter]. We are still working on a revision of the post-secondary education policies to make them more agreeable to the students. I also agree that we should mention the students in the newsletter and, speaking of that, as an FYI, Haida Grad is this coming Thursday.

Councillor James Cowpar: Policy and communication is obviously important. We have a vibrant Housing Committee. They sacrifice their time to discuss community needs. We are developing a Housing business plan to identify elders and low income folk. We want to create opportunity for all members. With respect to communication, the website dates back to 2009. We are working to better update the site in a timelier manner. As for the food at Taaw Naay, Shelley, please forward your concerns to the GNC Board. For Social Development, 60 % increase in this financial climate. We expect a commitment to this program, not as a pilot program but one with continuity.

Councillor Billy Yovanovich: Howaa to Betty for the kind words. We are on the freeze list for housing. There will be no new money coming in until we are off the freeze list. Part of your budget goes to running this Table. Council has committed to generating revenue to subsidize our Table.

John Wesley: I just came from fire practice – there were eight of us tonight, five new members. They are afraid of what they don't know but are determined to learn. We have to practice in the dark, some of the things are very dangerous, some are mundane but we need people to show up. Insurance assessors have determined that Skidegate has no fire department. 14 people needed to maintain fire dept. Now have 14; I encourage Council to come out on Tuesdays. It's not fun, you end up tired and exhausted, but it's well worth it. Is the mutual aid agreement being ratified with QCC?

Councillor James Cowpar: Yes, fire safety is a priority in this community. Council was tasked to follow up. 4 months ago we had meeting with QCC fire dept Core and auxiliary – they are willing to work together with Council and the fire dept. Tuesday, there are meetings; maybe have one on Thursday or a Friday? Make a five year plan to identify your needs. We met with QCC. Let's work together on an organizational chart. The Fire department is a priority. I will provide the draft from Mr. Beamish.

Phillip Gladstone: We had to refuse two calls to Lawn Hill. It makes it hard to refuse people when they call the fire dept. Every time power goes off the alarm goes off at the Haida Heritage Centre. I've talked to Duane about that. The backup generator does not kick in. When we come to these [public] meetings we lose it – updates should be put in the newsletter like about the dam. We should give thanks to Moonie – he works without pay. We need a little boat for the kids for emergency, not to play on.

Councillor Robert Williams: Thanks, Phillip. I share your concern about length of our reports. Earlier today, the Band Council Government announced its clear intent to utilize our newsletter in a more productive manner.

Pat Gellerman: I want to say I'm very glad to hear you are getting out debt; hopefully Kaay will continue to do better. I felt bad – we were uljuu. Now everyone is back working. No one person can do this, it takes a whole team. Babs, Willard, and Stinker also had big part of looking for funding and stuff like that. In my mind I think that. Also, I want to say that through all the hard times I am grateful to Council and the health centre staff who have been really kind to me. Talking of money for travel, it will get you through, but it's not enough for other stuff [laughter]. Thanks everyone for being so kind. It's good to hear we are getting better.

Susan Gladstone: Thank you for getting us out of debt – impressed – a lot of work to bring community from red to black. There was mention of the little house in back [Fire House model]; we need healing in our community – identify drug dealers – do something about the drug dealers. We must replace drugs with something good. It takes a whole community. We need to work together towards healing. We are inter-dependant here on Haida Gwaii. More culture and traditions in our programs bring people to the land. Our spirituality is the source of our healing. It's a multi generational problem. We must recognize that the Ceremonial house will bring about a balance. It will represent Haida spirituality. With clarity there is no misunderstanding. I would like to see a symbol of Haida spirituality in our community like the church is for western society.

Barbara Robichaud: I want to thank Council for allowing Kay Waring to have her funeral in this community. She was in Campbell River, but wanted to come home to Haida Gwaii. She thanked me for honouring her at my brother's potlatch. It would be nice to see Council at the funeral, which is on Saturday, 2PM at the Rec. Hall.

Chief Councillor Mills: Thank you all for coming out tonight. There were some great suggestions brought forward. On the Fire House, Sue, we support this initiative. We wanted it brought to a public meeting so that everyone was made aware of it. I think we managed to answer most of your questions. We are up to that kind of work. In Council, we have a great mix of talents, skills and ages. Thanks for coming out tonight and sharing your thoughts with us.

[Ruth Gladstone closed with a prayer at 10:48 pm]