

**Regular Council Meeting Executive Summary
March 18, 2021**

Attendance	
Elected Chief & Council	Ken Watts (Chair). Bella Fred, Deb Foxcroft, Ed Ross, Eunice Joe, Jennifer Gallic, Les Sam, Natasha Marshall
Administration Staff	Chris Anderson, A/Executive Director
Guests	Island Corridor Foundation: Larry Stevenson, Andrea Thomas, Nicole Norris Meyers Norris Penny (MNP): Chris Hild, Kam Sandhu

In consideration of ongoing Public Health orders and extraordinary safety measures, Tseshaht First Nation elected Chief & Council Regular Meeting for March 18, 2021 was held via zoom. The meeting included two specific timed items where guests joined to offer presentations. These included Island Corridor Foundation, and MNP.

Island Corridor Foundation (ICF): Larry Stevenson, Andrea Thomas and Nicole Norris provided an overview of the 2005 establishment of the Island Corridor Foundation and their ongoing efforts to re-establish rail service across Vancouver Island (including Port Alberni). There was discussion on opportunities for passenger and freight services; and further discussion around First Nations court cases related to the rail line. It was noted that Halalt and Cowichan have put their cases in abeyance. For the Snaw Naw As case, the court ruled in favor of ICF. The Snaw Naw As appeal will be heard in May 2021. The fate of what happens with Tseshaht rests with the outcome of the appeal hearing. In the meantime, Tseshaht will send territory map to ICF and look to schedule time to convene a smaller working group. Follow-up discussion noted neighboring Nation Representation on ICF Board as well as the significant financial cost of moving the project forward.

MNP: Chris Hild and Kam Sandhu have been supporting Tseshaht in review of options for establishing a Tseshaht Economic Development Corporation and restructuring of Nation-owned businesses in efforts to separate business, operations, and governance. MNP provided a presentation outlining options for Board structure, Governance, and an overview of financial costs of establishing an Economic Development Corporation. Further work needed to identify financial resources, analyze shared service options with Tseshaht Administration, as well as community engagement and endorsement.

Other Business

Council discussed operational acknowledgements of administration staff in consideration of the one-year anniversary for pandemic response.

There was a lengthy discussion on an opportunity to apply for Rural Retail Liquor Sale license. Council supported application for the license in consideration of tourism and employment benefits on the condition that profits also support community health and addictions programming.

Council discussed the progress of Executive Director recruitment that is nearing completion. An offer has been provided following positive reference check. Community update will be provided once details are finalized.

****Tseshaht Council Meeting Summary is intended to provide key updates on Council business and will not include financial/legal information or anything that may infringe on personal information & privacy****

A forestry update was provided; with particular focus on the Forestry Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement (FCRSA). Tseshaht has not signed an FCRSA in over 8 years. The FCRSA would provide 70% stumpage rebate for all that is logged within our territories. If Tseshaht signed the FCRSA it will be a three-year agreement in which Tseshaht cannot take legal action. Council supported a motion to sign the 2021 FCRSA pending confirmation of Land Claims Panel endorsement.

Council concluded with discussions around Housing, Pandemic Response, and Communication

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Ken Watts
Elected Chief Councillor