



MINUTES

TSESHAHT FIRST NATION COMMUNITY MEETING

June 13, 2023
6:30-9:00 PM
Great Room / Zoom
Snacks provided

In Attendance

COUNCIL:

Ken Watts (Chair)
Eunice Joe

Jennifer Gallic
Les Sam

Debra Foxcroft

STAFF:

Bella Fred
Michelle Colyn

Virginia Shrimpton, Recording Secretary
Melissa Bigmore

MEMBERSHIP:

IN PERSON:

Annie Watts
Connie Sam
Darlene Taylor
Dave Watts Sr.
Ed Nicholson
Gloria Ross
Jean Thomas
Linda Pelech
Matilda Atleo
Naomi Nicholson
Patti Rivard
Valentine Gomez

ONLINE:

Amanda Watts
Betty Potter
Camille Hamel
Charlotte Elliott
David Watts Jr.
Dean Charles
Debora Weir
Della Preston
Hank Gus

Holly McLaughlin
Hugh Braker
Jackelyn Williams
Jamie Ross
Janice Johnson
Kae-Lynn Johnson
Karen Johnson
Kathleen Fraser
Leslie Taylor

Melanie Braker
Melissa Gus
Mike Lambert
Robert S. Watts
Samuel Jensen
Sophie Braker
Theresa Burnip
Victoria Wilson
William Severinson

6:42 PM

1. Welcome and opening comments

2. Acknowledgements

- Acknowledging the losses we've had recently and those who are hurting at this time, our thoughts are with them.

3. Adopt June 13, 2023 draft agenda

MOTION 1: To adopt draft agenda of June 13, 2023 as amended:
8) b. Fisheries update
8) c. Business licensing policy
8) d. Polly's Point
8) e. Economic Development update
(20230613-01)

MOVED: Naomi Nicholson

SECONDED: Camille Hamel

QUESTION

MOTION CARRIED

4. Adopt May 9, 2023 draft minutes.

MOTION 2: To adopt the May 9, 2023 draft minutes.
(20230613-02)

MOVED: Naomi Nicholson

SECONDED: Valentine Gomez

QUESTION

MOTION CARRIED

5. Business arising

- There was a recommendation from the community to report remuneration separately. There was an individual whose payments were displayed as a single sum, combining honorarium and contract income due to their role in the nation. Finance staff advised that separating the amounts would breach confidentiality. MNP will be consulted on how to break down the reporting to include honorarium only and not individual contract income amounts.
- Hereditary chiefs' honorarium is included in the reporting as we are required under the Financial Administration Law (FAL). It was suggested that MNP and Chris Anderson, Director of Finance explain why certain financial details need to be listed under the FN Financial Management Act.
- MNP is working with the First Nations Financial Management Board (FNFMB) to help us to align with the FAL and governance policies.
- There were concerns about consolidated reports and a desire to see departmental budgets and business performance separately. The auditors plan to provide more detailed information in the next audit presentation.
- Contract employees and how they relate to HR policies, committees, and the band will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.
- A second opinion on the forensic audit was expected to be presented at a meeting scheduled for June 13.
- Members are encouraged to read the community update that was circulated in April.

6. New business

6a. Land Claims Panel Update

MOTION 3: To go in camera.
(20230613-03)

MOVED: Darlene Taylor

SECONDED: Jean Thomas

QUESTION

MOTION CARRIED

7. Old business

7a. Iwachis update

- Discussed in camera.

MOTION 4: To go out of camera.

(20230613-04)

MOVED: Naomi Nicholson

SECONDED: Camille Hamel

QUESTION

MOTION CARRIED

7b. Housing policy update

- *Housing Policy*
- Paula Watts is the new Housing Manager.
- Multiple drafts of the housing policy and community engagements have taken place with the assistance of a consultant.
- New committee will review and finalize the housing policy.
- The current policy still follows the old version.
- *Housing Concerns*
- Questions raised about the use of the 2012 housing policy, membership documents, and home loan agreements with BMO.
- Suggested improving documentation to ensure clarity and prevent issues. E.g., documentation of lot approvals, the right to occupy land, etc.
- Members want the housing list to be made public for transparency and decision-making. Community is advised that this list would not be published as it would disclose members' personal financial information.
- *Elders and Housing*
- Concerns about a lack of response from housing staff following up on inquiries and applications.
- The suggestion is to contact supervisors or cc them on emails.
- *Land Use Planning*
- The need for a ratified land use plan was highlighted to clarify land use decisions. Specific areas for housing and economic development will be identified.
- The desire to see a map of housing and road infrastructure.
- *BMO Loan and Housing*
- Concerns raised about BMO's involvement and changes in housing approvals.
- The new housing policy must align with the On Reserve Home Loan Program (ORHLP) guidelines and ensure that the program is administered correctly.
- A member's experience with deposit issues and potential discrimination. Discussion about individual loans is private and administrative and is to be discussed with staff.

7c. AIRS update

- AIRS funding was requested several months ago and the decision from Canada on the amount is pending.
- We have lots of work to do in this upcoming phase.

7d. Membership policy and decisions

- Questions about non-band members residing in a home after a member's passing. Our housing department has brochures regarding the law around will and matrimonial law. Nations are eligible to create their own laws but Tseshahat has not done so yet.

- Concerns about the status of family members and potential inheritance issues were raised that may be answered by existing literature available through the band office.

8. Other

8a. Membership report

- The membership code from 1987 is in force until a new one is adopted.
- Decision-making processes, including membership reporting, remain unchanged. There is no requirement under the code that community decides on membership.
- In alignment with the current Membership Code, the Membership Clerk has provided a report on population changes in the nation. Our code does not require a motion to approve these membership changes; however, the committee requests a motion to acknowledge receipt of the report.

MOTION 5: Community acknowledges receipt of the Membership Update and Report on June 13, 2023.
(20230613-05)

MOVED: Naomi Nicholson **SECONDED:** Linda Pelech
QUESTION **MOTION CARRIED**

8b. Fisheries update

- James LaFlamme is the new Fisheries Manager.
- An EO agreement was signed with two new clauses, allowing for an expansion of territory and the ability to sell bycatch.
- Concerns were raised about the low fish prices due to an abundance of sockeye caught in Alaska last year.
- Suggestions were made to consider issuing requests for proposals to sell fish, ensuring compliance with purchase guidelines.
- We have contract at Robertson Creek Hatchery where we sell excess chinook and coho. The Chief Councillor reached out to other individuals to see if they want to purchase sockeye. Unfortunately, a lot of people can't transport their fish to other buyers.
- Discussions about selling fish to other island nations where they paid cash for our fish and brought their own totes. With the low price of fish, we'll be open to looking at those other options with an emphasis on safe selling practices and the use of landing slips.
- A need for a better notification process regarding the EO opening was expressed, along with a call for consistency in the plan.
- Questions arose regarding why gillnetters receive food fishery.
- Concerns were raised about eligibility criteria for fish distribution, particularly for elders and individuals with disabilities living away from home.
- The idea of providing out-of-town delivery of fish was discussed, along with the need to explore the ability to offer this more frequently.
- Monitors will be present on fish day to facilitate the selling process and ensure fairness.
- Training and expansion plans for monitors on land and water were mentioned.
- Sport fishing regulations and monitoring were discussed, with a mention of DFO visits and Tseshaht members keeping an eye on the situation.
- No specific limits were mentioned for Tseshaht sport fishermen.
- John Ross and Kyle Miller were identified as fisheries patrol personnel, tasked with patrolling various areas.
- Concerns were raised about illegal individuals on the water, and plans were made to address this issue.

- Efforts are being made to improve processes and ensure fair practices in fisheries management.

8c. Business licensing policy

- Council adopted a business licensing policy, but implementation faces resource challenges.
- Efforts are being made to secure funding, including grants, for policy administration.
- Questions about water hookups and liability. Administration requires information about where water, gas, sewer, etc. lines are located in case of emergency.
- The limited choice of surveyors to fulfill the survey requirement was mentioned. Members may discuss individual concerns with administration.
- Parts of the Business Licensing Policy will be followed as necessary for safety and protection for liability until we have the resources to fully implement the policy.

8d. Polly's Point

- Under current housing policy, mobile homes and RVs are not to be permanent residences. Talked about the need for a solution to help people who are struggling. Staff following up on that. We're striving to abide by our policies and laws.
- Concerns were raised about safety, particularly related to an individual living near Polly's Point.
- Issues included potential contamination of water and unauthorized camping.
- Calls for police intervention and concerns about fire safety due to the lack of hydrants were discussed.
- Council acknowledged the safety concerns and the limitations of the RCMP in physically removing individuals.
- They discussed delivering a letter to address the safety issue and possibly involving the RCMP for support.
- Efforts to secure running water in the area were mentioned, with an emphasis on installing hydrants.
- Suggestions were made to consider fines for policy violators, with the idea of using the fines for youth programs.
- The discussion touched on the need for law enforcement and the possibility of establishing tribal police, recognizing that our own security staff are unable to arrest or fine people for breaching policy.
- The emphasis was on enforcing policies and laws, rather than targeting specific individuals, with efforts to address policy gaps.

8e. Economic Development update

- *Economic Development Board*
- A callout for the Economic Development Board of Directors was made, but not enough interested individuals were found.
- Council plans to appoint an Economic Development Working Group, which will include at least one community member, one council member, and three other individuals.
- *Restructuring of Companies*
- The process of moving various companies under one economic development umbrella has begun, and restructuring is currently underway.
- *Economic Development Corporation*
- Concerns were raised about the impact of restructuring on distributions to band members from forestry corporations.
- Council assured that the restructuring aims to maintain revenue for distributions and uphold existing plans.

9. Closing

MOTION 6: To adjourn.
(20230613-06)

MOVED: Naomi Nicholson
QUESTION

SECONDED: Ed Nicholson
MOTION CARRIED

* * * * Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM * * * *

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

Number	Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
20230613-01	To adopt draft agenda of June 13, 2023 as amended: 8) b. Fisheries update 8) c. Business licensing policy 8) d. Polly's Point 8) e. Economic Development update	Naomi Nicholson	Camille Hamel
20230613-02	To adopt the May 9, 2023 draft minutes.	Naomi Nicholson	Valentine Gomez
20230613-03	To go in camera.	Darlene Taylor	Jean Thomas
20230613-04	To go out of camera.	Naomi Nicholson	Camille Hamel
20230613-05	Community acknowledges receipt of the Membership Update and Report on June 13, 2023.	Naomi Nicholson	Linda Pelech
20230613-06	To adjourn.	Naomi Nicholson	Ed Nicholson