



# MINUTES

## TSESHAHT FIRST NATION COMMUNITY MEETING

June 26, 2024  
6:30-9:00 PM  
Great Room / Zoom  
Snacks provided

### In Attendance

#### COUNCIL:

Ken Watts (Chair)      Harley Wylie      Debra Foxcroft

#### STAFF:

Thomas Hleck      Virginia Shrimpton, Recording Secretary  
Melissa Bigmore

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Amanda Watts	David Watts Jr.	Leslie Taylor	Naomi Nicholson
Anne Robinson	David Watts Sr.	Lillian Dick	Pam Moussa
Annie Watts	Ed Nicholson	Linda Pelech	Patricia Jimmy
Caledonia Glendale	Gail Gus	Linsey Haggard	Robert S Watts
Camille Hamel	Holly McLaughlin	Lisa Gallic	Ron Dick Jr
Charlene Miller	Iris Kivell	Luke George	Samantha Schmidt
Charlotte Cote	Isobel Anderson	Marlene Dick	Sharon Fred
Charlotte Elliott	Jamie Ross	Melanie Braker	Tanya Taylor
Claudine Watts	Jane Jones	Melissa Gus	Tom Watts
Connie Sam	Katrina Clutesi	Michelle Colyn	Victoria White
Darlene Taylor	Len Watts	Myra Mack	Wendy Gallic

6:39 PM

### 1. Welcome and opening comments

- Members welcomed to the meeting.
- Request for regular fisheries updates for members.
- Concerns were raised about council attendance, highlighting that not all members attend meetings regularly.
- An inquiry was made about a motion during Cynthia Dick's term as Chief Councillor that required full council attendance at community meetings.
- At the previous AGM, a detailed breakdown of council attendance was provided. This information will be presented again at the next AGM as requested.

**ACTIONS:** Post regular fisheries updates for community.  
Review community meeting records regarding a motion or discussion about council attendance at community meetings.\*  
Present Council attendance at 2024 AGM.

## 2. Adoption of agenda

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**MOTION 1:** To adopt the agenda with additions.  
(20240626-01)

**MOVED:** Lisa Gallic

**SECONDED:** Luke George

**QUESTION**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 3. Adoption of minutes

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**MOTION 2:** To adopt the community meeting minutes of February 7, 2024, February 28, 2024, April 16, 2024, May 15, 2024, and the meeting notes of May 1, 2024.  
(20240626-02)

**MOVED:** Ed Nicholson

**SECONDED:** Camille Hamel

**QUESTION**

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 4. Council updates (verbal)

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- The quarterly report was printed and distributed today.
- **Ken Watts**
- Housing and Infrastructure
  - Harley Wylie supports committee level, Les Sam supports infrastructure.
  - Purchased 8 acres of APD lands including a parking lot. Excited to move forward.
  - Moving forward to predevelopment work including feasibility studies and architectural design.
  - Working with BC Housing to secure funding once predevelopment is complete.
  - Goal to build up to 50 units, depending on architectural findings, with 1-2 bedroom units.
  - Discussions with the city regarding property ownership and potential gifting of other land back to the community.
  - Secured funds for a fourplex near the youth center; groundbreaking soon with 2-3 bedroom units each.
  - Subdivision expansion at the end of Saiyatchapis, in a phased approach, developing 15 lots at a time with water and sewer infrastructure.
- Somass Hall
  - Secured over \$9 million for the building. The building will support prevention services and include office and youth center space.
- Sewer Expansion
  - Saiyatchapis sewer expansion, a \$2-3 million project connecting over 30 homes to city sewer. Members need to ensure their yards are prepared for connection.
- Road Developments
  - Access road at Watty's Road extending to Iwachis will eventually become permanent.
  - New road from the highway to the youth center planned.
  - Secured \$1 million for water and sewer infrastructure for future economic development near the pump station by the market.
- Land Use and Development
  - Opportunities for commercial development along the highway and market housing by McCoy Lake.
  - Crew working on the road this summer.
  - Cultural center and youth center renovations.
  - Renovations to the building that was used for Orange Bridge Cannabis are nearly complete for use by our non-profit housing society.
  - Multiplex development with community engagement planned for design input.

- Caldwell Hall
  - Announced teardown on September 30, goal to complete by March 31, funded by Canada.
- **Debra Foxcroft**
- Health Authority Involvement
  - Attends regional and provincial FNHA meetings.
  - Advocates for patient travel services.
  - Involved in health legislation for Indigenous people in BC.
  - COVID-19 vaccine effects study with final report available Thursday.
- Health Services Transfer
  - Preliminary discussions on transferring health services to the nation directly, with council and community input needed.
- Child Care
  - Received funding for daycare renovations, now considering a new build instead of renovations.
- Human Resources Advisory
  - Regular meetings to review applications and recommend hiring for new positions.
- Family Services
  - Excited about new youth center and prevention services for children and families.
  - Planning for prevention dollars and attending working groups for aunts and survivors.
  - Secured grants for a new daycare, which will free up space for Haa-huu-payak.
- **Leisa Hassall**
- Education and School District
  - Leisa Hassall and Harley Wylie have had increased participation in meetings.
  - Moving forward with Local Education Agreement (LEA) and co-governance discussions.
  - Indigenous education council addressing challenges with local district.
  - Graduation and scholarship achievements.
  - Haa-huu-payak is full; dealing with vandalism and disrespect for school grounds.
  - Concerns about students graduating without basic math and English skills, a longstanding issue with pushing students through the system with insufficient education.
  - Discussion about addressing these issues through agreements with SD70.
  - Members recommend engagement with community and school district to find solutions and ensure effective education.
  - Members looking for more detailed information may connect with Chief Councillor Ken Watts, or Councillors Harley Wylie or Leisa Hassall.
- Cultural and Language Education
  - Celebrated graduates of intensive language learner programs.
  - Extensive work on cultural education and crisis care services.
- **Harley Wylie**
- Economic Development and Infrastructure
  - Economic Development Board transition underway with business people managing operations.
- Landfill and Recycling
  - Working towards representative workforce and recruitment of Tseshah people.
- Island Corridor Foundation
  - Discussions on reactivating the railway on Vancouver Island.
  - Engagement with First Nations on the impact and opportunities.
  - Discussion on the future of the railway and land use, engagement with the community needed.
- Tourism and Community Events

- Participation in Alberni Valley tourism board and community events.
- Redevelopment of Clutesi Haven area.
- **Security and Safety Concerns**
  - Katrina Clutesi reports of a peeping tom and drones outside her house.
  - Lack of response from Council, security, and RCMP for this ongoing threat to her family's privacy, safety, and security.
  - Urgent need for assistance and action from Chief and Council.
- **Health and Safety Surveys:**
  - Participation in interviews and surveys with no feedback on outcomes. Request for feedback from the nation when these interviews and surveys are initiated by the nation, and recommend advocating for feedback to members when they are done by a third party.
  - Encouragement for trades training and addressing apprenticeship challenges. Tseshaht Council and Administration have established agreements, partnerships, and strategies to provide opportunities to members.
- **Indian Games:**
  - Discussion that there hasn't been a coordinator hired for Indian Games. Suggestion that one day Tseshaht host our own Indian Games.

**ACTIONS:** Follow-up with RCMP and security for member's safety concerns.  
 Host another engagement session for members to continue the dialogue with SD70 regarding education concerns; survey our school-aged children for their opinion about what is wrong with the system.

#### 5. Expression of interest for non-profit housing society

- The Tsu-ma-uss Housing Society requires Tseshaht members and will operate at arm's length from the nation with a separate executive director.
- The council's role is to appoint the 5 or 7 member board.
- It is a registered society and will post for interest, seeking 2-3 community members for the board. Interested individuals can put their names forward by email to Chief Councillor or Executive Assistant or call the administration office.
- The board will oversee market rental properties, including 3-bedroom townhomes aimed at middle-income tenants.

#### 6. Expression of interest for potential governance working group (ḥawiiḥ, council, staff, and community)

- Some governance documents will be reviewed by a potential governance working group who may make recommendations for changes.
- Recommendations will then be presented to the council for approval per FAL.
- Anyone interested in joining the governance working group to review these items is encouraged to participate with the goal of improving our governance.
- Interested individuals can put their names forward by email to Chief Councillor or Executive Assistant or call the administration office.

#### 7. Additional items

##### 7a. Housing including policy

- Council must follow the 2012 housing policy.
- Decisions are based on the policy, including amendments.
- Community needs to be informed of housing policy updates.
- All policies are available on the website.

- Council does not create policies arbitrarily and follows customary practices for members and mortgage contracts with BMO.
- TFN has agreements with BMO on the on-reserve home loan program (ORHLP), separate from the policy.
- Council had a productive meeting with BMO to streamline and update the outdated program for clearer applications.
- Life insurance concerns are being addressed in the new agreement with BMO. Life insurance and disability insurance shouldn't be required as simple insurance should have it covered.
- Members can go to any bank for a mortgage, but the nation must go through an approval process for guarantees. The requirements are different for each nation.
- Members feel there's a lack of response from the council regarding housing policy issues.
- Council asserts they have responded to emails and are addressing life insurance concerns. Individual concerns will be addressed privately with members.

#### **7b. Procurement for Tseshaht and member-owned businesses**

- Concerns raised about contractors not being encouraged to utilize Tseshaht band businesses.
- Specific example with the Somass Hall project where only 1 out of 3 contractors stayed with Tseshaht-owned accommodation businesses.
- Request to promote Tseshaht businesses to contractors working on indigenous projects.
- Proposal to collaborate with the Economic Development Corporation to promote and support local businesses.
- Some nations might enforce policies requiring contractors to use registered member businesses; however, in our geographic location this type of enforcement is not done due to resource limitations.

**ACTIONS:** Create a list of registered Tseshaht-owned businesses on the Tseshaht website for easy reference and promotion.

#### **7c. Update on Polly's Point**

- Concerns raised about the ongoing situation at unauthorized Polly's Point encampment.
- Issues with excessive vehicular activity and potential safety risks to children and pets.
- Complaints about noise disturbances from animals and threats to neighbors.
- Request for action due to safety concerns and frustration over lack of resolution.
- Previous discussions with Ken Watts and Harley Wylie regarding the issue, with promises of action but concerns are ongoing.
- Explanation on the limitations of RCMP involvement—can only maintain peace, not physically remove individuals from reserve land.
- Need for a bylaw to enable RCMP assistance in resolving camping issues.
- Multiple efforts by staff and council to address the situation with letters to RCMP, but no response received.
- Concerns raised by the Fire Department regarding safety issues, particularly the lack of a hydrant.
- Efforts underway to address water supply issues at Polly's Point, including requests to the city and planning for water infrastructure.
- Confirmation of delivering letters to the unauthorized camper and initiation of an RCMP file number on the case.
- Efforts to coordinate with housing management and interim Executive Director to develop a bylaw and find a resolution.

- Commitment to address the situation promptly within the coming month.
- Assurance of administration’s concern for community safety and commitment to resolve the Polly’s Point issue swiftly.
- Plan to discuss further at the upcoming housing committee meeting and work towards implementing a bylaw.

**ACTIONS:** Develop a bylaw addressing unauthorized camping on Tseshahat reserves which will enable RCMP enforcement.

**8. Closing**

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<p><b>MOTION 3:</b> To adjourn. (20240626-03)</p> <p><b>MOVED:</b> Naomi Nicholson</p> <p><b>QUESTION</b></p>	<p><b>SECONDED:</b> Wendy Gallic</p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED</b></p>
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**\* \* \* \* Meeting adjourned at 8.59 P.M. \* \* \* \***

\* The Executive Assistant reviewed records since 2016 and found no explicit motions directing council members to attend all meetings. However, it is acknowledged there was a conversation where the community requested accountability in meeting attendance:

November 6, 2017:

During the community meeting, Erma Robinson raised the point that historically, a quorum of council was required for community meetings, referencing her past council experience. Cynthia Dick responded that there had been no formal motion requiring a quorum of council members for these meetings and mentioned ongoing revisions to the Governance Terms of Reference. Les Sam supported Erma's recollection about needing a quorum for council meetings.

Wendy Gallic mentioned that during her tenure as executive director, meetings could proceed with a quorum of membership even if only one councillor was present, but emphasized the need for clarification on this issue. Cynthia Dick confirmed that the custom election code did not specify the need for a quorum of five councillors for community meetings and offered to provide copies of the code for review. Marlene Dick suggested that full council attendance should be prioritized for future meetings, and Anne Robinson urged that the community’s desire for a quorum of council at meetings be communicated to the council directly. Les Sam concluded that while the custom election code outlines the election process, it does not detail meeting conduct requirements.

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