



KITSELAS BAND COUNCIL

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING – January 7, 2025 Minutes, Queensway

Present: Chief Glenn Bennett, Councillors Geneva Mason, Cyril Bennett-Nabess, Gerald Nyce (virtual), Jericho Collison (virtual), Ken McDames Jr. (virtual), Dr. David Try, Cheryl Campbell, Linda Morven

Guests: Adam Tang, Patricia Squires, Tyler West-Johnson, Bruno Belanger

1. Call Meeting to Order & Opening Prayer – The meeting is called to order at 3:03 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 2025-07-01 (ONE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the agenda for January 7, 2025 with one addition – Strategic Plan and Organizational Chart.

Moved by: Geneva Mason

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION 2025-01-07 (TWO)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the minutes of December 10, 2024, 2024 as presented.

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Ken McDames Jr.

Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Page 1 – Ulyses will provide an update on the security cameras, speed bumps, and generator at the next meeting.

Page 5 – The motions were provided to The Four Pillars Society and we received confirmation that the first payment will be processed. We'll include this as part of our planning and community growth work.

Page 7 – We're identifying where we can allocate the cost of the purchase for the ocean vessel.

Canco – Brian Winter, Stan Ashcroft, Darrin McCormack, 3:15 pm

5. Review of LOI

Stan provided an update on specific claims while we waited for Brian Winter to join us.

Don't think there's a choice, but to take the Railway Specific Claim to the Tribunal. Sitting in a gap of \$27 million. Council consensus for Stan to take this to the tribunal.

IR#1 cut-off – waiting on first appraisal on it. May need again a forestry expert.

Glenn - IR#5 – The erosion accelerated very fast. Lost about 100-150 feet of land. It's going to continue and get worst. What are our options?

Stan – Thought we received a report. David will provide what he has.

Stan - The key question is whether it's feasible. Traffic counts. Location between the gas stations. Any amenities. There has to be an attraction for it like Aeroplan or air miles.

\$250,000.00 owed, and how extensive do we want it to be. Do we want a restaurant?

Sometimes, it can be an attraction or a drag. There's a lot of things to consider. We need to find out from what the cost it is to construct it. Construction costs have gone up considerably.

Demolition costs can be considerable if it doesn't do well. Can take a lot of money to decommission.

Glenn – Important to the Council and the community. I can tell you they're very excited about the opportunity. They need it.

Stan – They don't look at it as a partnership. Have to purchase 45,000,000 liters during the initial term. If it doesn't work, then we'd have to review it. Important to do a feasibility study and business plan to make sure it's viable and at the very least to break even.

Darrin – KDC did commission for a feasibility study in April 2023. It did consider some of the comments you made, traffic analysis, flow analysis, gas bars in and around Terrace area, Kitwanga, and Tempo in Kitsumkalum. The commitment to purchase 45,000,000.00 for the term which is over one million per year. David Nairne, \$1.3 million per year on sales. There's something off with the proposition from Mr. Winters. It speaks to volumes that are 2 ½ times more from what David Nairne indicated. Would also recommend Council revisit Miraki that has identified this particular area as a high risk. There's a number of things that we have to consider.

Canco Winter Energy – Need a copy of our site survey, and who would work with Canco. Goes to market and tender process. Design build workshop will be provided, at no charge to the Band. It's a 15 year deal, discount on fuel, we pay for branding.

Glenn – I want to thank Mr. Winter for coming today. We want to look at this very carefully.

Bruno – I want to talk about the liters, and seems like a very large number.

Glenn – Points of contacts, Linda Morven as our CAO, and Darrin McCormack as our CEO for KDC.

Bruno – Kitselas Canyon, and build up tourism, and do have a provincial park located right across the highway. I would like to recommend a dumping station so people would have a reason to stop.

Brian – When we design the footprint, we really need to separate picnic area from the station.

Darrin – Design would start with considerations such as geotechnical, environmental studies considering the aquifer, prefer above ground, engineering studies, work closely with Director of Public Works, access to water, sewer, hydro, do we need 3 phase power, having charging stations, permitting and working with MOTI, widen the highway for access in and out, and appreciate the costing references. We did do a feasibility study some time ago, and the numbers you're suggesting are quite higher than the numbers in our feasibility, and how much generally is this is going to cost us.

Tyler – Highway frontage, great returns, etc. Once you get on the reserve, you lose that visibility. The reserve is about 800-900 meters away from the highway. Signage is critical. If you were to take this feasibility from fee simple land to reserve land, how would that look?

Glenn – I was thinking about Treaty settlement lands adjacent to highway 16. This is an important project moving forward. These are preliminary discussions, and we'll ensure we cover all our bases. We're all aware of what's being discussed.

Stan – Would like to have limited partnership to protect Kitselas. 3,000,000 would be similar to a place like Chase.

Brian – All companies share their volumes, so I can show you an analysis.

Stan – Concerned that this would be on reserve. It would be an attraction for Kitselas to have status free gas.

Brian – Kitsumkalum isn't doing that well.

Stan – What sort of benefits in terms of plans?

Brian – We have Canco gas points.

Glenn – If I have to down to Kalum to gas up, I'll save \$10.00. It's not that great.

Gerald – Thinking back to community meeting, the goal was not just fuel, but to have a store, etc. I'm wondering if the facility can be moved to reserve land.

Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Fishery Officers Isaac Pulliam and Daneeka Alexander, and Cst. Patrick Tilma, 4:30 pm

6. Introductions, Roles and Responsibilities, and Relationship with Kitselas First Nation

Glenn – Food fish is very important for our people. We are responsible for monitoring and patrolling on the Skeena River and the ocean. We did every fishing that was available, and know how treacherous the North Coast is. When it comes to our resources, it's very important, and when it comes to DFO, and a concern and we have to pull our nets, we'll certainly do our part.

Patrick – Isaac and Daneeka came to him and showing a genuine interest, and I was really encouraged by their desire to change things for the better, and asked me to facilitate it.

Isaac – Awesome to see Nations so passionate about their resources. Fishing and hunting has been a large part of my life growing up. I do believe strongly in connecting with community and working together as we're working in the same direction. I look forward to working with folks closely and better the relationship between DFO and the Kitselas First Nation.

Daneeka – I'm Ojibway and worked in the Nass for the last 4 years, and moved away from the Nass and looking forward to working with Kitselas and Kitsumkalum.

Isaac – Metis sash, medicine bags, and letter of introduction presented to Kitselas. I'm happy to be part of Patrick's initiative and working closely with community, and working closely with the Lands and Resources department.

Glenn – Again, we're very honored to have our guests here, and have a good understanding of DFO.

Geneva – Expresses concern about a problem with homeless people. Hasn't been an issue before, but in the last 5 years, it's more of an issue with partying, garbage, etc. and impacts on environment.

K5T, Evan van Dyk

7. Proposed Property Purchase

Evan provided an overview of the K5T request. We're looking for a corporate guarantee, an endorsement from Council. It's a specific loan for a specific property.

Leslie Field – K5T revenue profit isn't up to par. The corporate guarantee is added security to the bank, and if something went awry, we could look to the Nation.

Glenn advised Council will do their due diligence and will come forward with their recommendation.

Our CAO noted that this has been forwarded to our finance to review. Other considerations include other major projects such as our administration building, the gas bar, and the ocean vessel. We'll need to prioritize projects and what we support.

Treaty

8. Proposed Ratification Pay-Out

Ratification vote on April 12. Looking for one-on-one engagement. Murray Rankin is confirmed as one of our speakers. Youth drop in events. Treaty land tours scheduled, but no one has signed up. Deep dive on constitution on January 28, and had a number of people sign up for it. Proper database – Nation builder. April 12, ratification vote – Hall and admin building.

Cyril – No Sm'algax in it. When you read it, we need to see ourselves in it. I would like the leader, the Chief Councillor or President or whatever the name is, should be on its own.

Council is canvassed on one vote or two votes with the Chief Councillor or whatever it's termed as separate votes:

Glenn – One vote. Geneva – two votes. Jericho – two votes. Ken – two votes. Gerald – one vote. Cyril – two votes.

It's unanimous of Council for 2 votes. David advised he will canvas community.

David reviewed the proposed ratification payout on successful vote.

Glenn – Should be \$10,000 for each member, and set up a trust for underage children.

Cyril – I am of another view that our elders have endured so much and waiting this process out, and recommend \$10k for 60 and under and \$20K for over 60.

Gerald – It's a bit of a tough one. I agree with Glenn being fair across the board. I know the elders are already receiving \$200 each month that's come out of the Treaty. I like the idea of having a trust for children under 19.

Ken – I'm in agreement with fairness. Is there something in place for transfers?

David – It would be those members enrolled on ratification vote on April 12, 2025.

Jericho – I agree with the transfers issue as long as you put a date on it.

Linda – It would be registered members as at April 12, 2025 only and needs to be communicated.

David – We have 592, and 752 members registered.

Geneva – I agree with \$10k and \$20k for elders.

Glenn – Recommended that we bring this back to the table when we have all Council members present.

CAO Report

9. 25-26 DRAFT Budget & Work Plans – Working on budgets and work plans for 25-26. Prior to the holiday, I did some work on the budget and provided it to Cameron and Isabel with the 25/26 ISC funding allocation, and we'll continue to work on it to present to the FAC Committee on January 28, 2025.

10. Council Remuneration

Linda – I completed some research on it and recommend two options – up to 3 hours \$250.00 and either \$400 or \$500 after 3 hours. The remuneration hasn't changed for years, and the cost of living has increased. It was recognized that for Council to take a day off work, the current rate is not feasible.

MOTION 2025-01-07 (THREE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the increase to Council remuneration effective January 7, 2025 - \$150 to \$250 for up to 3 hours and \$300 to \$500 after 3 hours.

Moved by: Gerald Nyce

Seconded by: Ken McDames Jr.

Carried

The CAO to amend the required policy on Council remuneration.

11. Strategic Plan & Organizational Chart/Structure – This was raised at the senior team meeting, that it will be part of the planning and community growth we're doing. The organizational chart including post-Treaty is also moving forward. Directors were tasked to review their department and come back with recommendations on their staffing and what it would like after Treaty.

12. Additional Reserves Specific Claim – requires a resolution.

MOTION 2025-01-07 (FOUR)

THAT Kitselas Band Council approves the following:

The Kitselas First Nation has retained the Specific Claims Research Centre and Ashcroft & Company to conduct its Specific Claims work. The Kitselas First Nation authorizes the Specific Claims Research Centre c/o 6th Floor, 73 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1A1, and the firm of Ashcroft & Company, 205-1544 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, BC, or any researcher retained by the Specific Claims Research Centre or Ashcroft & Company, to have access to review and photocopy all records pertaining to the Kitselas First Nation and its reserves, including trust account records. The Kitselas First Nation hereby authorizes and directs that work be commenced on a new Specific Claim entitled Kitselas First Nation Additional Reserves Specific Claim.

Moved by: Cyril Bennett-Nabess

Seconded by: Gerald Nyce

Carried

13. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment – February 4, 2025, Gitau (January 21, 2025 same week as BC Cabinet & First Nations Leadership Gathering

MOTION 2025-01-07 (FIVE)

THAT Kitselas Band Council adjourns the meeting (7:22 pm).

Moved by: Geneva Mason

Seconded by: Ken McDames Jr.

Carried