



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON Thursday, January 23, 2020 AT 5:30 PM

**PRESENT**

Mayor D. Funk  
Councillor Wiebe  
Councillor White  
CAO Worthing  
EDO Lorie Watson  
Deputy Corporate Officer V. Anderson

**GUESTS**

Tom McCarthy, *Chief Negotiator Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*

Tlell Glover, *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*

**PUBLIC**

1 member of the public

**MEDIA**

None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Funk called the meeting to order at 5:26 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded by Council

**2020-01-23: 50**

**THAT the agenda for January 23, 2020, Special Meeting of Council be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC AND STATUTORY HEARINGS; AND READINGS OR ADOPTIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DELEGATIONS**

Lakes Lake Babine Foundational Agreement Update – *Tom McCarthy, Chief Negotiator Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation*

- Introduction of delegation and Council
- T. McCarthy began with an overview of the agreement process to date. The agreement is a

- tripartite agreement with Lake Babine Nation, BC and Federal Governments.
- The LBN agreement came about from a 20-year treaty process that was not working.
  - The foundational agreement has taken 3 or 4 years to come to a place where it can be presented to the government. The agreement includes the social sector, natural resources and governance.
  - LBN includes 5 communities, Donald's Landing, Woyenne, Old Fort, Tachet and Fort Babine.
  - The nations have a high reliance on the forest sector.
  - The core area of LBN does not overlap with other First Nations.
  - The foundational agreement will set a foundation that we all understand with the goal of moving forward on the reconciliation path and to implement Lake Babines Aboriginal Rights and Title.
  - Not everything will be done at once, and the other areas will be built up over time.
  - There will be immediate financial benefits for LBN and LBN will take on significant responsibilities.
  - LBN will take on determining a governance model for the band.
  - There can be tensions between Hereditary Chiefs and elected band councils, the governance model developed by LBN will address this.
  - The first piece of work for LBN over the next 3-4 years will be to develop a governance model that will include how decisions will be made and how to interface with other governments.
  - Immediate Commitments include: Financial benefits and a significant land transfer for LBN. Crown Land Transfer of up to 20,000 ha will occur within 5 years. Partnerships with the forest sector will be developed. The financial benefits include money for implementation support, an Economic Development Fund, Forestry Activity Fund and Sociocultural Program enhancements.
  - LBN will do extensive strategic planning over the next few years.
  - Health will look at deepening current delivery models and working with Northern Health to improve relations and limit duplication of services.
  - There is a strong hope and commitment that meaningful partnerships will come out of this agreement.
  - Currently, LBN has a significant volume of fibre they can harvest, LBN would like to increase this.
  - LBN would like a more significant say in forestry, fishery and wildlife.

- Trust needs to be built in order to work together.
- There will be a transfer of 20,000 ha of crownland, (NW area of Babine Lake). It will be set out in a separate land transfer agreement.
- The land transfer agreement will be negotiated in the next 1-2 years. Just starting the negotiation process with fee simple landowners.
- Economic Development is in the 15 million dollar range over 5 years.
- Governance Model is the top priority while building the areas of the Social Sector and the Natural Resource Sector.
- The land transfer negotiators will be sending out a letter to property owners in the area. The engagement will start soon. It will likely take five years in total for the land transfer to take effect. Questions like “can I still quad in the area” will be addressed.
- LBN would like to use the land transferred area as a privately managed forest.
- Next steps for the foundation agreement: The agreement will be finalized over the winter of 2020. Government of BC staff will continue to engage with stakeholders and the public.
- Open houses are being planned.
- There are a number of agreements being negotiated along the Highway 16 corridor.
- The agreement could be implemented in the spring if approved by the provincial government.
- Council discussed the idea of having open houses to inform the public in late March or April.
- Council discussed that duplication of service delivery needs to be avoided.
- The Mayor applauded the process and the level of engagement the negotiating committee has had with council. The agreement will go a long way toward building better relationships and partnerships.
- Council discussed having a regular round table for organizations impacted by this agreement.
- The area in the 20,000 ha land transfer has 3 or 4 forest companies operating within it, one guide outfitter, and the majority of trapline holders are LBN members. There are a number of cabin owners and residents within the area.
- Fee Simple land will not be transferred.
- Council discussed that the land transfer would be a Fee Simple Transfer; however, public access will be negotiated. The land would be subject to the regional district’s zoning bylaw. LBN wants to eventually work towards Aboriginal Title.

- The Mayor thanked the delegation for their presentation.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES** None

**MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS** None

**REPORTS** None

**BUSINESS ARISING** None

**ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS – ACTION** None

**ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AND FILED** None

**NEW BUSINESS** None

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** None

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded by Council

**2020-01-23: 51**

**THAT the January 23, 2020, Special Meeting is adjourned at 6:04 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

  
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MAYOR

  
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CORPORATE OFFICER

Certified to be a true copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council for the Corporation of the Village of Burns Lake held on Thursday, January 23, 2020.