

Village of Masset Regular Council Meeting of February 27, 2023

Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 27, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

Present:	Councillors:	J. Currie, T. Carty, B. Johnston, B. Pages
	CAO:	J. Humphries
	CFO:	J. Brown
Absent:	Mayor	S. Disney

CALL TO ORDER

The Village of Masset acknowledges the un-ceded traditional territory of the Haida Nation on which this meeting is held.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Currie to adopt the agenda as amended with the addition of NB-8 The Singing Surf Liquor Licence.

CARRIED

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Currie that the February 13, 2023 Council meeting minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

PETITIONS AND DELEGATES

1. Jennifer Rice

Jennifer Rice is the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health. She has been working on the possible ER closures at the Masset Hospital. The latest update that she has received from Northern Health stated that they have managed to secure staff coverage until the end of March 2023 and are hoping to extend the timeline further than that.

MLA Rice was originally appointed the Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Management and remembered the two large earthquakes and subsequent evacuations that occurred on Haida Gwaii during that time. She now represents Northern BC as the Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health for the next 16 months. Her mandate is:

1. To support the Minister of Health with a health and human resources plan by keeping an eye on recruitment for rural communities and facilitate getting concerns of rural residents heard in the governmental process.
2. Examine the travel assistance program
3. Rural maternal health and expanding the midwifery program

Councillor Johnston stated that the Village of Masset found out what was happening at the hospital by a whistle blower and that the planning has been going on since October 2022. His concern is that some people will not be able to afford the travel down island if the ER hours are reduced. Councillor Johnston stated that he was fortunate to get chemotherapy for his cancer treatment on-island but feels that there is inequity between the two hospitals. MLA Rice stated that the person that oversees hospitals on Haida Gwaii will be coming to the islands on March 12, 2023 and she will relay his concerns to her.

He also stated that the kitchen was closed in the Masset Hospital but not the Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital.

Councillor Pages stated that he has lost confidence in Northern Health's recruiting of staff for the Masset Hospital. He has heard from people that have requested to come to Masset to work that they have been told to go to other communities. He stated that they are going to get more vocal about the lack of recruitment. Masset funded 60% of the hospital through the Municipal Finance Authority and is reimbursed through a lease with Northern Health.

Larger centers on the mainland can commute to the larger centers for hospital services but on Haida Gwaii that travel can take up to a week because of having to travel off-island by ferry or plane and this causes a financial hardship for most people. MLA Rice stated that they have a rural caucus now and are reviewing the TAPS system. She stated that she needs our help to educate her peers on this issue as they do not understand the issues and hardships.

Councillor Carty suggested that there would be merit to going into the schools here and talking to the youth to promote the need to get the education/training needed to fill the positions here. MLA Rice stated that Northern Health told her that there is planning for a local training package that is proceeding quickly. Further discussion needs to be held regarding the obstacles regarding the training.

Councillor Carty also stated that we will do everything we can to support MLA Rice getting our concerns heard. The Village of Masset Health Committee is functioning and could be a resource.

CORRESPONDENCE

C-1 UBCM Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training & Equipment

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Carty to receive and file the correspondence from UBCM regarding the Volunteer and Composite Fire Department Training and Equipment.

CARRIED

C-2 UBCM Housing Summit

Moved by Councillor Currie, seconded by Councillor Johnston to receive and file the correspondence from UBCM regarding the Housing Summit.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS OF COUNCIL/CAO/CFO

Councillor Johnston and Josh Humphries attended the Housing Forum in Port Clements.

Councillor Pages attended an NDI meeting.

Councillor Currie attended a MIEDS meeting.

Jo-Ann Brown attended the Municipal Insurance Association staff training in Port Clements and is preparing for the audit scheduled at the end of March.

Moved by Councillor Carty, seconded by Councillor Johnston that the verbal reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Airport SMS Annual Report

Josh Humphries reviewed the report prepared by WASCO. Documentation shows the system at the airport has improved dramatically in the past year.

Moved by Councillor Currie, seconded by Councillor Johnston that the Airport SMS Annual Report be received and filed.

CARRIED

NB-2 Ombudsperson for British Columbia

Josh Humphries will send the link for the webinar to the Mayor and Councillors.

NB-3 VIRL Gwaii Trust Major Contributions Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Carty, seconded by Councillor Johnston that the Village of Masset support Vancouver Island Regional Library's application to Gwaii Trust Major Contributions for grant funding in the amount of \$250,000.00 toward the development of a new Masset Library.

CARRIED

NB-4 VIRL Co-op Community Spaces Program – Recreation Grant Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Carty, seconded by Councillor Johnston that the Village of Masset support Vancouver Island Regional Library's application to Co-op Community Spaces Program – Recreation Grant for funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 toward the development of a new Masset Library.

CARRIED

NB-5 Haida Gwaii Fitness Association Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Carty that the Village of Masset support Haida Gwaii Fitness Association's application to Gwaii Trust Major Contributions fund in the amount of \$76,505.00 toward equipment upgrades.

CARRIED

NB-6 Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum Letter of Support

Moved by Councillor Carty, seconded by Councillor Johnston that the Village of Masset Support the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum's Society's application to the Gwaii Trust Major Contributions program for \$67,114.31 in funding towards the museum's Windows and Doors Replacement Project.

CARRIED

NB-7 Gwaii Trust Major Contributions 2023 Grant Masset Covered Plaza

Moved by Councillor Johnston, seconded by Councillor Currie, that the Village of Masset apply for funding to build a covered plaza as part of the Village of Masset's Main

Street Masset: Park to Pier action plan totaling \$504,000.00 with 250,000.00 coming from Gwaii Trust and 254,000.00 coming from Village reserves.

CARRIED

NB-8 The Singing Surf Liquor Licence

Moved by: Councillor Johnston
Seconded by: Councillor Currie

WHEREAS the Village of Masset recognizes The Singing Surf has applied to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) for a liquor licence proposed to be located at 1504 Old Beach Road, Masset, BC; and

WHEREAS in order to consider the application and provide the LCRB with a written recommendation with respect to the application, the Village of Masset provided the public with an opportunity to submit written comments prior to the February 27, 2023 Public Hearing and to participate in said Hearing; and

WHEREAS based on the comments received with all of them referring to the positive social and economic aspects of having an additional liquor establishment in the community, and from the presentation by the applicant to members of Council detailing the location and operations of the proposed liquor establishment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Masset approve the Liquor License application by The Singing Surf based on public input and information received.

CARRIED

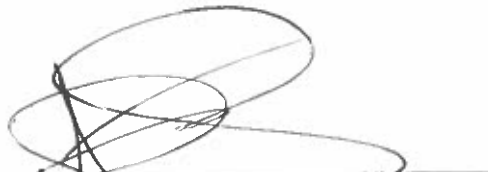
ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Johnston that the meeting be adjourned at 9:11 pm to a closed session.


CARRIED



Recording Secretary



Mayor



Certified Correct, Administrator