

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday March 23rd, 2024

By Zoom Conference

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Chair: Kevin Mack

People's Assembly convened 10:00 a.m.

Welcome by Kevin Mack

- o Kevin provided an opening prayer and recited a written submission from chief Anne
- o Introduced Donna Monteith as our new Director of Operations

Agenda adopted (moved by Naomi Mack, seconded by Lisa Morgan)

Approved December 9, 2023 meetings minutes approved by consensus

Presenters: Kevin Mack, Rick Shafer, David Johnsen, Jackie Arsenault, Robyn Rea, Trudy Warner, Lisa Morgan

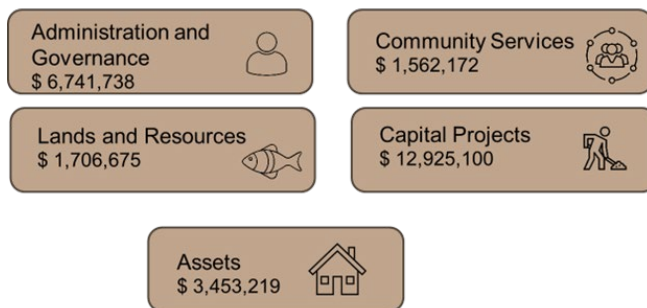
Council Members: Kirsten Johnsen, Kevin Mack, Noah Plonka, Lisa Morgan

1st Door Prize winner – Buck Goodman

1) Introduction from Kevin Mack

- i) Robyn Rea provided a summary of the Annual Budget for 2024-2025 and presented on the highlights.

Total Budget: \$26,388,905



- (1) As a Self-Governing Indigenous Government, Toquaht has chosen to budget for outcomes
 - (a) This involves a collaborative effort between the Finance department and all Directors and program managers.
 - (b) Directors continuously update their workplans for current and future years.
 - (c) Workplans lead to outcomes, or goals, based on the Toquaht Nation Government Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Guiding Principles and using the foundations of Toquaht's Strategic Plan.
 - (d) The Budget process begins in the fall; Directors met in November in Parksville to workshop goals for 24-25 and future years, and the collaborative work with finance has continued to date.

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- (2) Trudy Warner provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "Administration and Governance" department.
- (a) These categories of activities include activities related to general administrative costs, governance and implementation costs and this budget covers the goals and strategies in the "build government & masčim capacity" priority in the strategic plan.

Question/Comment. Can Council consider increasing the citizen distributions (Christmas and summer)

Response. Kevin responded by saying the request will be brought to the Council meeting to discuss before enacting the budget act.

- (3) Lisa Morgan provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "community services" department.
- (a) Allocated funding to support addictions recovery for citizens, healthy community activities to promote wellness, increase services in Macoah to include alternative health and traditional healing, continuing to provide supports for elders, creating a strategy to connect children in care with Toquaht along with other child and family services, and lastly continually improving education policies and supports.
- (4) David Johnsen provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the "lands and resources" department.
- (a) A lot is happening within the marine stewardship program; new marine stewardship/public works building at Macoah, data collection through land and marine patrols and assistance with food fish programs.
- (b) We are continuing with the aquatic habitat restoration project in the Maggie and Toquaht River watersheds.
- (c) Other initiatives include: the official community plan was updated and will be adopted at the Council meeting on March 26th, coordinating with other departments to maximize the acquisition and use of traditional foods, ongoing efforts to trade and barter traditional foods from other territories.

Question/Comment Any news with the new Fiber Optic plan for Macoah & Secret Beach?

Response We continue to advance the Connected Coast fibre optic project as a priority, this is a work in progress, an update with anticipated project completion can be prepared for the June PA

Coming over the ocean floor, will land at Macoah and at Secret Beach, no info on the schedule yet.

David will find out more information

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- (5) Jackie Arsenault provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the new “assets” department.
- (a) The assets department encompasses public works, infrastructure, and emergency management.
 - (b) Activities include; monitoring of water systems, updating the Health & Safety Plan, hiring staff, drafting an asset management plan, establishing inspection and maintenance schedule and other policies, continued emergency management training, relocating and replenishing the muster station, and developing the Macoah Volunteer Firefighting Team.

Question/Comment Does Toquaht have a fire response / safety plan?

Response Toquaht has an agreement with the province for fire suppression services at a cost per incident/event.

Question/Comment Buck Goodman said “I will be mowing lawns for elderly community members again this year,...any chance I could get an equipment upgrade? Specifically, a decent mower.”

Response Will look into the equipment and see what can be done.

Question/Comment could there be a schedule throughout the year for gravel road grading with in the Macoah community?

Response Will work to create a more regular schedule with the contractor.

- (6) Rick Shafer provided an overview of the categories and associated activities / expenses in the new “capital projects” department.
- (a) The objectives of the 24/25 fiscal year are to liaise with Indigenous Services Canada and other funding agencies and pursue various funding opportunities for Capital Projects and Economic Development initiatives.
 - (b) There are several projects continuing from the previous year; Lucky Creek Hydro, Secret Beach Marina, Section 38 subdivision expansion, new Toquaht Government building out at Secret Beach, Marine Stewardship/public works building, Macoah public washroom, playground and outdoor gym, comprehensive review of the Draft Remediation Action Plan (RAP) being developed by BC for the contaminated site at the old Toquaht Bay Campground, housing at Macoah, and services being extended to Secret Beach.

Question/Comment Recommend to have interior of the new government building be cedar free for staff and guests with allergies to wood products.

Response We will pass the message on to the architects.

Question/Comment	Will there be a small office to the Marine Steward building?
Response	2 offices and a small meeting room.
Question/Comment	Naomi likes the plan for the roof over outdoor exercise equipment.
Question/Comment	Will the access paths to the Macoah beach be upgraded, there is both stairway and walking path.
Response	Yes, looking for ideas on that, there are cmt's that can be highlighted etc.
Question/Comment	Has there been interest from outsiders to purchase a site at Secret Beach?
Response	Yes, there have been many people that are interested, just an informal list, no pre-sales will occur.
Question/Comment	Will there be a committee to oversee this section? ec.dev or something else? I realize this would take great discussion.
Response	There is an ec dev committee that discusses projects and possible ideas. Executive will also be part of the discussion.
Question/Comment	How much are the lots going to be at Secret Beach?
Response	Projected price range \$325K non waterfront \$475K waterfront, at current costs, may increase over the next few years. May be able to provide enhanced opportunities for citizens, under discussion with a working group (creative ways). They are varying sizes and shapes in the development. Will be a lot of green space left so not a blank treeless land.
Question/Comment	Will there be land line phone service at Macoah and the new government building at the secret beach location?
Response	We are told the new fibre optic system will provide for this, David will look into this more.

2nd Door Prize winner – Kelly Johnsen

2) Announcements

- i) Update on Changes to Legislation Kirsten Johnsen
(1) There are five pieces of legislation being enacted before the end of the fiscal year.

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- (a) Annual Budget Act-Sets out the proposed activities for the next fiscal year
 - (b) Five-Year financial Plan Act- Similar to the Annual Budget Act, it sets out the proposed expenditures over the next five (5) years.
 - (c) Official Community Plan Act- A policy that guides how we steward, develop, and manage Toquaht Lands.
 - (d) Macoah Zoning & Structures Act Amending Act- A few amendments are required for the current Act to be in compliance with the new OCP Act.
 - (e) Public Works & Services Act Amending Act- A few amendments are required due to changes in policy and the OCP and it also establishes the new Assets Department.

3) Question Period

- i) No questions

Draw for Grand Prize – Noreen Frank

The next People’s Assembly will be held at Macoah and/or Secret Beach Cookhouse on Saturday, June 22nd, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by K. Johnsen
Law Clerk <i>Kirsten Johnsen</i>
Date 2025-03-27

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kathy Waddell	Cait Wills
Naomi Mack	Noah Plonka
Kevin Mack	Robyn Rea
Kelly Johnsen	Kirsten Johnsen
Buck Goodman	Rick Shafer
David Johnsen	Jackie Arsenault
Donna Monteith	
Lisa Morgan	
Noreen Frank	
Trudy Warner	