

**Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly**  
**ZOOM Webinar**  
**March 6, 2021**

**Attendance: 37**

Charlie Cootes Sr.	Thomas Rush	Clifford Charles
Wilfred Cootes Jr.	Regina Frank	Randall Ginger
Jacque Auriat	Carla Halvorsen	Scott Coulson
Marie Samuel	Marci Ginger	Mayanna Rush
Melissa Rush	Susan Leask	Ryan Cootes
Maren Yeager	Brianna Lambert	Tina Halvorsen
Phyllis Halvorsen	Sabrina Crowley	Megan Cootes
John Cootes	Malachi Yeager	Ellen Gonzales
Bruce Gonzales	Gloria J Frank	Micha Ginger
Moriah Cootes	Serra Cootes	Mike Smith
Martha Titian	Donny Cartlidge	April Thompson
Gina Laing	Jane Jeffrey	Lorraine Cootes
Selena Urbanovitch	Racheal Mathiassen	

Chant/Prayer – Thomas Rush/Marie Samuel

**Agenda:**

**Motion #01:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly accepts that  
Agenda of the day.

Moved: Thomas Rush

Seconded: Mike Smith

(All in Favor -15)

Motion Carried

**Budget:**

**Motion #02:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to review the UTG budget.

Moved: Charlie Cootes Sr.                      Seconded: Randall Ginger

(All in Favor - 15)

Motion Carried

**NEW FUNDING:**

New Fiscal Finance Agreement Negotiated and Signed. Federal Financing now at \$5.1million must be used for administration of services and Governance

BC Gaming Revenues– 20 year agreement paying all First Nations in BC a portion of BC Gaming Revenues. UTG negotiated agreement at approximately \$480,000 per year for 20years, will be down in 2022 due to Covid 19

Negotiated to have the Treaty Loan paid back that was paid by UTG over the past 8 years Amounts to \$2.1 million. Pay back terms in this years Federal Budget

GAP Closing Funds: Applied for and Received \$3.8 Million in funding for the UTG GAP Closing Project Phase 2

**Sabrina Crowley Question:** What are gaming revenues, what can it be used for?

**Answer:** This is the agreement with BC Government to get a share of BC Gaming revenues. We signed off on the agreement. Last year we received around \$501,000. We are looking at getting around \$480,000 this year. It can be used for capital improvements, services, health and wellness for citizens. Each year, how we spend the funds is audited as well and provided back to BC government how we spent it. You are also allowed to invest it. You cannot just provide the cash out to citizens, must be for services and capital expenditures.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Who decides to spend the new funding? Who votes on that? My main concern is the gaming. We have a councillor we don't hear from. What will gaming revenue bring for us. Gaming doesn't represent a healthy well being. Some people have lost their whole lives over gaming. This is new information to me.

**Answer:** It is determined in your budget. BC Gaming revenues, we use it for the citizens so we provide health and wellness. It is determined by your council.

**Micha Ginger Question:** How will the housing work? Who gets it and who pays rent and in past our ancestors never used to pay rent.

**Answer:** Housing in the village will have no rent charged and will be provided to families where historic homes belong to. There are some areas coming up that will speak to housing initiatives.

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** Do we still have a list for housing for tribe members? I hope to bring our members back home. We have people that have been on a housing list years back pre-treaty.

**Answer:** For rentals? People that used to ask for a house in the past, we will see if there is any documentation. Any lists pre treaty we can try to track down. We can send out notice to try and create a new one if we can't find previous lists.

**Micha Ginger Question:** How are you choosing people to build homes for and replacing historic homes that were in the village and determining ownership by those families?

**Answer:** Land Act has just been finalized and people can apply for lands in the village. The regulation is also being completed.

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** Newsletter, everyone should be getting one and would be good to get the information online. Not all people have computers though so that is an issue.

**Micha Ginger Concern:** About how government is functioning – I want to discuss that.

**Wilfred Cootes Jr Chair:** That is another discussion, please follow up with us on that later on, lets focus on budget.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Increase Rent Revenue to anticipate Redford School lease from NTC this year

Increase Boardroom rent for anticipated rent  
Increase in Audit Fee cost due to new Economic Development entities and new Gaming Revenue Audit to be done yearly

Increase in Bank Charges  
Increase in expenditures due to increase in rent paid for Thunderbird Building and added Nucii Building

Staff Training Increase for First Aid training course 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Decrease in overall Wages due to funding for one position,  
Overall Administration Budget down \$20,000

**Sabrina Crowley Comment:** I agree to discuss the budget and how to involve more membership in the decision-making process by creating those committees where members can take part in them and be more involved.

**Motion #03:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agree that the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government involve Uchucklesaht Tribe membership in decision making processing at committee levels, regarding large development by creating committees in each major department and meet quarterly.

Moved: Sabrina Crowley

Seconded: Mike Smith

(All in Favor – 10)

*Motion Carried*

**Comment:** Redford Gym – would like to meet there as there is enough space to be socially distant.

**Reply:** Cannot meet there yet under provincial restrictions. We will in the future be able to gather together and have all our meetings there in the future.

## **COUNCIL**

Overall Council Budget down

Decrease Legal Expenses

Honorarium decrease of \$5,000

Local Travel and Reading Increase increased

Decrease in supplies for FTA Council members, computers

Decrease in Council travel due to Covid 19  
Decrease for Inter-Governmental relations

**Sabrina Crowley Question:** Have we increased executive council seats and roles? Would like more positions for all members of council to sit on the Executive Council. How are we including the new council members in our government? They need to be more involved and be reported to regularly. We should have this in the budget as well.

**Answer:** Yes, we are increasing council participation in the various committees once that is set up.

**Motion #04:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government develop the Secretary executive position, Treasurer executive position and also develop Executive Culture and Heritage Position of the Executive.

Moved: Sabrina Crowley

Seconded: Phyllis Halvorsen

(All in Favor – 10)

(Abstained – 3)

(Opposed – 5)

*Motion Carried*

Megan Cootes – some people want to discuss other questions not related to budget – can we deal with that at the end of the presentation?

Wilfred Cootes Jr. – No, we cannot have this as a broad input session. It would not be fair governance if we had it. If there are common issues and themes, then we can deal with the issues that way. Some people didn't join because they thought we were to Mike Smith – we should follow Zoom etiquette and I hear many frustrations with our people and they want to be heard and welcomed but due to technical difficulties it is proving hard to follow. We are not all meeting enough. This must be where the frustrations are coming from. Let's all focus on the budget everyone and get through this. We do need more outlets and that must be acknowledged. We only meet about money and how we spend that. We need to meet more often.

Wilfred Cootes Jr. – yes, I will take that back, having more Peoples Assemblies so everyone has their voices heard. Everyone's concerns are valid. We are all part of a big family and all voices do matter and their concerns are valid.

**Sabrina Crowley Comment:** We would like to see the Executive and Legislative Government on the same level. Legislative Government is always playing catch up on Executive Minutes and not updated regularly, so I just want to make sure they are regularly updated as it states in the laws Executive must update the Legislative Government - checking that all is in compliance with our laws.

**Motion #05:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees that the Executive meet with Legislative to effectively carry out their obligations to verbally report to the Legislative Government, meet quarterly and also allow Legislative Government to sit in on Executive Meetings monthly during updates.

Moved: Sabrina Crowley

Seconded: Ellen Gonzales

(All in Favor – 10)

(Opposed – 7)

(Abstain – 1)

Motion Carried

**Likely 24 additional meetings – likely another \$20,000-\$30,000 more.**

Comment: Not everyone has a computer and everyone should have a say in that. It is important and should be dealt with. Covid has kept us all away. This is all important. I-pads might be a good idea.

## **NUMEROUS DEPARTMENTS**

Elections- Total Budget \$3,000 for election this year, in case there is a by-election

Peoples Assembly –Meeting Costs down due to Covid 19 use of Zoom for meetings

Increase in Honorarium from \$40 to \$100 per meeting

Door Prizes increased to \$10,000

Citizenship and Enrollment- overall budget down by \$4,000

Honorarium from \$500 to \$1,500

## **EDUCATION SERVICES**

Created new Department for Post Secondary Education in 2020

Cancel NTC Services will hire UTG own F/T Education Coordinator to better track and assist our students savings of \$24,000/year

Increased Education budgets for:

Student Books and Supplies \$13,000 to \$26,000

Student Allowances \$20,000 to \$25,000

Student Awards/Grad \$5,000 to \$10,000

Student Scholarships \$3,500 to \$5,000

Student Activities to stay at \$20,000

Student Transport to stay at \$5,000

New budget amount for student workshops \$15,000

## **FNESC DEPARTAMENT**

Maintained budget on Christmas Party and Community and Parental Engagement need to see what we do due to Covid 19

**Question:** How are students selected?

**Answer:** By our education department and there is an application process. We increase each year since the need is there each year.

**Ellen Gonzales Question:** How can we go home if there is not any transportation to get kids to school?

**Answer:** This is for field trips and that type of thing. Village Transportation is a different slide.

**Maren Yeager Question:** What grade does student allowance start?

**Answer:** Grade 7

**Sabrina Crowley Question:** Does it include tickets and other?

**Answer:** No, different department handles those types of things.

**Megan Cootes Question:** My past experience using NTC, they were often not fully utilized for amount of budget we put towards them. What is our plan going forward – are we moving balances forward or are funds being used elsewhere?

**Answer:** Each year there is a new budget and either you have a surplus and we usually are in good position at the end of the year. We consider that when going into the next year. We do expend our funds and there are instances that people do drop out.

**Question:** Are all members eligible?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Can you put applications in online?

**Answer:** No, not yet, once new website we can look at doing that online?

**Question:** Can we see who was selected?

**Answer:** No, due to privacy issues.

**Question:** I have been involved with Nuu chah nulth language. How many of our people would want to learn our language. We should start to do this and use our language?

**Answer:** Yes, we have budget lines coming up in culture and heritage that can involve cultural and Language

## **POST SECONDARY**

Also includes US citizens being funded. Post Secondary Education amount increased and also to include USA citizens

Adult Training increased and will also include USA citizens

**Selena Urbanovitch Question:** My kids are swimmers, can it cover becoming a lifeguard?

**Answer:** Yes, call Human Services Department to see if that qualifies. Get the application submitted.

**Megan Cootes Question:** I took a course through North Island College but for people that want additional language courses, is there a way you marry those two pieces together, culture and education?

**Answer:** Yes, you apply through post secondary. Not all approvals are for a degree. You apply through same mechanism. If we are short on funds, we can move onto cultural dollars as well.

**Megan Cootes Question:** American/Canadian Citizen, does it matter where I take the education?

**Answer:** No, you can do your education in any location as long as it qualifies.

## **MARINE TRANSPORTATION**

Weekly from twice a month - Village runs with purchase of larger vessel (12 passenger) will maintain smaller vessel for emergencies

Fuel increased

Repairs to Transport increased

Contract Wages for Skipper increased

Purchasing a new skiff to replace old that is cracked, outfitting used smaller skiff for clam and oyster harvest

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** Northwest Boat, can we get two twin outboard motors and remote toggles for a spotlight to reach around 100 feet and also updated radar and GPS and to fix the door on the Northwest as it does not open very well. The boat needs upgrades.

**Action #01:** CAO will ensure that lands and resources will get all the information.

**Gina Laing Question:** I have not been involved in meetings for a long time due to medical issues and I don't remember the years before as it is stressful. How many people out there are taken by surprise by all that is happening today. I'm probably very uninformed and so don't understand some motions and I'm against things because I don't understand it as well. People are not happy about traditional ways being lost and how we are to be welcomed home. Our ways have been put aside and all this stuff is mute to a lot of us. There should be a percentage of people involved in these important votes like we are discussing today and that is not right. I would like for councillor to look into us being more informed.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

Cancelled NTC Health services, hired UTG own public health nurse to work with UTG citizens only; savings of \$86,000

Increased Funeral Expense

Increased Elders monthly allotment from \$300 to \$500.

Medications and Supplies increased

Special Needs Increased

Supplies increased

Treatments increased

New Line item for Mental Health and awareness

ALL other accounts maintained

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** I would like people to get educated how to use the difibulator? It's a life saving tool and would be good for us all to know how to use – we have one in the village.

**Answer:** Yes, we will ensure training is done. Didn't realize that was not yet done.

## **NURSING**

Created new Department "Nursing" as we now have a full time Uchucklesaht Health Nurse

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social Assistance Budget doubled to \$20,000

New Account for a Low Income Housing Allowance

New Account for funding for a Homeless Strategy for Uchucklesaht Citizens

### **Family and Child Services**

Maintained Picnic budget

Increased Travel for Children in Care

New Account to fund a bus driver for our new 17 passenger bus

New Account Prevention Activities for drug and homeless

Increase to swim tickets

**Micha Ginger Question:** I feels like I am being permanently muted. Redford Building, why pay ourselves although it is not being utilized.

**Answer:** Not being utilized due to Covid at the moment. We created corporations we conduct business under. Our government no matter where we are pay for space we are in. We used to pay others for that space. Cooperation paid for and purchased for the building, so we may as well pay our corporation for that space. It will be up to our government in future to pay that.

**Micha Ginger Question:** How do we vote on what to do with the land? Its so overwhelming and hard to get enough time to comprehend on what is going on.

**Answer:** There was opportunity in the OCP and Zoning Act and there were public engagements and people were invited and they did vote on that. Those Acts are passed and they were voted on by the people.

**Reply:** Yes and this year we have budget line to open up OCP and redo that again so it will happen again and there will be public process again.

**Answer:** Yes, we will ensure sufficient notice and ensure all have ability to have their input heard and cast a vote when it comes time again. I hear exactly what you are saying and we will move forward to make sure that everyone can take part. If we can meet in person, then we all meet and staff would have similar procedure through Teams and Zooms so we can film and broadcast for more questions to be asked.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Would you give people I Pads to ensure people can participate electronically?

**Reply** – that does not seem viable to happen. I PADS are quite expensive.

**Micha Ginger Reply:** I have attended meetings and it cost me that much just to attend. I think it would be better to attend through the devices. It would be a lot more affordable so don't see the problem there.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Why increase door prizes to \$10,000?

**Answer:** Yes, we do a draw at end of each event – cultural items that people make and we try to purchase from our citizenship for people to attend.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Water, I have little to no information regarding water which is sacred to us. We are being left in the dark there. 80% of people have to boil water and welfare of water in the world is being depleted.

**Answer:** Priorities were set out in the UTG Economic Development Plan and was decided on by membership.

## **MEDICAL TRAVEL**

Proposed to double Medical travel and meal rates to ensure Uchucklesaht Citizens are well compensated for medical travel

Additional increase as NTC travel rates are lowering what is paid for mileage – UTG to cover the decrease

## **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Budget for a Canoe & pole Carving \$100,000

Increase to supplies to assist with additional programming from Cultural Activities budget doubled to increase cultural activities in new building

Increased contracted services

**Micha Ginger Question:** How viable is the \$100,00 funding in this department going to be applicable, do you pay people to come home and learn how to carve and how do we determine what is most important.

**Answer:** Doubled budget to get all culture and heritage practices included and language included. We hope to get some people trained and pass on that information on. Language will be the top priority.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Who will actually make this canoe?

**Answer:** This is a lined item and we will hire a professional carver to get a good pole and good canoe. Person is dedicated to get people help with carving of that canoe. Small amount of people may be interested in learning. Its all funded through outside grants. We have applied for outside funding.

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** Cultural Practices, there is rez funding for people that lost their culture. Have you heard anything? AIRS funding?

**Answer:** We would have to track that information down and yes, we do look for cultural funding. Yes, there is numerous types of funding.

**Gina Laing Question:** There needs to be more compromise for culture involvement. If someone passed away and we still have meetings going forward, that is not traditional. I just want to state that we need to go back and deal with past and try to introduce that to government as that is important.

## **VILLAGE OPERATIONS**

Maintaining or Increasing all Budget line Items for Village Operations

Increased propane fuel budget

Insurance increase to cover increased value of assets and the new homes

Increase in Roads and Bridges to hire a scaler and faller to remove danger trees and rocks on new road to

Small tools increase to \$3,000

Increase to Maintenance of dock for new electrical upgrade

New Account for Information and Technology Maintenance due to increased cost to maintain internet services in village

New Internet System for Village

Waste removal increase to Septic Maintenance Plan

**Micha Ginger Question:** How long as money been funded for housing? Also, the \$100,000 for the canoe, a lot of people are not able to have funerals and I think what I'm sensing is money is in wrong areas and we need to deal with loved ones dying and focus on other areas instead.

**Answer:** This is year one and it has been approved. We have money in the budget first and then can spend that. Developing policy this year.

**MOMENT of SILENCE FOR ALL THOSE THAT HAVE PASSED**

**WATER SAMPLES**

Continuing with FNHA Water Sampling Protocol

**RENTALS**

Cabin Rentals, Thunderbird House , Six-plex and Mobile Home, Maintenance House Rental Income, insurance increased and rental upgrades

## **TREATY RIGHT FISHERIES**

Decrease in Revenues due to utilizing Halibut quota for distribution to citizens and not utilizing commercial Henderson Sockeye allotment

Increasing budget for catch costs & processing, to ensure fish distribution to citizens (targeting buying fish so as to provide over our allotment)

Budgeting to expand species to be included for fish distribution to include prawns, herring roe, herring meat, mussels, prawns and crab

Included wages and travel costs to deliver more fish to out of town citizens

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** We would like more protection on crabbing and prawning in the Kildonan Inlet. We have a commercial boat that comes in often and commercial fishes all of our crab and prawns. As beach keeper, I did ask the commercial fishermen to leave, these fishermen looked to be vietnamese. Seine boats don't come in, so why not stop their

crabbing. I was told I need to take the pictures, I'm only one person. Other non first nation tried to stop them as well.

**Answer:** Yes, we are dealing with that. It is a discussion with DFO and everyone is in agreement, they are trying. Thank you for trying to protect.

**Micha Ginger Question:** I have not had any fish delivered to me – how do you determine who to deliver to. Why don't we have our own fishermen? Would like better breakdown on how it is spent in this department. Don't think we should be spending a lot in this department for food fish.

**Reply:** Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver areas get deliveries but due to regulations to ship to the states we cannot ship down there, we used to bring canned over. We buy fish from other nations, other commercial fishermen, it is all local fish. People are also able to fish for themselves. We do have members that have caught fish for us, yes.

**Megan Cootes Comment:** I live in the states and I have successfully had frozen food fish shipped to me through Saint Jeans, I pay for that myself. Fed Ex Delivery and cheapest option.

**Micha Ginger Question:** Can we buy our own fish over here locally? Fish is one of the main reasons that keeps us healthy and can be better situation.

**Phyllis Halvorsen Comment:** Fish Distributions – why isn't this fish being distributed to others that cannot make it to the mainland?

**Answer:** Yes, we do. We deliver to Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver. We are doing more shipments this year.

## **AQUICULTURE OPERATIONS**

Renamed Department from Shellfish to Aquiculture Operations

Entered into a kelp farming project revenues in 2021

## **OTOLITH TESTING**

Maintain contract with NTC and DFO for testing , to contract with UTG Citizens

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Planning for more trails in Parks and Thunderbird House  
installation of solar and wind power

Bottle plant for Thunderbird Spirit Water to open in early 2021  
New jobs posted in April, sales to begins shortly after  
certification of plant

*The Thunderbird* is full and running, motel units up and running

Consulting Fees for Economic Development  
Well Drilling program/Green Power Analysis of all UTG  
Buildings and Assets  
Uchucklesaht Cannabis Ventures

Job Postings going out Monday to citizens regarding jobs at the  
UTG water plant.

**Sabrina Crowley Question:** Where is bottle plant?

**Answer:** In Port Alberni.

**Sabrina Crowley Question:** Communications, our members  
need to be updated on Economic Ventures, we wanted that 5  
year Economic Development Plan updated that I asked about  
last year to update priorities and get updates.

**Motion #06:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agree to an  
additional Peoples Assembly to discuss business and UTG  
Economic Development plan so our directors and economic  
officer can be present to provide updates and answer questions.

Moved: Sabrina Crowley

Seconded: Micha Ginger

(All in Favor – 9)

## Motion Carried

**Micha Ginger Question:** Will there be revenue sharing in the UTG companies?

**Answer:** We hope so in the future, after we pay off the loans and start to turn a profit. There will also be job opportunities for our citizens and those positions are posted next week.

**Question:** Can UTG members have water bottle?

**Answer:** Yes, on the plastic bottles – we can provide some of those. They are smaller ones we use on marketing.

## FORESTRY

Final year of Forestry Projects only completing projects that began in 2020 on Silverside area and Green Cove area,

Amount from Forestry transferred (loaned to Water Operation for complete Plant) \$200,000

Contractor Fees directly discounted from Revenues

Forestry Manager Fees under Contract Wages

Net Revenues utilized for Economic Development Initiatives

Cannabis Licencing

## GOVERNMENT REVENUE SHARING

Revenues: Treaty Loan Repayment, BC Gaming Revenues, BC PST Sharing

Health and Wellness Program: Continue to provide Health and Wellness funds to all citizens raised from \$1,000 once per year to \$500 every three months. \$2,000 total per citizen.

## **LAND USE PLANNING**

Consulting Fees for the Planning process for the Village GAP Closing project

Geotechnical Consultant, Planner, Civil Engineer - Will complete update to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Act

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Budget to re-supply the emergency kits in village

Full Update to the Emergency Response Plan

Communications Plan for the Emergency Preparedness Plan with infrastructure purchase

Training

Legal

Supply the Emergency Tsunami Accommodation Trailer

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

New Department to ensure Resource Management is protected

## **IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITES**

Maa'nulth Treaty Society Common Costs including Negotiation of Fiscal Finance Agreements with Federal Government and Province and other common projects (Ground Water Project, Fisheries negotiations, and Legal)

Trans Mountain Pipeline, Roberts Terminal, and numerous other negotiations continuing

Negotiated a long term funding (5 years) per Maa'nulth Nation to fund the Maa'nulth Treaty Society projects.

2021-2022 is a balanced budget

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Gina Laing Question:** We have a lot of trespassers on our land and it is concerning. There were people in the village itself. Should we not patrol our territory? There have been people with indecent language as well that show up.

**Answer:** Yes, we stepped up patrols last year and will step up this year. We were protecting our elk and asked for additional patrols as well. RCMP have also increased their patrols. We do that every time and will get more patrols on our lands.

**Phyllis Halvorsen QUESTION:** I would still like to protect our burial place areas at the village and I hear there is a second set of house keys out there.

**Reply:** UTG has to keep the keys until the land transfers are done. Then all is passed over for ownership. Finalizing paperwork now.

**Phyllis Halvorsen Question:** Patrols, ensure that our members are also involved in those patrols and job opportunities.

**Reply:** Yes, and those job opportunities are posted.

**Sabrina Crowley Comment:** I'm not able to log on with my other computer due to webinar style, others had same issue – I would like to go back to the other regular ZOOM format so we can all see each other and its more personable and works better during these hard times as we cannot sit with each other due to Covid. There are too many restrictions with Webinar and this method does not seem to work well.

**Reply:** Yes, we are still learning with this program.

**Motion#07:** Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly accepts the 2021-2022 budget of the day as presented.

Moved: Thomas Rush

Seconded: Phyllis Halvorsen

(10 – In Favor)

(1 – Opposed)

Motion Carried

**Adjourn:**

Motion #08: Uchucklesaht Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn meeting of the day.

Moved: Charlie Cootes Sr.

Seconded: Thomas Rush

(All in Favor – 10)

Motion Carried

**END OF MEETING**