

Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Report to Executive Council
October 29, 2012

Title – Acting Speaker

Type of Decision – Approval

Submitted by: Charlie Clappis

Background

A Session of the People's Assembly has been called for November 30, 2013. A Speaker or Speaker is required to begin, preside over and end a Session of the People's Assembly (*Government Act*, s.78). Executive Council wishes to appoint a Speaker so that the Session of the People's Assembly called for November 30, 2013 may proceed.

Angela Wesley has expressed an interest (see attached memo). As well there was discussion at the last Executive Council Meeting about having Tom Happynook take on the role of Acting Speaker; and Johnson Ginger advised that he would resume the Acting Speaker position if Executive Council was not able to find someone suitable.

All three of these individuals meets the requirements set out for a speaker in section 39(2) of the Government Act in that he:

- a. is an honoured and respected Huu-ay-aht citizen;
- b. has the necessary experience, wisdom and impartiality to fairly and effectively discharge the powers, duties and functions of the Speaker;
- c. is generally knowledgeable about Huu-ay-aht laws including the Constitution, Huu-ay-aht legislation and Huu-ay-aht customary law.

Recommendation

That Executive Council review and discuss the options and appoint an Acting Speaker.

Decision:

October 22, 2013

Deborah Smith

Subject: FW: Speaker position

From: Angela Wesley [<mailto:wescan@citywest.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Jeff Cook
Cc: Charlie Clappis
Subject: RE: Speaker position

Hi Jeff, I did get your message ... and yes, I did speak to Charlie.

Charlie said at the time that the Organizing Committee was still looking for a Speaker, and after hearing their plans and hopes for the assembly and committing to our bright young Council member that I would be prepared to do what I could to help out, he cleverly timed his next topic of discussion to be about the need to fill the Speaker role!

So ... yes, if the Council has not identified anyone else to fill the Speaker role for this Assembly, I would be prepared to help out by acting as Speaker for this Assembly (and following that would be prepared to discuss an on-going role, if any). I did indicate to Charlie that I have been reluctant to take on the role given my experience in the 2011 People's Assembly and the 2012 Legislative session. While I think that both sessions went relatively well, I did not find that the spirit in which we developed this role was being honoured. We ask a citizen to step into this role with expectations and profile as outlined in our Government Act, but the role I found was very much treated as a 'do as we tell you' role. Though admittedly I don't think I treated it or acted within the role as such, I thought that some involvement in planning of events requiring the Speaker and up-take on an offer to follow up to discuss how the role and events might be enhanced was not welcomed other than to be told to 'send us an email'.

After speaking with Charlie however, I was encouraged to see that this Assembly seems to be developing into what was originally envisioned when we suggested the role in our laws (ie getting business done while allowing people to exercise their voices and have some fun being together as citizens of our Nation, and as family).

So, I don't mean to sound negative in any way, but I do believe that if we want to begin to do business 'the Huu-ay-aht way', that we need to pay some special attention to these specialized roles we incorporated into our government structure and process. As I said at our team meeting last week, I do feel that we are at the starting line, and perhaps this could be a start to thinking about how our government can truly begin to operate efficiently, effectively, and in an increasingly "Huu-ay-aht" way.

... does that answer your question?!

Please feel free to give me a call.

☺

Angela Wesley
Phone: 250.638.1727
Cell: 250.615.9303

Huu-ay-aht First Nations – Written Motion

(Government Act, s. 52)

For ease of reference, this motion may be referred to as:

Motion Regarding Appointment of an Acting Speaker

Motion

WHEREAS:

- a) A Session of the People's Assembly has been called for November 30, 2013.
- b) A Speaker or Acting Speaker is required to begin, preside over and end a Session of the People's Assembly (*Government Act*, s.78).
- c) Johnson Ginger resigned from the position of Acting Speaker.
- d) Executive Council wishes to appoint an Acting Speaker so that the Session of the People's Assembly called for November 30, 2013 may proceed.
- e) _____ has agreed to be appointed as Acting Speaker.
- f) In the view of Executive Council, _____ meets the requirements set out for a speaker in section 39(2) of the *Government Act* in that she:
 - a. is an honoured and respected Huu-ay-aht citizen;
 - b. has the necessary experience, wisdom and impartiality to fairly and effectively discharge the powers, duties and functions of the Speaker;
 - c. is generally knowledgeable about Huu-ay-aht laws including the Constitution, Huu-ay-aht legislation and Huu-ay-aht customary law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Executive Council appoints _____ as Acting Speaker.

Follow-up action to be taken:

The Law Clerk is to notify _____ of appointment as Acting Speaker and to take all steps necessary to facilitate _____ compliance with s. 39(6) of the *Government Act*, which provides that the appointment of an Acting Speaker is effective once the individual:

- (a) accepts the appointment in writing and delivers the written acceptance to Executive Council, and
- (b) makes the oath of office of the Speaker before the Ta'yii Hawilth.

Date for completion of follow up action: prior to the November 30, 2013 session of the People's Assembly

Appendices attached to Motion:

Written report prepared by _____ not applicable _____.

Introduced by:
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER

Date: November 30, 2013
DATE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING