



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of a Regular meeting of Council
Held and transmitted electronically via Council Chambers located at 39 South
Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC
on Tuesday, October 24th, 2023.

PRESENT: Mayor Tim McGonigle
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

REGRETS: Councillor Carlyne Austin
(with prior notice)

STAFF: Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services

PUBLIC: 40

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **AGENDA**

No. R.0096/23
Agenda

Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the agenda be approved with the addition of the following under:

NEW BUSINESS

- (c) Leave of Absence for Councillor Austin from the Regular meeting of Council to be held this day; and
- (d) Leave of Absence for Councillor Frisby from Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on November 14th, 2023.

CARRIED.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Baird, Greendale Road resident took the opportunity to discuss the proposed installation of sanitary sewer services to 35 residential properties along Greendale Road that were incorporated into the municipality boundaries in 2008.

Mr. Baird requested clarification of the following;

- Financial implications with respect to the loan required and interest payments;
- Possible grant funding for the project and additional funds that may be required to cover for shortfalls;
- The timeframe to complete project;
- Concerns with discharge of affluent into the heritage Cowichan River; and
- Requirement for a referendum undertaken to allow for the project to be funded by the affected taxpayers.

Mayor McGonigle stated that the Local Area Service bylaw would be reviewed later in the meeting and that the questions raised could be addressed by the Chief Administrative Officer.

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

No. R.0097/23
Regular Council

- (a) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the minutes of the Regular meeting of Council held September 26th, 2023, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

(a) Mr. Baird, Greendale Road Sewer Project spoke earlier in the meeting.

(b) Jaana Ferri-Boren, spoke to Council on her concerns with the trapping and killing of bears and requested that a solution be sought to address the bear population in Lake Cowichan and surrounding areas and to stop the destruction of them.

She requested that the Town implement a wildlife programme similar to Port Alberni, Whistler, and Kamloops. She further went on to report that 1 bear had been euthanized from 2016 to 2021 and that 2022 saw 7 bears destroyed within the municipal boundaries with more within the valley.

No. R.0098/23
Delegation
Presentation –
Additional Time

Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that Council approve that the delegate be afforded additional time beyond Council’s Procedural requirements.

CARRIED.

Christina Lloyd-Jones addressed Council and shared her view that the tracking and destruction of bears is irresponsible. She stated that there was a need for education and that the Town should be promoting public awareness and safety while maintaining the protection of our natural environment.

She further went onto say that public safety and the protection of wildlife is a challenge that is achievable and is needed. In closing, she shared that there is a sense of urgency to help protect bears in our community. She requested that Council support Lake Cowichan to be a Bear Smart community and to educate its residents on the need to protect the bears.

Mayor McGonigle thanked the delegates for their presentation and said that the Council would take the comments and views into consideration. He shared that WildSafe and BC Conservation officers were at the Town’s public meeting held in May, 2023 and that the Town recently amended its bylaws to enact more stringent penalties.

He stated that enforcement of Town bylaws is complaint driven and when reports are received, the Town has the ability to contact WildSafe which can come and deal with residential concerns.

Vicki Pauze addressed the Council at this time and shared her view that education was not the best alternative and suggested that Council designate a representative and staff person for the public to go to directly when addressing these matters.

Mayor McGonigle requested the matter be referred to the next Committee of the Whole to address the bear topic and the public to join the meeting for their input.

Mayor McGonigle called for a 5-minute recess at 6:37 pm.

The meeting resumed at 6:43 pm.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Action Items:**

No. R.0099/23
VIRL Board
Trustee
representative
and alternate
Board Trustee
representative

- (i) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that Councillor Austin be appointed as the Town’s Board Trustee representative on the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for a term from January 1st to December 31st, 2024; and
that Councillor Vomacka be appointed as the Town’s alternate Board Trustee representative on the Vancouver Island Regional Library Board for a term from January 1st to December, 31st, 2024.

CARRIED.

(b) Information or Consent Items

None.

7. REPORTS

(a) Council and other Committee Reports

No. R.00100/23
Committee of
the Whole

- (i) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded:
that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 10th, 2023, be approved with the following:

1— Fire Department – Incident Report

that Council approve the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report in the amount of \$13,805.66 for August, 2023;

2— Cowichan Housing Association – Housing Forum

that Council approve members of Council attending the Cowichan Housing Association’s Housing Forum to be held on Friday, November 3rd, 2023 in Duncan, BC.

3—Corporate Response Policy

that Council approve the Corporate Response Policy, as amended;

4—Accessibility Committee Formation

That members of the Advisory Planning Commission take on the responsibility of looking at accessibility issues within the Town of Lake Cowichan.

No. R.00101/23
Referral to Advisory
Planning Commission

- Moved: Mayor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the request to the Town to look at alternatives to conventional housing be referred to the Advisory Planning Commission for what zones could be afforded for temporary use in emergency situations or what zones for park model homes or tiny homes within the zones.

CARRIED.

No. R.00102/23
Recreational Vehicle
Restrictions – Human
Habitation

- Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that Council grant an eight (8) month extension to Amanda Hieta on the bylaw enforcement matter of human habitation in a recreational vehicle with no legal action to be taken against her.

CARRIED.

Cowichan Lake
Recreation Commission

- (ii) Councillor Sandhu reported that Ian Morrison, Electoral Area Director “F” was elected chair of the new Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission and that Tek Manhas, North Cowichan was elected Vice-Chair at the October 23rd, 2023 meeting. The next meeting will be held on November 27th, 2023 to begin budget discussions.

Vancouver Island
Regional Library

- (iii) No report.

- Advisory Planning Commission (iv) No. report.
- Community Forest Co-operative (v) Mayor McGonigle reported that the Forest Co-operative has implemented a new five-year strategic plan and that the Annual General meeting will be held on October 26th, 2023.
- Cowichan Valley Regional District (b) **Other Reports**
(i) Mayor McGonigle advised that elections for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair would be held soon.
- Community Outreach Team (ii) No report
- Our Cowichan (iii) Councillor Sandhu reported that the next meeting would be held on November 9th, 2023.
- Cowichan Watershed Board (iv) Councillor Sandhu reported that the next meeting of the Board would be held on October 30th, 2023.

(c) **Staff Reports**

- (i) The staff report on the matter of 63 Cowichan Lake Road and the update on the property remediation was treated as information.

Mayor McGonigle reported that he would enquire into the timelines for remediation and referred to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

- (iii) The matter of the Demolition of the Mildred Child Annex is to be referred to a future meeting.

- No. R.00103/23 Property Insurance (iii) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the Town of Lake Cowichan renew its property insurance for 2024 with Aon Solutions in the amount of \$122,495 plus applicable taxes.

CARRIED

- No. R.00104/23 REDIP Infrastructure Program – Floating Waterfront Walkway (iv) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that Council approve the making of a grant application under the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program for the Cowichan Lake Floating Waterfront Walkway for \$500,000;

and that it further provides assurance that it would support all the proposed activities under the plan and would undertake the overall proper fiscal management of the grant with the Town’s contribution of \$50,000.

CARRIED.

8. BYLAWS

- No. R.00105/23 Greendale Road Sanitary Sewer Local Area Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1095-2023 (a) Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Greendale Road Sanitary Sewer Local Area Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1095-2023” be read a first, second and third time.

CARRIED.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) The press release regarding the recent funding announcement for the final phase of the Town’s wastewater treatment plant upgrades was treated as information.

(b) The matter of parking and use on 75 South Shore Road (private residence) and 71 South Shore Road (hotel) was discussed by Council.

No. R.00106/23
Notice of Motion

(a) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the matter of 75 and 71 South Shore Road be referred to the December Committee of the Whole; and
further that clarity and definitions for B&B, Air B&B, vacation rental, short term, motel and business licensing requirements for such through online booking systems to be provided.

CARRIED.

No. R.00107/23
Leave of Absence

(c) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that Council approve a leave of absence for Councillor Austin from the meeting held this day.

CARRIED.

No. R.00108/23
Leave of Absence

(d) Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that Council approve a leave of absence for Councillor Frisby from the Committee of the Whole meeting to be held on November 14th, 2023.

CARRIED.

10. **MAYOR’S REPORT**

11. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Sandhu requested an update on her Notice of Motion at a September meeting for a planning session of Council.

12. **QUESTION PERIOD**

None.

13. **IN CAMERA**

None.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

No. R.00109/23
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the meeting be adjourned. (7:35 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____.

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2023.

Mayor