



**TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN**  
Minutes of a Special meeting of Council  
Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Rod Peters  
Councillor Carolyne Austin  
Councillor Tim McGonigle  
Councillor Kristine Sandhu  
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: Joseph A. Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance

No. R.0045/20  
Agenda

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peters called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. AGENDA**

Moved: Councillor Sandhu  
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka  
that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

**CORRESPONDENCE – INFORMATION OR CONSENT ITEMS**

(b)(iii) Cowichan Leadership re: Letter of Introduction;

**REPORTS –COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a)(viii) Mayor Peters re: Lake Days Float;

**NEW BUSINESS**

(b) Memorandum of Understanding – Cowichan Lake Elder Care Society;

**IN-CAMERA**

Labour relations or other employee relations which fall under Section 90(1) (c) of the *Community Charter*.

CARRIED.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

No. R.0046/20  
Public Hearing  
Minutes

Moved: Councillor Vomacka  
Seconded: Councillor Austin  
that the minutes of the Public Hearing held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0047/20  
Regular  
Council  
Minutes

Moved: Councillor McGonigle  
Seconded: Councillor Austin  
that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0048/20  
Special  
Meeting  
Minutes

Moved: Councillor Vomacka  
Seconded: Councillor Austin  
that the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**5. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

None.

**6. VERBAL COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC ON A SUBSEQUENT ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

**(a) Action Items:**

**(b) Information or Consent Items**

No. R.0049/20  
Letter of Support

**(i)** Moved: Councillor McGonigle  
Seconded: Councillor Austin  
that Twin Aviation Inc. be acknowledged that the Town of Lake Cowichan is aware of its being involved with the gypsy moth eradication programme that is to occur this spring within the municipal boundaries.

CARRIED.

**(ii)** The correspondence item from Rob Vagramov, Mayor of Port Moody regarding National Pharmacare was treated as information.

**(c)** The correspondence item from Island Health regarding COVID-19 and planning to support underserved populations was treated as information.

**(d)** The correspondence item from Deputy Minister Kay Krishna regarding the Order issued under the Emergency Program Act. Was treated as information.

**(iii)** The correspondence item Cowichan Leadership was treated as information. Mayor Peters advised that this group was able to appeal as a group on issues such as homelessness to Provincial and the legislative authority affecting this issue.

**8. REPORTS**

**(a) Council and other Committee Reports**

No. R.0050/20  
Finance and  
Administration

**(i)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu  
Seconded: Councillor McGonigle  
that the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved with the following:

**1- Fire Department - Incident Report**

that Council approve the Lake Cowichan Fire Department's incident report for January 2020 in the total amount of \$10,728.56;

**2-Strategic Planning Questionnaire**

that the Strategic Planning Questionnaire be posted through social media with copies to be available at the municipal office front counter;

**3-Sewer Plant Slope Stability Stabilization Project**

that the contract for the stabilization of the south wall of sewage treatment plant be awarded to Global Pro Systems for the tender price of \$40,967.75, plus applicable taxes.

CARRIED.

No. R.0051/20  
Public Works and  
Environmental  
Services

**(ii)** Moved: Councillor Austin  
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka  
that the minutes of the Public Works and Environmental Services Committee meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED.

- No. R.0052/20  
Parks, Recreation and Culture      **(iii)**      Moved: Councillor Austin  
Seconded: Councillor McGonigle  
that the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved, as amended. CARRIED.
- Cowichan Lake Recreation      **(iv)**      Mayor Peters reported that no meeting was held by the Cowichan lake Recreation Commission.
- Vancouver Island Regional Library      **(v)**      Councillor Vomacka reported that the meeting of the Board was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that all library locations have been shut down and programmes are being offered through its website.
- Advisory Planning Commission      **(vi)**      Councillor Austin reported that there was no meeting of the Advisory Commission.
- Community Forest Co-operative      **(vii)**      Councillor McGonigle reported that the Forest Co-op meeting was cancelled and that an electronic poll was conducted to approve \$4000 in gift cards from Country Grocer that will be donated to the Lake Cowichan Food Bank each month to a total of \$12,000.
- Float Committee for Lake Days      **(viii)**      Mayor Peters advised that he is involved with the float committee for the Lake Days parade and reported that it does not appear that there will be any Lake Days' event this year.
- Cowichan Valley Regional District Board      **(b)**      **Other Reports**  
**(i)**      Councillor McGonigle reported that he had decided not to attend the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He did note however, that 17 persons had attended the meeting which was sufficient for a quorum. He further reported that the electoral area director's remuneration was to be increased to approximately \$30,000, for an increase of \$11,000. The increase was for electoral area directors only and did not include municipal directors.
- The next Board meeting will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Community Outreach Team      **(ii)**      Councillor Austin reported that no meeting of the Community Outreach Team occurred. Councillor Austin shared the concerns of Carol Blatchford that domestic abuse is expected to increase by 98% in the coming weeks. She indicated that the community had one homeless person who has family in the community and 'couch surfs' and that some youth were also "couch surfing".  
Nourish Cowichan is bringing food to families in need.
- Our Cowichan      **(iii)**      Councillor Sandhu reported that she was unable to attend the Our Cowichan meeting and was therefore unable to provide a report.
- L.I.F.T.      **(iv)**      Mayor Peters reported that the L.I.F.T. meetings are held quarterly and the report on the alternate route was the last item discussed.
- Cowichan Watershed Board      **(v)**      Councillor Sandhu reported that the Cowichan Watershed meeting held on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 was held through "Zoom" and she will share the presentation with members of Council.
- Councillor Sandhu further advised that the Cowichan Lake is at 80% capacity as the area did not have the rains or the snowfalls it normally receives which may result in low lake levels this summer.

**(c) Staff Reports**

**9. BYLAWS**

No. R.0053/20  
Sanitary Sewer Parcel  
Tax  
1034-2020

**(a)** Moved: Councillor Austin  
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu  
that the "Town of Lake Cowichan Sanitary Sewer Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1034-2020" be reconsidered and adopted.  
  
CARRIED.

No. R.0054/20  
Water Parcel Tax  
1035-2020

**(b)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu  
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka  
that the "Town of Lake Cowichan Water Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 1035-2020" be reconsidered and adopted.  
  
Councillor McGonigle Opposed  
CARRIED.

No. R.0055/20  
Snow Removal Reserve  
Fund  
1036-2020

**(c)** Moved: Councillor McGonigle  
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu  
that the "Town of Lake Cowichan Snow Removal Reserve Fund Bylaw No. 1036-2020" be reconsidered and adopted.  
  
CARRIED.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**(a)** Council referred the discussion of backyard chickens to a more opportune time.

No. R.0056/20  
Memorandum of  
Understanding

**(b)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu  
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka  
that Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cowichan Lake Elder Care Society for the disposition of municipal land described as Lot B, VIP 73709 (PID:025-413-449) and Lot 6, VIP1231 (PID: 007-699-875) to support an affordable housing project for seniors with flexible support services.  
  
CARRIED.

**11. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Peters shared that he was getting a lot of complaints regarding the pandemic. He felt that the Town was doing the best it can to provide information to the public as it is being received.

He expressed the view that people should stay in their principle residences and that they do not recreate at secondary residences or to cottages during this pandemic crisis.

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- Future meetings (to be held electronically); and
- PTAC update – project technical advisory committee working on natural boundaries.

2020 Visit from Ohtaki  
Delegation to Lake  
Cowichan

Moved: Councillor McGonigle  
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu  
that the visit from delegates from Ohtaki, Japan to Lake Cowichan, BC in October 2020 be deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic with regrets expressed to Date City.  
  
CARRIED.

**13. QUESTION PERIOD**

**14. IN CAMERA**

No. R.0057/20  
Retire to In-Camera

Moved: Councillor Sandhu  
Seconded: Councillor McGonigle  
that Council close the meeting to the public to deal with labour relations or other employee relations which fall under Section 90(1) (c) of the *Community Charter* (6:24 pm)

CARRIED.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

No. R.0058/20  
Arise/Report from In-Camera

Moved: Councillor McGonigle  
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu  
that Council arise with no report and adjourn (7.00 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct \_\_\_\_\_.

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor