



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN
Minutes of a Special meeting of Council
Friday, May 22nd, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Tim McGonigle, Acting Mayor
Councillor Carlyne Austin
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

REGRETS: Mayor Rod Peters
(with prior approval)

STAFF: Joseph A. Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer
Dalton Smith, Acting Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services
/Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre
Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor McGonigle called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm

2. AGENDA

No. R.0081/20
Agenda

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

STAFF REORTS

(iii) Lake Cowichan Fire Department Incident Report for April 2020;
and

NEW BUSINESS

(d) Animal Husbandry.

CARRIED.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No. R.0082/20
Special Meeting of
Council Minutes

(a) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on May 8th,
2020 be adopted.

CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councillor McGonigle reported on his conversation with Sarah Simpson of the Citizen regarding the issue of waiving charges for water use overages during the COVID pandemic.

Councillor McGonigle further advised that Jacklyn Ronson from the Discourse wanted to attend the meetings of Council as she was seeking an update on the water treatment plant. He indicated he would work with the Chief Administrative Officer for an update to be issued to the public.

5. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

The Chief Administrative Officer reported to Council that there was a backlog of Development Permit applications for council consideration.

Councillor Austin asked if the Centennial Hall could be utilized so physical distancing of members of the public could be maintained.

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Action Items:

- (i)** The correspondence item from Aaron Frisby regarding tubing on Cowichan River was discussed and treated as information.
- (ii)** The correspondence item from Dennis Peters regarding pickleball club guidelines for play was reviewed.

No. R.0083/20
Pickleball Club –
Guidelines for Play

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that Council send a letter of approval to the Pickleball club for its use of the courts subject to the following requirements: sanitization stations must be provided and porta-potties, if provided, must have a cleaning regimen in place.

CARRIED.

(b) Information or Consent Items

- (i)** The correspondence item from Mayor Kikuya, Date City regarding the twinning exchange programme was treated as information.

8. REPORTS

(a) Council and other Committee Reports

Finance and
Administration

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the audited statements will be posted on the Town’s website next month.

Vancouver Island
Regional Library

Councillor Vomacka reported that a re-opening plan was in the works for the local library branch. She further advised that the next Board meeting would be held on May 30th, 2020.

(b) Other Reports

Cowichan Valley
Regional District

Councillor McGonigle reported that the Regional District meeting was conducted through WEBEX and posted on YouTube. He advised that no pay raises had yet been approved for the electoral area directors. He further reported geotechnical work was being undertaken on in the Youbou area to determine water flows affecting the 5 high-risk properties.

Community Outreach

Councillor Austin gave a verbal report on her attendance at the Community Outreach that was held through the ZOOM app.

Our Cowichan

Councillor Sandhu requested that the weekly update from Our Cowichan be posted to the Town’s social media which she will forward to the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cowichan Watershed
Board

Councillor Sandhu gave a verbal report on the meeting of the Watershed Board held two weeks ago and the attendance of its members through the ZOOM app.

(c) Staff Reports

- (i)** Dalton Smith, Acting Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services reported to Council that issues relating to the water treatment plant were under control and that the requirements of Island Health were being met.

The Chief Administrative Officer further reported on the requirements that are being addressed for the water treatment plant. Councillor McGonigle spoke on the feasibility of a mutual aid

agreement with neighboring municipalities for the sharing of qualified water operators and that the matter will be broached at the next Administrators meeting.

Councillor McGonigle asked if the water was safe to drink. The Chief Administrative Officer replied in the affirmative. Councillor McGonigle further requested the NTU reading for this day and the Chief Administrative Officer reported that it was NTU 0.3 for the day and had held steady at that level all week.

Councillor Sandhu requested that consideration be given to providing daily turbidity levels of water. The Chief Administrative Officer felt that providing the weekly numbers each Friday should address this issue.

Nuisance properties

The matter of 95 North Shore Road and other nuisance properties was brought forward for discussion at this time.

Roger Grosskleg, Bylaw Enforcement Officer reported to Council on the property of 95 North Shore Road and the required remedial work that is ongoing.

The Bylaw Enforcement Officer requested that the living conditions in the basement at 95 North Shore Road be investigated as the basement has only a dirt floor. The Chief Administrative Officer will direct the building inspector to visit the property.

Council again requested that the treehouse structure in the back of the property to be demolished thus preventing continued human habitation of same.

Councillor McGonigle requested consideration be given to the Town looking at a nuisance bylaw to recoup some of the costs of remedial work on nuisance properties within the Town.

The Chief Administrative Officer reported on a development on Fern Road and advised that the owner may be encroaching on public lands and the riparian area.

Councillor Sandhu asked for an update on the property that is between MacDonald and Neva Road where illegal dumping has been occurred and Worksafe BC has been requested to attend.

Councillor Austin asked how the accumulation of grass and weeds on property that are within the municipal boundaries may be dealt with. The Chief Administrative Officer stated that unsightly properties are deal on a complaint driven basis.

No. R.0084/20
Grant-in-Aid 2020 –
BC Ambassador
Programme

(ii)

Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that Council approve the donation of \$500 to Brooklyn Kruk for the BC Ambassador Programme, subject to the event being held in 2020 from the 2020 grant-in-aid budget.

CARRIED.

Grant-in-Aid 2020 –
1st Lake Cowichan
Scouts

Councillor McGonigle advised that the 1st Lake Cowichan Scouts had received funding from Electoral Areas "F" and "I" for their first aid kits and that the request should be deferred to next year with a request for sufficient documentation to be provided at that time.

No. R.0085/20
Grant-in-Aid 2020 –
BC Ambassador
Programme

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that Council approve the donation of \$750 to the Wildsafe programme from the 2020 grant-in-aid budget with a request for an update on the 2019 programme.

CARRIED.

No. R.0086/20
Fire Department –
Incident Report

- (iii) Moved: Councillor Sandu
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that Council approve the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report for April 2020 in the total amount of \$8,143.11.

CARRIED.

9. BYLAWS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Council discussed the matter of 2-hour parking along South Shore Road and, between 155 and 161 South Shore Road.

The contract planner will be requested to investigate the issue.

- (b) The matter of 95 North Shore Road and other nuisance properties was deal with earlier in the meeting.

- (c) Dalton Smith, Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre reported to Council that Lakeview Park campground should be re-opening on June 26th with mandated restrictions and that the Education Centre would also be opened to allow for bookings at the Centre by the YES organization and First Nation groups, subject to Provincial and Worksafe BC guidelines.

Mr. Smith also reported to Council that the works undertaken along Point Ideal Drive to clear the berm has been completed and that hydroseeding and replanting along the creek watercourse with proper native plantings would be undertaken shortly.

No. R.0087/20
Animal Husbandry

- (d) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that Council refer the matter of the creation of an animal husbandry bylaw to the Advisory Planning Commission for its input with the inclusion of harboring chickens.

CARRIED.

11. MAYOR’S REPORT

Acting Mayor McGonigle advised that he would be attending a conference call with Minister Robinson regarding COVID updates. He shared his angst that residential properties are not afforded the same consideration as commercial properties with respect to deferral of the tax penalty date.

He further updated Council members on the update of bylaw support and the assistance of funding for staff and the required re-start plan that will be prepared prior to re-opening of public properties with emphasis on sanitization and the safety of employees.

He expressed his thanks to his fellow Council members for their assistance at this time and stated that in his 18 years of dedicated service being bombarded on social media has been most stressful.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. QUESTION PERIOD

14. IN CAMERA

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

No. R.0088/20
Adjourn

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that Council adjourn (5:02 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____.

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2020.

Acting Mayor