



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of Strategic Planning Committee

Held electronically at Lake Cowichan, BC as per Ministerial Order M-192
on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Bob K. Day, Chair
Councillor Carlyne Austin
Councillor Tim McGonigle
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: Joseph Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services

No. SP.001/21
Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. AGENDA

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:

None.

4. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

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

Mayor Day urged the public to please watch the agendas and send in their comments or questions into for the appropriate sections of our meetings to general@lakecowichan.ca and the site of virtual meetings is posted on the Town's website.

7. REPORTS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- (a)** The Committee discussed the Vision Statement for the Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor McGonigle shared his view that the vision statement from entrance to Town that was initiated by the Advisory Planning Commission would be a starting point as it is precise and terse.

Councillor Austin read out the Town's statement from its annual reports as "Our vision is to create a vibrant, healthy, sustainable community that exists in harmony with the natural environment, enjoys a balanced economy, support all generations and provide the opportunities to satisfy diverse social needs". She felt it was quite concise and is a very good vision statement.

- (b)** The Committee members discussed the matter of community engagement.

Mayor Day stated that during the recent election campaign in his discussions with constituents such matters such as tourism, public meetings and other issues were brought up.

Councillor McGonigle offered his views on the matter and suggested that the initial part is to incorporate what we think we strategically need to move forward to make the Town a better place to live, work and serve. The more ideas and suggestions to move forward the better and it is important to get community feedback.

Councillor Sandhu shared her view that as a new member, the engagement of the residents should be delayed until after input from Council has been discussed.

Councillor Vomacka thought before the community is to be engaged that the strategic planning questionnaires should be returned.

- (c) The Committee reviewed the strategic planning questionnaire as presented. The questionnaire was created last Fall and has not been sent out to the public and any changes proposed should be determined before distribution. It was determined that thirty (30) days for response to have the document returned to the office.

The Committee directed that the document be distributed through the utility billing mailout, as well as, making it available through social media and the Town's website.

Mayor Day suggested adding the question "would you be in favour of the Town borrowing money for large infrastructure projects".

Councillor Vomacka concurred and thought that was a great question to propose to the taxpayers to gauge their response.

- (d) Mayor Day addressed the strategic planning schedule and stated a two day session would be ideal, However, perhaps a few 4 hour sessions could be arranged and spaced over a few weeks to achieve the goal. He asked for input on how to achieve meeting in a safe manner.

Councillor Sandhu suggested meeting at the Education Centre to allow for a one-day session with each of the Manager's in for one-hour presentations on capital projects.

Councillor McGonigle shared his view that the planning session should be undertaken after budget discussions and the strategic planning questionnaire has been submitted.

Mayor Day introduced the idea of utilizing a consultant for guidance during the strategic planning sessions and shared that Ladysmith had utilized such a facilitator at a cost of \$15,000.

Councillors Sandhu and Austin concurred that an outside contractor be commissioned to undertake the facilitation.

Councillor McGonigle cautioned that the Town be very precise on what the Town is looking for, that we are looking for a template to move our Town towards our strategic vision to assist future community leaders and be precise on what the directives should be.

It was thought appropriate for staff to write the request for proposal and to reach out to the Regional District for its input on the process.

A report back on the matter at the next meeting will be brought forward.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

10. PUBLIC RELATIONS ITEMS

None.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

No. SP.002/21
In-Camera

12. IN-CAMERA

Moved: Councillor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the Committee close the meeting to the public to deal with an issue that relates to negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of municipal service that are at their preliminary states and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public which fall under Section 90(1) (k) of the *Community Charter* (7:36 pm.).

CARRIED.

No. SP.003/21
Arise and Report

Moved: Councillor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the Committee arise and report that it recommends that Resolution R.0079(5)/19 dealing with the annexation of Lot 1, Plan 33108 (8079 Neiser Road) be rescinded.

CARRIED.

No. SP.004/21
Adjournment

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Councillor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the meeting be adjourned (8.56 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____ .

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____ , 2021.

Chair