



## **TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held and transmitted electronically via the Lake Cowichan Fire Hall located at 3 North Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Bob K. Day, Chair  
Councillor Carlyne Austin  
Councillor Kristine Sandhu  
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

**REGRETS:**

(with prior notice)

Councillor Tim McGonigle

**STAFF:**

Joseph A. Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance  
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works, and Engineering Services  
Dalton Smith, Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre

**PUBLIC:**

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Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

### **1. ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mayor welcomed all those watching the live streaming of the meeting and those attending in person.

Mayor Day read out his Mayors Report which was included in the 2021 Annual Report.

### **2. COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Sandhu thanked staff in all the departments for working together on projects and its prioritization.

Councillor Austin thanked staff in the office, public works, summer students, CLEC and Lakeview and the Info Centre and commended them all on the great job, especially with the gardens around Town and the concise financial reporting.

Councillor Vomacka stated that she feels proud to talk to newcomers to the community and that the works undertaken give her a sense of encouragement that our little community should be proud.

### **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mayor Day asked for public input and advised those in attendance and those viewing online that the Annual Report can be obtained from the Town's website.

Those in attendance at the meeting raised some concerns and shared comments on matters related to the municipality as follows:

- How the Town is addressing the matter of homelessness in the community;
- The inflationary spiral of property taxes;
- Increase of water and sewer parcel taxes were more than a proportionate increase to the Town's own requisitioned increase of 4.5%;
- The associated increase to staff wages and contractual obligations was clarified;

- Clarification that 8 cents of every tax dollar is returned to the municipalities with the other 92 cents going to provincial and federal governments;
- Need for more funding sources from provincial and federal governments to assist municipalities with infrastructure upgrades and costs;
- Allocation of money for infrastructure work and how the Town is investing its funds through the Municipal Finance Authority;
- Breakdown of the COVID recovery funds;
- Ensuring discussions on the municipal hall upgrades and timelines;
- Future staffing requirements; and
- Clarification of the Homeowners grant programme and the need for increases to that programme in light of current tax and inflation increases.

The Director of Finance advised that with respect to taxes revenue, less than 45% is kept by the Town.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Day declared the meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

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

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor