



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting
Held and transmitted electronically via Council Chambers located at 39 South
Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC
on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Carolyne Austin, Chair
Mayor Tim McGonigle
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

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
Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

PUBLIC: 3

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

3. **AGENDA**

No. CW.011/24
Agenda

Moved: Councillor Vomacka

Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the agenda be approved with the additions of the following under:

NEW BUSINESS

(b) Town Communication;

NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) Subdivision Bylaw and the Inclusion of Attainable Housing.

CARRIED.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Tuesday,
February 13th, 2024 were treated as information.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:

7. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

None.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Action Items**

None.

(b) **Information or Consent Items**

None.

9. **REPORTS**

(a) **Finance, Administration and Strategic Planning**

(i) The Financial Report for the period ending February 29th, 2024, was treated
as information.

The matter of the grant-in-aids for 2024 will be discussed during budget
deliberations.

(ii) The Building Inspector's report for January, 2024 was treated as information.

No. CW.012/24
Fire Department –
Incident Report

- (iii) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the Committee recommend approval of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report in the amount of \$7,138.53 for February, 2024.
CARRIED.

- (iv) The Business Plan for the Education Centre was treated as information.

The Manager of the Centre advised that the revenue of the Centre pays for the wages and operational requirements and that the financial plan is submitted with the annual budget.

- (v) Councillors Sandhu and Austin spoke on their recent meeting held to discuss the loss of the Strong Start programme in Lake Cowichan and advised that a letter writing campaign is being undertaken.

Staff was requested to approach the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) to request a meeting with the Minister of Education to discuss the matter further.

Mayor McGonigle suggested routing the request through the local MLAs office to facilitate.

- (vi) Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 2:00 pm was set for 2024 budget considerations.

(b) Parks, Recreation and Culture

- (i) The Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services reported that he had met with representatives of the Community Garden on their request to expand the garden area. The expansion will occur on the Easterly boundary and a map outlining the expansion will be provided to amend the current agreement between the Town and the Garden Society.

No. CW.013/24
Spirit Loop –
Promotion and
Marketing

- (ii) Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Mayor McGonigle
that the Committee recommend that Council invite Kenzie Knight, Tourism Cowichan to discuss the Town’s participation in the Spirit Loop to allow for promotion of Lake Cowichan in its advertising and marketing.

CARRIED.

- (iii) The Committee discussed the matter of non-river safe sunscreen and banning the products in the Town.

Mayor McGonigle suggested that Town Council could make a statement and forward the matter to the Union of BC Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities, using the following wording:

“that the Town of Lake Cowichan encourage those visiting our community to use river and water safe sunscreens when recreating in the Cowichan Lake and Cowichan River”.

(c) Public Works and Engineering Services

- (i) The Committee discussed the matter of the Bear Smart Programme.

The Town is making every effort to ensure that it is setting an example for residents with the installation of bear resistant refuse cans in public spaces and signage.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) The next departmental tour will include the Education Centre, Lakeview Park and the Information Centre. The Manager indicated that sometime in June would be a good time for the tour as the washroom’s upgrades would be completed and a group would be at the Centre.

- (b) Councillor Frisby raised the matter of Town communication and the need to publicize more of the Town’s meetings and achievements.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (a) Mayor McGonigle brought forward the matter of how the Town can implement attainable and affordable housing in light of the new legislation and findings that the Town has not been meeting these targets.

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the matter will be taken to the Advisory Planning Commission as it refers to the Official Community Plan and Zoning bylaws. He will bring back their recommendations to the next meeting.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. IN-CAMERA

14. ADJOURNMENT

No. CW.014/24
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
that the meeting adjourn. (6:13 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____ .

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair