



## TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of a Public Hearing  
Held and transmitted electronically via the Council Chambers located at 39 South  
Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC  
on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

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

PUBLIC: 6

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

### 1. OPENING REMARKS

- (a) The Mayor explained the process for the public hearing.

The purpose of the hearing was to give the public an opportunity to provide input on the proposed amendments to the Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Bylaw No. 1055-2021.

The Mayor established the rules for the conduct of the hearing. Mayor McGonigle reviewed the means for public participation at the public hearing.

Mayor McGonigle then asked if there were questions on the process he had laid out for the public hearing. He added that the input should be strictly on the bylaw that is the subject of the public hearing.

Hearing no questions on the process, Mayor McGonigle then called on the Chief Administrative Officer to introduce the amending bylaw.

### 2. BYLAW NO. 1099-2024

- (a) The Chief Administrative Officer introduced the amendment proposed for the Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Bylaw No. 1099-2024.

The proposed Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Bylaw No. 1099-2024 is intended to amend the Town of Lake Cowichan Zoning Bylaw No. 1055-2021 by adding a permitted principal use of an Adult Vape Store to a site-specific location within the C-1-A Zone and the addition of definitions for e-cigarette and vapour product.

The Chief Administrative Officer further advised the following:

The public notices as required under the *Local Government Act* had been issued and all statutory requirements have been met and one (1) written submission had been received by the close of the business day.

The public has had the opportunity to review documentation relating to the bylaw amendments, in the meantime.

### 3. PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor McGonigle asked if the applicants wished to speak.

Tim Hilliard  
Proponent

Tim Hilliard and his son, Josh Hilliard were on hand to speak to their application.

Tim Hilliard, proponent, stated that he had provided a package of information to each member of Council on the proposed amendment.

Mayor McGonigle acknowledged receipt of those details and confirmed that each member of Council had been provided with the information.

Mr. Hilliard further detailed the proposed business and reassured Council that the protection of our youth is paramount and the sales of product would be limited to 19 years and over which strictly follows the BC Tobacco and Vaping Regulations.

Jonathan Hilliard  
Proponent

Mr. Hilliard advised that the retail store will be equipped with an ID card scanner and that BC ID cards clearly show age of consumer.

**(a)** The Chair issued the first call for public input.

Bill Garrett

Mr. Garrett asked the applicants what job opportunities would be made available.

Mr. Hilliard responded that they would be hiring a full-time manager and a part-time sales associate to start.

**(b)** The Chair issued a second call for public input for verbal submission.

None.

**(c)** The Chair issued a third call for public input for verbal submission.

Catherine Worsley

Ms. Worsley stated she was a staff member of the Chamber of Commerce and that this was a great opportunity for Economic Development.

Mr. Hilliard responded that all staff would have to be 19 or older and repeated that anyone has to be over the age of 19 to enter the retail store.

Hearing no further input, the Chair stated that no further submissions would be accepted after the meeting.

Mayor McGonigle afforded an opportunity for members of Council to ask questions of the proponents.

Councillor Vomacka asked about community sponsorship and advertising in the community and at local sports events.

Mr. Hilliard responded that Provincial legislations allowed for the business to advertise the Ez-Vape name but not the brand of product(s) and that there would be no sponsoring of youth teams, adult events only.

Councillor Frisby asked about other retailers in the community selling vape products.

Mr. Hilliard advised that currently only tobacco or menthol flavours were offered at the local gas station(s) and that Fields has a particular product it sells. The Ez-Vape store will provide a healthier alternative.

Councillor Frisby asked what plans the business owners had for their location.

Mr. Hilliard advised that they had taken over a one and half year sublease at their location.

Mayor McGonigle issued a final call for questions from Council.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McGonigle declared the public hearing for the proposed amending Bylaw No. 1099-2024 closed and advised that the bylaws would be returned to Council for further consideration (5:13 pm).

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

Confirmed on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor