



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, February 11th, 2025

PRESENT: Councillor Aaron Frisby, Chair
Mayor Tim McGonigle
Councillor Carlyne Austin
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: 9

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

No. CW.07/25
Agenda

3. **AGENDA**
Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the agenda be approved with the addition of the following:
NEW BUSINESS
(i) Charleigh Pollock medical treatment;
(ii) Rollout of CVRD bear resistant garbage cans and Town's Plans.

CARRIED.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**
None.

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Tuesday,
January 14th, 2025, were treated as information.

6. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:
None.

7. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

(a) Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation representatives were on hand to ratify the new Protocol Agreement with the Town of Lake Cowichan to enhance a government to government working relationship between the two governments. The intent is to provide both governments with a framework for reconciliation.

(b) Sam Warning made a request to locate a permanent disc golf course in Lake Cowichan. He spoke on the local enthusiasts that have undertaken modifications to property formerly occupied by the AB Greenwell School. The idea of locating a course in a current park would be ideal and would allow for a good social relationship with benefits to the community, its residents and visitors.

Mr. Warning was requested to seek a temporary use permit from the Province of BC for the property formerly known as AB Greenwell School property, with the possible utilization of School District No. 79's Friendship Park as alternate venue.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) **Action Items**
(i) None.

(b) **Information or Consent Items**
None.

9. **REPORTS**

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

- (i) The Financial Report for the period ending January 31st, 2025 was treated as information.
- (ii) The Bylaw Enforcement Officer’s 4th Quarter report for 2024 was treated as information.

Mayor McGonigle requested that similar to the Fire Department reports, that additional civic address details be redacted from the reports.

No. CW.08/25
Fire Department –
Incident Report

- (iii) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the Committee recommend approval of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report in the amount of \$8,236.58 for December, 2024.

CARRIED.

No. CW.09/25
Fire Department –
Incident Report

- (iv) Moved: Mayor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the Committee recommend approval of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s incident report in the amount of \$6,695.53 for January, 2025.

CARRIED.

- (v) Mayor McGonigle requested that budget meetings be arranged to begin discussions on the budget.

(b) **Parks, Recreation and Culture**

- (i) Councillor Frisby provided an update to the Committee on recent meetings held with local businesses on the matter of the sale of river safe sunscreen which was greatly supported by all the business owners and operators.

He also requested that the Town take the lead by enacting the recommendations to BC Conservation on the matter.

Councillor Sandhu suggested a joint statement from the Town and the District Chamber of Commerce, representing the local business community, on the importance of restricting harmful sunscreen use while recreating on the lake and river.

- (ii) Councillor Austin requested that a viewing area along Pine and Prospect Avenues be provided for public access to the Cowichan River.

The matter was referred to staff to bring forward a report to the next meeting.

Mayor McGonigle requested that further information and an updated QEP report be provided on any additional RAR enacted, as well as, addressing the issue of parking within the residential area.

(c) **Public Works and Engineering Services**

- (i) The Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services gave a progress update on the sanitary sewer as follows:

- Desludge of cell#1 has been awarded and works will be undertaken in March, 2025;
- Additional aerators will be installed; and
- The environmental impact proposal will be awarded within the week.

- (ii) The matter of speed limit reduction on residential streets was discussed as follows:
 - Reduction on residential streets to 30 or 40 kms;
 - Request for input from the RCMP on the matter is required;
 - If reduction in all residential areas to 40km is feasible;
 - Requirement for signage and changes to regulations/policies or bylaws;
 - The installation of speed bumps would be a large capital cost versus signage changes; and
 - Ensuring the safety of residential zones is paramount.

The matter was deferred to a future meeting and a staff report was requested on the matter.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- (i) Councillor Frisby spoke on the recent announcement of a local youth having her medical treatments not funded by the Province.

Staff was directed to send a letter to the Honorable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health encouraging the Province to review its decision on discontinuing the care treatments for young Charleigh, a local resident of Lake Cowichan.

- (ii) Councillor Frisby requested an update from staff on the Town’s plans for providing bear resistant garbage cans for residential purposes, similar to the Regional District’s new garbage programme being rolled out in the Spring.

The Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services reported that some in-ground refuse containers would be installed in 2025 at the Duck Pond and Central Park. Councillor Sandhu requested consideration be given to providing one at Kate’s Park near the King George Street roundabout, as requested by a local resident’s letter to the Town.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

Mayor McGonigle read out the following announcement:

I would like to announce, with both pride and gratitude, the retirement of CAO Joseph Fernandez, who has devoted 27 years of exemplary service to this Town.

Since joining the Town in 1998, Mr. Fernandez has been instrumental in guiding Lake Cowichan through periods of significant growth and change. His leadership, vision, and dedication have left an indelible mark on the community, contributing to numerous initiatives that have enhanced the quality of life for residents and shaped the town’s future. During his tenure, Mr. Fernandez played a pivotal role in advancing key infrastructure projects, fostering collaborative relationships between the Town and its stakeholders, and supporting sustainable growth strategies. His commitment to sound governance and a people-centered approach earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues, Council, and the broader community.

As Lake Cowichan begins the transition to new leadership, Council is committed to maintaining stability and ensuring a smooth succession process. Plans to recruit a new CAO will be shared in the coming weeks.

12. QUESTION PERIOD

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
 Seconded: Councillor Austin
 that the meeting be adjourned (6:15 pm).

No. CW.010/25
 Adjournment

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____ .

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____ , 2025.

Chair