

# Municipality of North Cowichan Special Council MINUTES

**February 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Hall - Council Chambers**

Members Present            Mayor Al Siebring  
                                    Councillor Rob Douglas  
                                    Councillor Christopher Justice (attended electronically)  
                                    Councillor Tek Manhas  
                                    Councillor Kate Marsh (attended electronically)  
                                    Councillor Rosalie Sawrie  
                                    Councillor Debra Toporowski

Staff Present                Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
                                    Mark Frame, General Manager, Financial and Protective Services  
                                    Ernie Mansueti, General Manager, Community Services  
                                    Sarah Nixon, General Manager, Corporate Services  
                                    David Conway, Director of Engineering  
                                    Rob Conway, Director of Planning and Building  
                                    Nelda Richardson, Deputy Corporate Officer  
                                    Shaun Mason, Municipal Forester

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, Mayor Siebring called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council approve the February 11, 2020 Special Council agenda as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

## **3. PUBLIC INPUT**

Council received brief public input from the following registered speakers regarding items on the agenda:

- Diana Hardacker – Forestry Operational Budget;
- Greg Gerbis – General Operating Budget;
- Eric Jeklin – Forestry Operational Budget; and
- Rob Fullerton – Forestry Operational Budget.

**4. BUSINESS**

**4.1 Councillor Manhas Reconsideration of Full Time Assistant Fire Chief**

It was moved and seconded:

1. *That Council direct staff to include a full time Assistant Fire Chief to implement the Fire Inspection Program in the 2020 Budget; and*
2. *That Council direct staff to implement a system of fees for re-inspections due to noncompliance and requested inspections.*

It was moved and seconded:

*That the main motion be amended by striking out item 2 and inserting in its place the following: "That Council direct staff to implement a system of fees for a \$100 for first inspections and \$50 for re-inspections".*

It was moved and seconded:

**That consideration of the motion to amend the main motion be postponed until after item 4.2. on the agenda.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Manhas)

**CARRIED**

**4.2 PRESENTATION: General Manager, Financial and Protective Services Re: Overview of Five Year Operating Budget**

Council received a presentation from the General Manager, Financial and Protective Services who provided an overview of the proposed 2020-2024 Operational Budget, as was attached to the February 11, 2020 Special Council agenda. Staff responded to questions regarding the budget presentations, the key considerations and advised that the 2020 budget process had been a very condensed and intense process. The importance of considering all of the higher service levels of staff together as it will be a busy year for projects and engagement was noted. Discussions surrounding the annual forestry cut in relation to the engagement plan and UBC Report and the two options presented in the 2020 Forestry Budget took place.

Councillor Toporowski left the meeting at 6:57 p.m. and returned at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to harvest the 2018/2019 contract obligations, and that Council will consider additional harvesting in 2020 after receiving the fire smart study and recommendations from the UBC Partnership regarding an interim forest management plan.**

**CARRIED**

Councillor Douglas left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned at 7:56 p.m.

Council recessed the meeting at 8:24 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to include a full time Procurement Manager in the 2020 Operating Budget.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Douglas; Manhas)

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to include a full time Social and Housing Planner in the 2020 Operating Budget.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Douglas; Manhas; Toporowski)

**DEFEATED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to include a full time RCMP Office Manager in the 2020 Operating Budget.**

(Opposed: Douglas; Manhas)

**CARRIED**

Council through unanimous consent, divided the question, which they postponed their consideration until after item 4.2, to include a full time Assistant Fire Chief and implement a system of fire inspection fees into two motions. The first part of the question in relation to an Assistant Fire Chief, as moved and seconded under item 4.1:

**That Council direct staff to include a full time Assistant Fire Chief to implement the Fire Inspection Program in the 2020 Budget.**

(Opposed: Douglas)

**CARRIED**

The amendment to the second part of the question in relation to the system of fire inspection fees, as moved and seconded under item 4.1:

**That Council direct staff to implement a system of fees for a \$100 for first inspections and \$50 for re-inspections.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Justice; Marsh; Sawrie; Toporowski)

**DEFEATED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to provide a report on cost recovery for the full time Assistant Fire Chief to implement the Fire Inspection Program in the 2020 Budget.**

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to provide a report with options for reducing the net tax increase to 3 percent.**

(Opposed: Siebring; Justice; Marsh; Sawrie)

**DEFEATED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to reduce the 2020 Budget from 28,000 to 18,000 for EV Chargers.**

(Opposed: Justice; Marsh)

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to reduce the 100,000 for Quamichan Lake Water reserve contribution to 67,000.**

(Opposed: Justice; Marsh; Sawrie)

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council approve the 2020-2024 Operating Budget as amended.**

(Opposed: Douglas; Manhas)

**CARRIED**

It was moved and seconded:

**That Council direct staff to prepare the 2020-2024 Financial Plan Bylaw for three readings at a future Council meeting.**

(Opposed: Douglas; Manhas)

**CARRIED**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**6. QUESTION PERIOD**

Council received one question from the public regarding business considered at this meeting.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, Mayor Siebring adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

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Certified by Deputy Corporate Officer

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Signed by Mayor