

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Special Council
MINUTES**

**April 29, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Electronically**

Members Present Mayor Al Siebring
 Councillor Rob Douglas
 Councillor Christopher Justice
 Councillor Tek Manhas
 Councillor Rosalie Sawrie
 Councillor Debra Toporowski

Members Absent Councillor Kate Marsh

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
 Jason Birch, Chief Information Officer
 Megan Jordan, Acting, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement
 Michelle Martineau, Corporate Officer
 Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

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 agenda, as amended, to include the Fundraising Campaign for Warmland House Shelter Laundry Facilities Upgrade as a late item under New Business.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Two errors were in the April 15, 2020 special meeting minutes, (1) that the motion for first reading of the Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 3785 had passed unanimously, and (2) a typo under item 6.1, that "his" should be "this".

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council adopt the following minutes:

1. Regular Council meeting held March 18, 2020 as presented; and
2. Special Council meeting held April 15, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED

Council, through unanimous consent, suspended the rules to consider a motion arising from the minutes, in relation to their April 15, 2020 decision to eliminate hiring the three new positions (previously approved February 11, 2020). The original motion, defeated on February 11, 2020 was introduced for reconsideration on March 4, 2020 and subsequently postponed until after a presentation from the Cowichan Housing Society and a discussion on the position priorities occurred.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council rescind their March 4, 2020 decision to postpone consideration of the motion "to include a full-time Social and Housing Planner in the 2020 Operating Budget" until after a presentation from John Horn and workshop and position priorities and proceed to vote on the matter immediately.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED: (on March 4, 2020)

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

(Opposed: Siebring; Douglas; Justice; Manhas; Sawrie; Toporowski)

DEFEATED

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Siebring provided a verbal update on electronic meetings and activities he recently attended, including a report on the COVID-19 Cowichan Task Force for Vulnerable Populations plan to provide shelter and support to homeless people during the pandemic.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

Council received 1 submission regarding agenda item 6.1 which was read out by the Mayor.

6. BYLAWS

6.1 North Cowichan / Duncan Integrated RCMP Facility Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3787, 2020

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the motion (below) to consider North Cowichan / Duncan Integrated RCMP Facility Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3787, 2020 be postponed until a report from staff with an analysis of the additional costs associated with building the new RCMP facility and an updated comparison with other models is provided to Council for consideration.

(Opposed: Siebring; Manhas; Sawrie; Toporowski)

DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council give first, second and third readings to North Cowichan / Duncan Integrated RCMP Facility Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 3787, 2020;

And That staff be directed to forward Bylaw No. 3787 and supporting documentation to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Governance and Structure Branch for review and approval by the Inspector of Municipalities.

(Opposed: Douglas)

CARRIED

6.2 Council Remuneration Amendment Bylaw No. 3788, 2020

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council give first, second and third readings to Council Remuneration Amendment Bylaw No. 3788, 2020.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council adopt Council Remuneration Amendment Bylaw No. 3788, 2020.

CARRIED

6.3 Alternative Municipal Tax Collection Scheme Bylaw, No. 3789, 2020

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council give first, second and third readings to Alternative Municipal Tax Collection Scheme Bylaw, No. 3789, 2020.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council adopt Alternative Municipal Tax Collection Scheme Bylaw, No. 3789, 2020.

CARRIED

7. REPORTS

7.1 2020 Special Events

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council direct staff to continue monitoring the Provincial Health Officer's Order (the "Order") as it relates to the COVID-19 social gathering restrictions and inform organizers, as identified in Table 1 Current Applications of the April 21, 2020 report from the Director of Engineering and the General Manager of Community Services, of any substantive changes made by Council for the use of public parks and facilities or suspension of the Order.

CARRIED

7.2 Resumption of Meetings and Regular Business

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That Council resume their regular meetings electronically while the provincial physical distancing measures are in place to allow non-urgent business to proceed;

And That the moratorium placed on delegations, public hearings, and Committee and Other Advisory Body meetings remain in place at this time;

And That Council waive the limit for public input submissions and that staff be directed to circulate all Public Input emails received in advance to Council, at least 30 minutes prior to the meeting, and further that the Corporate Officer or Mayor acknowledge receipt of submissions and state the agenda item the public input is in relation to;

And Further That Council take a 10-minute recess just prior to the Question Period to allow the public to submit their questions via email to the address displayed on the screen.

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferment Program Reinstatement

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Mayor be authorized to write the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with copies being sent to Vancouver Island municipalities, to request the reinstatement of the financial hardship property tax deferment program to provide support to property owners facing hardships from COVID-19, who are not eligible for the existing property tax deferment programs.

CARRIED

8.2 Fundraising Campaign for Warmland House Shelter Laundry Facilities Upgrade

Council discussed the fundraising initiative for upgrades to Warmland House Shelter laundry facilities.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor