

Municipality of North Cowichan

Committee of the Whole

MINUTES

December 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Electronically

Members Present	Councillor Tek Manhas, Chair Councillor Rob Douglas Councillor Christopher Justice Councillor Kate Marsh Councillor Rosalie Sawrie Councillor Debra Toporowski
Members Absent	Mayor Al Siebring
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sarah Nixon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (D/CAO) Mark Frame, General Manager, Financial and Protective Services David Conway, Director, Engineering Michele Gill, Acting Director, Engineering Shawn Cator, Director, Operations George Farkas, Director, Human Resources and Corporate Planning Jason Birch, Chief Information Officer Megan Jordan, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement John Dehoop, Manager, Infrastructure Chris Hutton, Community Planning Coordinator Michelle Martineau, Corporate Officer Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC INPUT

The Committee received 34 submissions via email prior to the meeting regarding agenda item 4.1. There were no public attendees at that time.

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Overview of the Five Year Operating Budget and Capital Expenditure Plan

General Manager, Financial and Protective Services presented an overview of the 2021 – 2025 general operating budget and the 2021-2025 capital expenditure program. Details

of the presentations were included in the agenda package that was published to the District's website. Mr. Frame, along with the Chief Administrative Officer, Ted Swabey, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Sarah Nixon, the Director, Engineering, David Conway, and the Director, Operations, Shawn Cator responded to questions of Council.

The Committee considered their motion related to the Assistant Fire Chief position that they had moved and seconded on December 8, 2020.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council direct staff to include an Assistant Fire Chief position in the 2021 Budget effective January 1, 2021. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve including a new Procurement Manager position within the 2021 Operating Budget, effective January 1, 2021. (Opposed: Douglas, Justice, Manhas)
DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve including a new Planning Manager position within the 2021 Operating Budget, effective January 1, 2021. (Opposed: Toporowski)
CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the following motion be amended to add the words '*and that the cost for the position be covered under the Climate Action Reserve Funds*' after the words 'effective January 1, 2021':

"That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve including a new Engineering Tech – Environmental position within the 2021 Operating Budget, effective January 1, 2021."

(Opposed: Justice, Toporowski, Sawrie, Marsh)
DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve including a new Engineering Tech – Environmental position within the 2021 Operating Budget, effective January 1, 2021. (Opposed: Douglas, Manhas)
CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the meeting be extended to 10:00 p.m. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council direct staff to add the following supplemental items to the 2021 Operating Budget:

- Ten Year Capital Plan
- Subdivision Bylaw Update
- CAEP Implementation
- Biodiversity Protection Policy

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council direct staff to add the Cemetery Master Plan to the 2021 Operating Budget.

(Opposed: Manhas, Justice, Douglas)

DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the following motion be amended to add the words: *"and that the costs be covered under the Climate Action Reserve Funds."* after the words: '2021 Operating Budget':

"That Council direct staff to add the Somenos Creek/Lake Management Plan to the 2021 Operating Budget." (Opposed: Justice, Toporowski, Sawrie, Marsh)

DEFEATED

The main motion was withdrawn through unanimous consent when an alternative motion was suggested by Council.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council direct staff to add the Somenos Creek/Lake Management Plan and the Chemainus River Watershed Management Plan to the 2021 Operating Budget. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council authorize that the Forest Reserve Fund be used to cover the 2021 operating budget deficit for the Forestry department while the forestry review, public engagement and First Nations consultation are ongoing. (Opposed: Manhas)

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve the Capital Expenditure Program as presented.

CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council:

That Council approve, in principle, the 2021 Operating Budget; subject to a maximum 2.31% net tax increase.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. QUESTION PERIOD

Chair Manhas called for a recess at 9:22 p.m. to allow viewers to submit questions via email or verbally online on the matters discussed during the meeting. One questions had been submitted via email in relation to item 4.1 and one member of the public, Mr. Don Graham, participated verbally using the online platform submitting three questions in relation to item 4.1., when the meeting reconvened at 9:32 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor