

Municipality of North Cowichan Committee of the Whole MINUTES

January 10, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically

Members Present	Mayor Rob Douglas Councillor Mike Caljouw Councillor Bruce Findlay Councillor Chris Istace Councillor Christopher Justice Councillor Tek Manhas
Members Absent	Councillor Debra Toporowski
Staff Present	Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services Talitha Soldera, General Manager, Corporate Services Barb Floden, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator Jeff Miller, Senior Engineer John Dehoop, Manager, Infrastructure Manuela Herzig, Director, Information Technology and Business Solutions Marla Laycock, Director, Human Resources and Health & Safety Rob Conway, Director, Planning and Building Shawn Cator, Director, Operations Shaun Mason, Municipal Forester Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting for adoption

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held December 13, 2022 be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Ravens Nest Child and Youth

Lia Versaeval from Ravens Nest Child and Youth Advocacy Centre provided a

presentation to Council on a project that was developed in 2022 in North Cowichan that provides advocacy and support for children who have been victims of a crime and answered questions from Council. Ms. Versaeval ended the presentation by extending an invitation to Council to tour their facility in the future.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Council received public input from 3 members of the public regarding agenda item 6.3.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 2023-2027 Utility Rate Review

The Chief Financial Officer, Talitha Soldera provided a presentation and answered questions from Council.

Council, by unanimous consent, recessed the meeting at 5:35 p.m. and reconvened at 5:37 p.m.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the Financial Plan Bylaw, a Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw and a Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw to:

- (1) Increase Chemainus water metered minimum and parcel tax by 5% per year for five years;
- (2) Increase Crofton water metered minimum and parcel tax by 5% per year for five years;
- (3) Increase South End water metered minimum and parcel tax by 3% per year for five years; and
- (4) Increase metered water rates (for amounts over the minimum) for all water utilities by 3% per year for five years. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to prepare the Financial Plan Bylaw, a Fees and Charges Amendment Bylaw and a Sewer and Water Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw to:

- (1) Increase Chemainus sewer parcel tax and user fees by 2% per year for four years beginning in 2024;
- (2) Increase Crofton sewer parcel tax and user fees by 3% per year for five years;
- (3) Increase South End sewer parcel tax and user fees by 5% per year for five years; and,
- (4) Increase Maple Bay sewer treatment plant parcel tax and user fee by 3% per year for five years. CARRIED

6.2 Capital Project Reductions

The Capital Project Reductions report was discussed.

6.3 2023 Grants in Aid

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve a grant in aid for the House of Grace Pregnancy Centre \$2,500. (Opposed: Douglas, Istace, Justice)

DEFEATED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council direct staff to add the Chemainus Valley Historical Society and the Cowichan Historical Society as a yearly line item in the grant in aid budget. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve grant in aid amounts for 2023 for a total of \$224,400, allocated as follows:

- (1) BC Forest Discovery Centre – BC Forest Museum \$25,000
- (2) Chemainus and District Chamber of Commerce \$27,500
- (3) Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce \$34,000
- (4) Cowichan Neighbourhood House Association \$38,600
- (5) Chemainus BC BIA – Flower Baskets \$24,000
- (6) Chemainus Theatre Festival Society \$20,000
- (7) Chemainus Cemetery (St Michael's and All Angels Church) \$1,000 to offset water and garbage fees
- (8) Chemainus BC BIA – Beautification: Repurpose fall baskets \$0
- (9) Chemainus BC BIA – Flags/Banners \$0
- (10) Chemainus BC BIA – Permanent Sign \$0
- (11) Chemainus Communities in Bloom \$7,600
- (12) Cowichan Valley Basket Society \$3,000
- (13) Cowichan – Bring Back Bluebirds \$2,000
- (14) Take a Hike Foundation \$500
- (15) WildsafeBC \$3,000
- (16) Chemainus Rotary Club \$500
- (17) Chemainus Valley Historical Society \$8,500
- (18) Cowichan Historical Society \$5,500
- (19) Cowichan Music Festival \$200
- (20) Duncan Cowichan Festival Society \$0
- (21) Maple Bay Community Association – Canada Day \$3,500
- (22) Somenos Community Association \$7,000
- (23) Vimy Community Club \$3,000
- (24) Westholme School Society \$5,000
- (25) Cowichan Rugby Club \$5,000;

AND THAT the unallocated portion not be brought forward in the 2023 budget. CARRIED

Council, by unanimous consent, recessed the meeting at 7:36 p.m. and reconvened at 7:49 p.m.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Our Health, Our Community Survey Questions

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole direct staff to receive input from Council regarding potential questions for the Our Health, Our Community Survey, and that staff work with Island Health and Our Cowichan Communities Health Network for potential inclusion in the survey. CARRIED

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Council received no questions from the public regarding agenda items.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Certified by Corporate Officer

Signed by Mayor

DRAFT