

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday, February 6, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

## MINUTES

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Jay Vermette and Councillors Judy Campbell, Neil Ferrier, Virginia Wilkins, and Richard Wright

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Champagne, CAO; Dennis Manuel, Supervisor of Public Works; and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

**PUBLIC GALLERY:** 5 Persons

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:**

**07-21 MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended as follows.

C.1 Report from the Gym Committee

G.4 2007 Grant Application Authorization

G.5 Fire Brigade Remuneration

Carried Unanimously

**B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 16, 2007

**07-22 MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Minutes be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Report from the Gym Committee

Councillor Ferrier gave a verbal report detailing the recommendations of the Gym Committee; including the location of the gym, and recommendations in regards to flooring, equipment, future direction of the Gym Committee, as well as use of the room adjacent to the gym as a Senior's Room. Councillor Campbell noted that she had concerns in relation to the process involved in creating the Gym Committee. She stated that she felt that Island Mountain Arts wasn't properly consulted in the decision making process, and that as a major user of the Wells Community School they should have been consulted during the process and invited to the meetings. Councillor Campbell also noted that Island Mountain Arts uses the room that the Gym Committee was recommending be turned into a Senior's Room. Councillor Ferrier noted that any omission of Island Mountain Arts in the decision making process was not intentional, and that he hoped a compromise could be reached in regards to sharing the room. Councillor Wilkins brought up the option of having a Senior's Room in the main gym space, as opposed to having the Senior's Room in the room adjacent to the gym. General discussion took place in regards to the feasibility of splitting the proposed gym space between the Wells Best Seniors and the Community Gym. A member of the public gallery, Jessica Demers, noted that Julie Fowler, Artistic

Director at Island Mountain Arts, should be included in any future discussion on Island Mountain Arts' usage of the Wells Community School. The Administrator noted that not all parts of the proposed recommendation needed to be approved at the meeting.

- 07-23** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Community Gym be put in the Wells Community School; that carpet be considered for the floor; that the Gym Committee stay intact and be available to make decisions regarding the gym; that equipment warrantee/service policy and layout be researched and considered when purchasing items for the gym, and that an Island Mountain Arts representative be placed on the Gym Committee.

Carried Unanimously

D. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 07-24** **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Consent Calendar be amended as circulated as follows:

1. 07.01.05 Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) re: Update on PHSA collaboration with Northern Health
2. 07.01.09 Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism Sport and the Arts re: Meeting at UBCM in regards to strengthening ties to China and BC 2008 Celebrations
4. 07.01.15 Cariboo Regional District re: Annual UBCM Conference – Regional District Forum
5. 07.01.16 North Central Municipal Association re: Submission of Resolutions to 2007 NCMA Annual General Meeting
6. 07.01.16 North Central Municipal Association re: Call for Nominations for 2007-2008 NCMA Executive
9. 07.01.18 Homeowner Protection Office re: Green building technologies
10. 07.01.24 Veterans Affairs Canada re: Canada Remembers Program
11. 07.01.24 Municipal Insurance Association re: Membership Certificate and Evidence of Liability Protection
12. 07.01.24 City of Quesnel re: Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run Commemorative Letter
13. 07.01.25 City of Port Alberni re: Martin Mars Water Bombers
14. 07.01.26 City of Burnaby re: Resolution Respecting Wildlife Rescue and Ecosystem Recovery Cost Accountability
16. 07.01.31 Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run re: Thank-you letter from event organizers

Carried Unanimously

3. 07.01.12 Heritage Society of BC re: BC Heritage Week  
Councillor Wright questioned if there was anything that could be done by the District of Wells to celebrate BC Heritage Week. Councillor Campbell noted that there is \$500.00 in funding available from the Provincial Government through the Spirit of BC Initiative. General discussion took place in regards to events or activities that could take place in the Wells, Barkerville area that would be eligible for BC Heritage Week funding.

**07-25** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Deputy Clerk look at the options available for the District of Wells to obtain \$500.00 in funding to help celebrate BC Heritage Week.

Carried Unanimously

7. 07.01.18 UBCM Executive Director re: RCMP Accountability: Community Performance Plans  
Councillor Wright questioned whether or not there was anything that the District of Wells needed to do in regards to the 07.01.18 UBCM Executive Director letter re: RCMP Accountability: Community Performance Plans. The Administrator noted that the Accountability plan seemed to stem out of the new taxation scheme for policing in British Columbia. Councillor Wright asked if staff could find out more detail in regards to RCMP Accountability: Community Performance Plans.

**07-26** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** staff find out more detail in regards to RCMP Accountability Community Performance Plans.

Carried Unanimously

8. 07.01.18 BC Hydro re: November Storm outage response  
General discussion took place in regards to the 07.01.18 BC Hydro letter re: November Storm outage response.

15. 07.01.29 West Fraser Mills Ltd. re: Notification of 2007-2011 Forest Stewardship Plan  
General discussion took place in regards to the 07.01.29 West Fraser Mills Ltd. letter re: Notification of 2007-2011 Forest Stewardship Plan

**07-27** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 07.01.12 Heritage Society of BC letter re: BC Heritage Week, the 07.01.18 UBCM Executive Director letter re: RCMP Accountability: Community Performance Plans, the 07.01.18 BC Hydro letter re: November Storm outage response, and the 07.01.29 West Fraser Mills Ltd. letter re: Notification of 2007-2011 Forest Stewardship Plan be received.

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 07.01.06 School District #28 re: Scholarship/Bursary Program  
Councillor Wilkins spoke on the subject. She noted that at the request of the former Principal of the Wells Community School, the Quality of Life Committee had decided to start a District of Wells scholarship in 2006. She said that the bursary is ongoing, and awarded annually to a current or former Wells resident who is attending post secondary schooling. Councillor Wilkins also noted that the Poppy Fund from the Royal Canadian Legion in Wells added \$250.00 in 2006 to raise the total scholarship amount to \$1000.00. She said that the Poppy Fund will donate the \$250.00 again for 2007. Council asked staff to clarify to School District #28 that the District of Wells will be administrating the scholarship, and that the bursary is specifically for a former or current Wells resident.

- 07-28** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** 07.01.06 School District #28 letter re: Scholarship/Bursary Program be received.  
Carried Unanimously
2. 07.01.15 Cariboo Regional District re: Joint Strategic Planning Session  
General discussion took place in regards to attending the Cariboo Regional District Joint Strategic Planning Session in May. Councillor Wilkins and Mayor Vermette expressed an interest in attending, with Councillor Campbell noting that she might be able to attend. The Administrator noted that staff will send the Cariboo Regional District a letter to this affect and arrange appropriate accommodations.
- 07-29** **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 07.01.15 Cariboo Regional District letter re: Joint Strategic Planning Session be received.  
Carried Unanimously
3. 07.01.18 Western Canada Wilderness Committee re: Mountain Caribou Report  
Councillor Wright noted that there was a Mt. Caribou presentation in Wells held recently, and suggested that Council send a letter of support in regards to protecting habitat for Mt. Caribou.
- 07-30** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** Staff draft a letter to the government's public consultation process from Council stating that the District of Wells recognizes the need to protect habitat for Mt. Caribou, and that the District of Wells values the Barkerville Caribou herd, as it is part of our heritage, and a key part of our tourism product. Copy the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.  
Carried Unanimously
4. 07.01.24 City of Prince George re: Request for Letter of Support for 2011 Western Canada Summer Games
- 07-31** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** staff write a Letter of Support for the 2011 Western Canada Summer Games in Prince George.  
Carried Unanimously
5. 07.01.24 North Central Municipal Association re: Silent Auction Request – NCMA AGM & Convention  
General discussion took place in regards to what items the District of Wells has donated in the past. Councillor Campbell noted that Barkerville Historic Town could donate a couple of season's passes to Barkerville Historic Town and the Administrator noted that the District of Wells could donate two Friends of the Wells Community Hall vests.
- 07-32** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the District of Wells donate two Friends of the Wells Community Hall vests and Barkerville Historic Town be asked to donate two season's passes to Barkerville Historic Town.  
Carried Unanimously

6. 07.01.31 Island Mountain Arts re: Letter of Support for Job Creation Partnership  
**07-33** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** staff write Island Mountain Arts a Letter of Support for both their Job Creation Partnership Grant Application and their Direct Access Gaming Grant Application.  
Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Problems arising from placement of snow on District of Wells streets by local businesses  
Mayor Vermette noted that a number of local businesses are placing their snow on the municipal streets, adding to the costs of the HMC road clearing, which in turn are passed on to the District of Wells. Mayor Vermette also noted that he was concerned about damage to Ski Hill Road that the snow piling could cause. The Administrator noted that Section 16.1 of the Traffic and Streets Bylaw covered this particular instance and that once the Traffic and Streets Bylaw was added to the Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw, that tickets could be given to the offending parties. The Administrator noted that as a first measure in helping solve the problem that staff could speak to businesses suspected of dumping their snow on municipal streets.  
**07-34** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** staff approach the businesses suspected of placing snow on municipal streets and notify them of the possible negative side effects.  
Carried Unanimously
2. Addition of lane behind Wells Community Hall to the Wells Snowmobile Corridor  
General discussion took place in regards to the Wells Snowmobile Corridor.  
**07-35** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** Council add the unnamed lane behind the Wells Community Hall and the lane behind the Wells Hotel to the Wells Snowmobile Corridor and change the transition link from Goldquartz Drive to Hong St adding the connecting segment of Hong St.  
Carried Unanimously
3. 07.01.30 Administrator letter to BC Hydro re: Power surge damage to Wells Community School  
The Administrator gave Council an update as to the letter that he wrote to BC Hydro in regards to damage caused to the newly installed Fire Alarm System Control Panel at the Wells Community School by the January 23, 2007 power surge. Councillor Campbell noted that Barkerville Historic Town received damage as well, and is planning to write a similar letter.  
**07-36** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the 07.01.30 Administrator letter to BC Hydro re: Power surge damage to Wells Community School be received.  
Carried Unanimously
4. Approval of 2007 Grant Applications  
**07-37** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council authorizes staff to submit applications for the following 2007 Grant Programs:

Towns for Tomorrow – Festival Site Development; Spirit Squares – Town Stage; Local Motion – Trails Development; Northern Trust – Small Community Economic Development Capacity Building, and Celebrate Canada – Canada Day Fireworks and Celebration

Carried Unanimously

5. Fire Brigade Remuneration

Councillor Wright noted that his initial intent in presenting an increase to the Fire Brigade Remuneration at the Administrative Retreat was to increase the amount to \$10.00 per hour, as opposed to \$10.00 per practice or fire. General discussion ensued in regards to Fire Brigade Remuneration. Mayor Vermette asked for a price breakdown in regards to what an increase would cost the municipality. The Administrator noted that staff would come back to Council with a cost matrix breakdown that examined a variety of remuneration possibilities.

**07-38** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Wells Volunteer Fire Brigade remuneration be increased to \$10.00 per practice or fire call for each member after attendance at four practices.

Motion defeated.

**07-39** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** Wells Fire Brigade Remuneration be referred to staff for a cost benefit analysis to be brought back to Council.

Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

1. Outstanding Action Items Report

**07-40** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Outstanding Action Items Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. Cheque Register 06.12.15 to 07.01.31

**07-41** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** Council approve cheques numbered 4188 to 4214 for the period of December 15, 2006 to December 31, 2006 for a total amount of \$18,669.13 and cheques numbered 4215 to 4239 for the period of January 1, 2007 to January 31, 2007 for a total amount of \$29,985.28.

Carried Unanimously

I. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Council Indemnities Bylaw No. 83, 2007

**07-42** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** Council give first three readings to Council Indemnities Bylaw No. 83, 2007

Carried Unanimously

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wilkins noted that there was a fairly good turnout for the January Bingo held by the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxillary, and that the next Bingo is scheduled for February 22, 2007 at the Wells Curling Club.

Councillor Ferrier noted that he has opened a restaurant in Prince George, the Great North Café at the Travel Lodge, but, that contrary to what people might hear, he loves Wells and will not be moving to Prince George.

Councillor Campbell noted that Carol McGregor, Robin Sharpe and herself attended a meeting in Lytton, BC for the 2008 Celebration of BC's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She said that there doesn't seem to be much money coming from the Provincial Government to help mark the anniversary, but she said that the opportunity exists to align already scheduled events in the area with the 2008 Celebration of BC's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and receive some ancillary exposure through their marketing. Councillor Campbell also noted that Barkerville Historic Town will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008, and that although there won't be a lot of extra events planned to mark this occasion, the BC Day Long Weekend Celebrations for 2008 would be boosted. Councillor Campbell also noted that the Gourmet Ski Loppet takes place on Sunday, February 11. There is also a Yael Wand concert planned for 8:00 PM on Saturday, February 10 at the Island Mountain Arts Gallery. Councillor Campbell also noted that she will be gone for the February 20, 2007 meeting.

Councillor Wright noted that he will be absent from Council in March, as the Theatre Royal will be on tour.

2. Staff:

The Deputy Clerk noted the Rocky Mountaineer Evening Magazine television program that includes the Wells, Barkerville, Bowron Lake area is scheduled to take place on February 12, 2007 at 7:00 PM. The Deputy Clerk also reminded Council that there is a Community Dinner scheduled to take place on February 15, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Wells Community Hall. This will be the Fire Fighter Recognition Dinner.

The Public Works Foreman, acting in his capacity as Fire Chief, gave an update on a fire call that took place in the Community the night below.

3. Public Gallery:

Paul Morrell asked for clarification on the Old Ball Park Festival Site. The Administrator gave the history of the location and gave him an overview of the future plans for the site. The Administrator noted that this project was part of the town's ongoing implementation of the District of Wells Beautification Plan. Paul Morrell asked about the possibility of the District of Wells doing some upgrading at Fred Wells Park, and building the Gazebo noted in the Beautification Plan. Paul Morrell noted that even if the Gazebo was unable to be constructed, that it would be beneficial to have some park benches or seating in the uptown area of Pooley St. in Fred Wells Park for tourists. The Administrator noted that staff

would look into the feasibility of adding picnic tables or benches to the uptown Pooley St. area of downtown Wells for the summer of 2007. Paul Morrell raised the question of whether or not there was an old car that is owned by the District of Wells that could be displayed as a tourist attraction. Councillor Campbell noted that there is a car that is owned by the District of Wells that is currently being stored at the Pacific 66 Service Station. Councillor Campbell noted that this vehicle could be displayed if there was a suitable location to display it.

Jessie Demers asked about the possibility of a stage at the Festival Site. She wanted to know if it was specific to that location or if any potential stage could be moved to a different location. The Administrator noted that the grant is for a specific location, but a mobile stage was still a possibility.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

**07-43** **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Carried Unanimously

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John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

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Gary Champagne, CAO