

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday April 15, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Jay Vermette and Councillors Virginia Wilkins and Richard Wright

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Champagne, C.A.O., and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC GALLERY: 2 people and one media representative

A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:

08-104 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

08-105 MOVED Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Minutes be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Fraser Deacon, 16-97 Economic Alliance Coordinator re: 16-97 Economic Alliance overview.

Fraser Deacon provided an overview of the work undertaken by the 16-97 Economic Alliance. Councillor Wilkins asked a question in regards to the future of logging in the region and what could replace it as an economic generator. Councillor Wilkins also noted that tourism was more of a key to the economy of Wells than mining. Fraser Deacon said that all the various sectors were interconnected. Mayor Vermette asked a question in regards to the District of Wells accessing tourism related economic data from the 16-97 Economic Alliance. General discussion took place in regards to the 16-97 Economic Alliance.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 08.03.26 Janine North, Chief Executive Officer Northern Trust re: Wells Mountain Trail Project

The Administrator provided an overview of the letter from Janine North, noting that the Northern Trust had approved their portion of the Wells Mountain Trail Project, and that federal approval of the grant from Western Economic Diversification looked promising. The Administrator also said that there was a possibility that the Wells Mountain Trail Project could be extended to a two-year project instead of a one-year project. Councillor Wright asked who would be heading the project if it got approved. The Administrator noted that the Superintendent of Public Works would be running the project.

08-106 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 08.03.26 Janine North, Chief Executive Officer Northern Trust letter re: Wells Mountain Trail Project be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. 08.04.04 Phil Zacharatos, R.P.F. Regional Executive Director, Southern Interior Forest Region, Ministry of Forests and Range re: Extension for submission of the Probationary Community Forest Agreement for District of Wells.

The Administrator provided an overview of the Phil Zacharatos letter, noting that the District of Wells had asked for and received a six month extension in order to ensure adequate time was given to complete the Probationary Community Forest Agreement. The Administrator also said that he had recently received information from the Cariboo Regional District that boded well for the approval of the regional Western Economic Diversification grant to provide funding for the Probationary Community Forest Agreement.

- 08-107** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.04.04 Phil Zacharatos, R.P.F. Regional Executive Director, Southern Interior Forest Region, Ministry of Forests and Range letter re: Extension for submission of the Probationary Community Forest Agreement for District of Wells be received.

Carried Unanimously

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 08-108** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as amended as follows.

1. 08.03.11 Wendy Kay, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Coldstream re: BC Provincial Budget 2008.
3. 08.03.28 Mobina Jaffer, Senator re: World Malaria Day.
5. 08.03.31 Gary Maclsaac, Executive Director, Union of BC Municipalities re: RCMP Contract Discussions: Local Government Representative & Working Group.
6. 08.04.03 Dan Ashton, Board Chair, Regional District Okanagan Similkameen re: Regional & Municipal Fiscal Imbalance.
7. 08.04.09 Charlie Wyse, MLA, Cariboo South re: Local Government Statues Amendment Act

Carried Unanimously

2. 08.03.26 Jon Wolbers, Chair, Cariboo Regional District re: Reconsideration of business owners/corporations not having the right to vote. Councillor Wilkins asked for clarification on the Jon Wolbers letter. The Administrator provided an overview of the local election voting eligibility in an attempt to clarify the letter.

- 08-109** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.03.26 Jon Wolbers, Chair, Cariboo Regional District letter re: Reconsideration of business owners/corporations not having the right to vote be received.

Carried Unanimously

4. 08.03.31 Jeannette Townsend, Mayor, Corporation of Village of Valemount re: Carbon Tax Legislation. Councillor Wright noted that the District of Wells should support the concerns that the Village of Valemount and the Northern Rockies Regional District have

raised in relation to the unfair nature of the Carbon Tax Legislation, and write a letter to this effect.

- 08-110** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** staff write a letter of support to the Northern Rockies Regional District documenting the District of Wells' concerns with the unfair nature of British Columbia's Carbon Tax Legislation.

Carried Unanimously

- 08-111** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.03.31 Jeannette Townsend, Mayor, Corporation of Village of Valemount letter re: Carbon Tax Legislation be received.

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 08.04.02 Charles Jago, Chair, Northern Health re: NCMA Annual General Meeting, Prince George BC, May 7-9, 2008.
Councillor Wright noted that health care access in a major concern for people living in the District of Wells; and that staff should set up a meeting with Northern Health officials at NCMA to discuss the need for a nurse practitioner in the District of Wells, as well as funding to improve access to the Northern Health bus as well as additional health care opportunities.

- 08-112** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.04.02 Charles Jago, Chair, Northern Health letter re: NCMA Annual General Meeting, Prince George BC, May 7-9, 2008 be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. 08.04.05 Fran Curran re: Removal of dangerous dead trees.
Councillor Wilkins spoke to the issue, noting that she was told by BC Hydro representatives not to remove the dead trees that are located on her property, as they could cause damage to adjacent BC Hydro lines if they were cut down. Councillor Wilkins noted that she was told by a BC Hydro that the trees would be removed this year.

- 08-113** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** staff contact BC Hydro to enquire as to when they will have the dead trees located at 2334 Bowman Crescent removed, and that any update received be sent to Fran Curran apprising her of the process.

Carried Unanimously

3. 08.04.09 John Rustad, MLA, Chair, BC Government Northern Caucus re: Northern Caucus available for meetings during NCMA.
Councillor Wright noted that he would like the condition of Highway 26 brought up with the BC Government Northern Caucus representatives. Staff were directed to contacted the BC Government Northern Caucus to arrange a meeting in regards to Highway 26.

- 08-114** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.04.09 John Rustad, MLA, Chair, BC Government Northern Caucus letter re: Northern Caucus available for meetings during NCMA be received.

Carried Unanimously

4. 08.04.10 Nancy Lilienweiss, Quesnel Community Foundation re: Quesnel Community Foundation Gala Awards Night
General discussion took place in regards to whether or not a District of Wells representative would be attending the gala awards night.
- 08-115** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.04.10 Nancy Lilienweiss, Quesnel Community Foundation letter re: Quesnel Community Foundation Gala Awards Night be received.
Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

H. REPORTS:

1. Outstanding Action Items Report
- 08-116** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Outstanding Action Items Report be received.
Carried Unanimously
2. Cheque Register 08.03.01 to 08.03.31
- 08-117** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve cheques numbered 4764 to 4805 for the period of March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008 for a total amount of \$86,008.08.
Carried Unanimously
3. 08.02.27 District of Wells Board of Variance meeting Minutes.
- 08-118** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 08.02.27 District of Wells Board of Variance meeting Minutes be received.
Carried Unanimously

I. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Bylaw No. 91, 2008 Five-Year Financial Plan
The Administrator noted that the Five-Year Financial Plan was based on the projections for the next five years, clarifying that the plan was only an estimate and that the District of Wells was not tied into any project noted in the plan. The Administrator also noted that the Five-Year Financial Plan would be brought forward at the public meeting on April 17, 2008.
- 08-119** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council give First Three Readings to Bylaw No. 91, 2008 Five-Year Financial Plan.
Carried Unanimously
2. Bylaw No. 92, 2008 Tax Rate
The Administrator noted that the province had not provided the School Tax and Police Tax rates to the District of Wells as of the meeting date, and that the rates would be adjusted prior to the final reading of the Bylaw.
- 08-120** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council give First Three Readings to Bylaw No. 92, 2008 Tax Rate.
Carried Unanimously

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wilkins welcomed Councillor Wright back to the community after his successful Theatre Royal tour.

Councillor Wright provided a brief report on the just completed Theatre Royal tour. He noted that the troupe performed to approximately 4000 people and traveled over 9000 kilometers on the tour. He said that the tour generated lots of interest in Barkerville Historic Town, and that the tour never could have taken place without the generous contributions of the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association (CCCTA) along with Barkerville Historic Town and Regency Chrysler.

2. Staff:

The Administrator noted that he had recently taken part in a Northern Trust meeting in regards to disposition of Northern Crown Lands via conference call. He said that the meeting reaffirmed that the Crown was dedicated to helping release the Crown Lands, but that achieving sign-off from First Nations communities delayed the process and that a new direct community to community approach was being recommended. The Administrator also noted that the general plan for dispersing the Crown Lands, which involves selling the lands to the municipalities at market prices, and then allowing them to service, zone and resell the land, wasn't applicable to the District of Wells. He noted that this process would not be applicable to the land in our community because it is already serviced and zoned. The Administrator also said that staff would work directly with the Northern Trust to see if we could look at Crown Lands in our community on a different basis.

The Administrator also noted that according to Neil Mallen from International Wayside Ltd. they were looking to start accelerated work on the mine site on Cow Mountain in September, with a bulk sample extraction that would employ 30 to 40 employees. Mayor Vermette noted that he had also met with representatives from International Wayside Ltd. and they informed him that they wanted to hold a public meeting in Wells in the near future, possibly mid-May. Mayor Vermette also said that Tom Hatton from International Wayside Ltd. had contacted him in regards to housing in the community, and the possibility of using the Jack O'Clubs RV site as a possible housing location for mine workers.

The Administrator also said that the Five-Year Financial Plan would be brought forward after the Community Potluck on April 17, 2008 as well as a presentation on the history of the water system in Wells.

The Deputy Clerk noted that there would be an RCMP Strategic Planning Session at the Wells Community Hall on April 22, 2008.

3. Public Gallery:

Aleta Wallace, a member of the public gallery noted that she had attended the CCCTA AGM in 100 Mile House as the Wells & District Chamber of Commerce representative and provided a brief overview of the event.

K. CLOSED MEETING

08-121 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT**, pursuant to Section 90(1) (a) of the Community Charter, the following portion of this meeting is closed to the public.

Carried Unanimously

L. ADJOURNMENT:

08-122 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:59 PM.

Carried Unanimously

John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

Gary Champagne, CAO