

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday September 16, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Gary Champagne, C.A.O.; Jason Griffin, Marketing & Economic Development Officer and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC GALLERY: 1 person and one media representative

A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:

08-246 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended as follows:

D.4 Access to Healthcare Funding Agreement with Northern Health (Transit)
Carried Unanimously

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

08-247 MOVED Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 2, 2008 be adopted as circulated
Carried Unanimously

C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Fuel Funding Update

The Administrator provided a verbal update on the efforts to raise funds for new fuel tanks in Wells. He noted that he was going to bring forward a staff report to Council recommending that the District of Wells fund the difference between the money raised and the money needed, however the quotes for the new fuel tanks were fluctuating and costs were not known. The Administrator noted that the new quotes looked to be lower than the original quotes, and that the grant from the Northern Trust and BC Hydro, along with monies raised from individuals and businesses in the Wells, Barkerville, Bowron Lake area should cover the cost of the new tanks. Councillor Campbell said that there was more work that needed to be done on the two bids for new tanks, but that it was looking like they would be covered under the original cost estimates for the project. Councillor Campbell also noted that the Barkerville Heritage Trust could cover a short-term shortfall between the monies raised and the amount needed. Councillor Wright noted that he wanted debate on the topic and wanted to bring forward a motion. Councillor Campbell declared a conflict of interest due to her employment with the Barkerville Heritage Trust and excused herself from the debate. Mayor Vermette declared a conflict of interest due to his ownership of the Wells Service Station and excused himself from the debate. Councillor Ferrier replaced Mayor Vermette as Acting Mayor. Councillor Wright said that he had spoken to a lot of people in the community over the past weeks, and the sense that he got was that this has been one of the most divisive issues that has ever come up in the

community. Councillor Wright noted that his sense is that anybody who has donated or loaned money towards the new fuel pumps should be given the opportunity to withdraw those funds without anybody knowing, and that the District of Wells should loan the money to the Barkerville Heritage Trust to make up the difference between the funds needed and the money still remaining. The Administrator noted that he had drafted a motion in preparation of making a report to Council that Councillor Wright could amend and use. Councillor Wilkins asked if the donations and loans that were promised could still be given to the Barkerville Heritage Trust if the lender still wished. It was noted by Councillor Wright that this money could still be lent or donated to the project.

08-248 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve providing an interest free loan to the Barkerville Heritage Trust in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the purpose of funding the shortfall, if any, in the cost of the Barkerville Heritage Trust establishing a retail gasoline sales outlet in Wells. The loan shall be repayable within five years with the exact amount of the loan and the terms of repayment to be negotiated by Administration.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Wilkins asked if she would receive a tax receipt if she donated money to Barkerville Heritage Trust to help fund the project. It was noted that she would receive a tax receipt for her donation, as the Barkerville Heritage Trust was a non-profit.

08-249 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** those people that have donated funds to Barkerville Heritage Trust Fuel Project be made aware of the District of Wells funding of the project and be given the opportunity to have their money returned.

Carried Unanimously

2. Confirmed meeting dates for UBCM Convention in Penticton
The Administrator noted that all of the UBCM Convention ministerial meetings requested by the District of Wells had been confirmed.

08-250 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the confirmed meeting dates for the UBCM Convention in Penticton be received.

Carried Unanimously

3. Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places – PDF available from Deputy Clerk
Councillor Campbell noted that she would like to see the Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places used in the management of the heritage buildings owned and maintained by the District of Wells.

08-251 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Standards and Guidelines for Historic Places be received.

Carried Unanimously

4. Access to Healthcare Funding Agreement with Northern Health (Transit)
The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the Access to Healthcare Funding Agreement with Northern Health, noting that Northern Health had agreed to fund a once-a-week return bus service between Wells and Quesnel, and that the District of Wells needed to enter into a Community Transit Partnership Agreement with the City of Quesnel for the provision of the service.

08-252 **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT**
Carried Unanimously

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

08-253 **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as amended as follows:

1. 08.08.28 David Taylor, Chari, BC Egg Marketing Board re: UBCM Resolution B154 – Humane Egg Production Practices
2. 08.09.03 Barry O’Neill, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees, BC Division re: Trade Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)
Carried Unanimously

3. 08.09.03 Sue Clark, Program Officer, UBCM re: 2007 West Nile Prevention Initiative Completion
The Administrator noted that this money was the final payment to the District of Wells for the completion of a West Nile Prevention Initiative that was done in 2007. The Administrator also said that the next item on the Agenda, the Community Tourism Grant (Phase II) Gateway Park Enhancement was the final payment for the Gateway Park dock. The Administrator went on to provide an update on the new Western Diversification grant application that had been recently submitted to replace the Wells Community Forest Funding proposal.

4. 08.09.03 Sue Clark, Program Officer, UBCM re: Community Tourism Grant (Phase II) Gateway Park Enhancement

08-254 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the 08.09.03 Sue Clark, Program Officer, UBCM letter re: 2007 West Nile Prevention Initiative Completion and the 08.09.03 Sue Clark, Program Officer, UBCM letter re: Community Tourism Grant (Phase II) Gateway Park Enhancement be received.
Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 08.08.28 Charles Jago, Chair, Fraser Basin Council re: Annual UBCM Breakfast
General discussion took place in regards to who should attend the Fraser Basin Council breakfast at the UBCM Convention. Councillor Campbell and Councillor Wilkins noted that they would attend.

08-255 **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 08.08.28 Charles Jago, Chair, Fraser Basin Council letter re: Annual UBCM Breakfast be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. 08.09.05 Jon Wolbers, Chair, Cariboo Regional District re: Strategic Planning Session on Thursday, October 9th, 2008 at the Blue Spoon Convention Centre in Williams Lake
Mayor Vermette noted that he would be attending the Strategic Planning Session in Williams Lake on October 9, 2008.

08-256 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** 08.09.05 Jon Wolbers, Chair, Cariboo Regional District letter re: Strategic Planning Session

on Thursday, October 9th, 2008 at the Blue Spoon Convention Centre in Williams Lake be received.

Carried Unanimously

3. 08.09.10 Shelly Burich, Manager of Communications, Cariboo Regional District re: CRD Board on the Road events in Quesnel on September 18 and 19. Mayor Vermette noted that he would be attending the events on September 19, 2008.

08-257 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the 08.09.10 Shelly Burich, Manager of Communications, Cariboo Regional District letter re: CRD Board on the Road events in Quesnel on September 18 and 19 be received.

Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Forest Update

Councillor Campbell noted that it was important for the District of Wells to examine the true feasibility of the proposed Wells Community Forest and to find out if the size of the proposed area is enough for a viable community forest. Councillor Campbell also noted that the costs for doing the paperwork necessary to receive a Community Forest should be examined to see if they are as high as was originally estimated. Councillor Campbell said that it is important for the District of Wells to determine whether or not the Wells Community Forest is a realistic project.

08-258 **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the District of Wells Marketing & Economic Development Officer scope out the viability of the proposed Wells Community Forest and report to Council on his findings.

Carried Unanimously

2. Wells Trail Project Contract

08-259 **MOVED** Councillor Ferrier Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the District of Wells enter into a contract with Ian Macdonald for trail upgrading work associated with the Wells Mountain Trails Project as tendered.

Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

1. Outstanding Action Items Report

Councillor Campbell noted that the creation of a Wells Heritage Registry should be a priority, and that the Marketing & Economic Development Officer could undertake the project.

08-260 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Outstanding Actions Items Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

2. Cheque Register 08.08.01 to 08.08.31

08-261 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council approve cheques numbered 4988 to 5026 for the period of August 1, 2008 to August 31, 2008 for a total amount of \$62,543.63.

Carried Unanimously

3. Most Improved Property Contest winners
The Administrator provided an update on the Most Improved Property Contest winners. Sundance and Megan Topham won for the residential category and Paul Morel and Ting Yuen, owners of the Art Rush Gallery won for the commercial category.

08-262 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Ferrier **THAT** the Most Improved Property Contest winners report be received.

Carried Unanimously

I. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS: NIL

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wilkins noted that she had heard on the news that Premier Campbell had just announced funding for bike trails and lanes for communities across British Columbia. She said that staff should examine the funding and see if they could access funding for a bike path between Wells and Barkerville Historic Town. Councillor Wilkins also noted that the Wells Best Seniors' Meeting Place was having its grand opening on September 18, 2008 and the Ducks Unlimited dinner was taking place on September 20, 2008 in the Banquet Room of the Wells Community Hall.

Councillor Ferrier asked what was taking place in regards to implementation of the District of Wells Unsightly Premises Bylaw. The Administrator noted that action would be undertaken with the individual property owners as the need arose. Councillor Ferrier also announced his resignation effective at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Wright said that the District of Wells should be proactive in working towards obtaining funding for a bike path between Wells and Barkerville Historic Town, noting that there are a number of safety concerns with the current biking route. Councillor Wright also announced that the Barber of Barkerville Opera was taking place on September 27, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Theatre Royal in Barkerville Historic Town.

Mayor Vermette thanked Councillor Ferrier for serving out his term as Councillor, and commended him on his dedication to the community. Mayor Vermette asked if perimeter fencing was going to be added to the new ballpark. The Administrator noted that perimeter fencing was planned for this phase of the construction, but that it had to be scaled back due to cost constraints. He noted that perimeter fencing could possibly be added to the ballpark if new funding is obtained. General discussion took place in regards to the need for perimeter fencing on the new ballpark.

2. Staff:

The Administrator provided an update on the progress of the Wells Mountain Trail project trail improvements in the meadow. The Administrator also noted that Desi Cheverie, District Recreation Officer from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and

Culture, had said that the Ministry has funding available to replace the “white bridge” at the Blair Street entrance to the Wells Meadow Trails. General discussion took place in regards to the work being done on the Wells Trail Network, with Councillor Campbell noting that the work was being done without a master plan. Councillor Campbell said that grants that staff apply for need to be brought before Council before being undertaken, and that individuals in the community had expressed concern over the work being done under the Wells Mountain Trails Project. The Administrator noted that the project was associated with the goals and objectives of the District of Wells Strategic Plan, and that although work had started on the project, the majority of the work was going to be started in 2009, and that staff could contact Western Diversification and tell them that the District of Wells no longer wanted the project if Council so decided. Councillor Campbell said that not completing the project wasn’t what she wanted, but that there needed to be a better plan and more consultation involved. Councillor Wright suggested that there could be a meeting between staff and Council to go over the plans for the Wells Trail Network. Councillor Wright also noted that soliciting community feedback in regards to the trails project by holding an informational meeting that was open to the public might be a possibility. Councillor Campbell said that holding a public meeting might not be a good idea, since the project parameters of the project are already set. Councillor Wright asked if there was a plan for the trail project that contractor Ian Macdonald is currently working on. Jason Griffin, the Marketing & Economic Development Officer noted that the work Ian Macdonald was doing is based on the three grants that are written up, and that these grants could be turned into a report available for the public if they have any questions in regards to the community. The Administrator noted that an informational sheet in regards to the Wells Mountain Trails Project could be created and available for the public. Councillor Wright withdrew his suggestion to hold a public meeting.

3. Public Gallery:

Aleta Wallace asked if she could get some information from the District of Wells in regards to the Wells Mountain Trail Project.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

08-263 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Carried Unanimously

John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

Gary Champagne, CAO