

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mayor Jay Vermette and Councillors Judy Campbell, Aleta Wallace, Virginia Wilkins and Richard Wright

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

PUBLIC GALLERY: 5 people

A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:

09-22 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended as follows:

G.5 Wells/Barkerville Geothermal Project Contract motion

G.6 Snowmobile tourism trends in District of Wells

Carried Unanimously

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

09-23 MOVED Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, January 20, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. Island Mountain Arts re: Agreement for use of the Wells/Barkerville School Elsie Wiebe, the Director of Finance from Island Mountain Arts presented Council with an overview of the Island Mountain Arts request to enter into a new two-year Wells/Barkerville School rental agreement with the District of Wells.

09-24 MOVED Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Island Mountain Arts delegation be received.

Carried Unanimously

Councillor Wright asked the Administrator for information on the Geothermal Project and how it would affect the Wells/Barkerville Community School and any potential usage in the summer by Island Mountain Arts. The Administrator noted that there was currently no established timelines for starting the physical work for the Geothermal Project at the Wells/Barkerville Community School as the funding agreement is in the process of being signed off, and no action can take place until the funding is secured. Councillor Wright asked Island Mountain Arts when they needed an answer in regards to renting the building. Councillor Campbell noted that there was already a previous motion on record precluding the interruption of Island Mountain Arts activities at the Wells/Barkerville Community School by the Wells/Barkerville Geothermal Heating project. Councillor Wright asked the Administrator what affect Island Mountain Arts' use of the Wells/Barkerville School and field would have on the Geothermal Project. The Administrator noted that the use of the field could have a potential affect on the project, but that the use of the school building itself shouldn't affect the project. General discussion took place in regards to timing for the

Wells/Barkerville Geothermal Project and its affect on Island Mountain Arts programming and the ArtsWells Festival.

- 09-25** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the District of Wells enter into a contract with Island Mountain Arts for rental of the Wells/Barkerville Community School for two-years at a rate of \$1,500 per year.

Carried 3-2

Councillor Wallace, Councillor Wilkins, Councillor Campbell for –
Councillor Wright, Mayor Vermette against

General discussion took place in regards to potential conflicts that could arise with the Geothermal project and Island Mountain Arts use of the Wells/Barkerville Community School. Elsie Wiebe noted that it's not Island Mountain Arts' intention that the school rental be an either/or decision in regards to either the Geothermal project or Island Mountain Arts renting the school. It was her hope that both items could take place without conflict.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Barkerville Cemetery Administration Report
The Deputy Clerk provided Council with an overview of the Barkerville Cemetery Administration Report.

- 09-26** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the Barkerville Cemetery Administration Report be received.

Carried Unanimously

General discussion took place in regards to the District of Wells taking over the administration of the Barkerville Cemetery, including discussion in regards to what organization would be responsible for the ongoing maintenance at the Barkerville Cemetery.

- 09-27** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the District of Wells enter into negotiations with the Friends of Barkerville to take over administration of the new portion of the Barkerville Cemetery.

Carried Unanimously

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 09-28** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as circulated:

1. 09.01.13 John van Dongen, Solicitor General re: Standards for home and property inspectors in British Columbia.
2. 09.01.14 Eileen Benedict, Nominations Chair, North Central Municipal Association re: Call for Nominations for 2009-2010 NCMA Executive.
3. 09.01.15 Brock Macdonald, Executive Director, Recycling Council of British Columbia re: Recycling Council of British Columbia Recycling Hotline.
4. 09.01.19 Karen Felker, Coordinator, Honours and Awards Secretariat, re: Order of British Columbia – 2009 Call for Nominations.
5. 09.01.28 UBCM In the House re: Federal Budget 2009
6. 09.01.30 Sue Conroy, Chief Operating Officer, BC Ambulance Service re: Contract Negotiations
7. 09.02.03 Tom Cambell, Royal Canadian Legion, re: Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Project

8. 09.02.04 John Turner, Chair, Board of Directors, United Way of Prince George re: Name change for United Way of Prince George
9. 09.02.04 Pat McAllister, President, Heritage BC re: Heritage Week 2009
10. 09.02.05 Community Social Services Awareness Month
11. 09.02.06 Alicia Brady, Communications Officer, BC Housing re: Making rent more affordable for families in your community
12. 09.02.06 UBCM Presidents Committee re: Opportunity to Advance Civics in School Curriculum

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 09.01.27 Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Elected Officials Workshops 2009
Councillor Wilkins noted that she would like to attend the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Elected Officials Workshop. The Administrator noted that he could attend along with Councillor Wilkins time permitting.

09-29 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Councillor Wilkins attend the 2009 Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), Elected Officials Workshop.

Carried Unanimously

2. 09.01.28 Fraser Basin Council re: Adapting to Climate Change in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Workshop – March 3, 2009 10:00 - 3:30 PM Williams Lake
General discussion took place in regards to whether someone should attend the workshop.

09-30 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the Fraser Basin Council letter re: Adapting to Climate Change in the Cariboo-Chilcotin Workshop – March 3, 2009 10:00 - 3:30 PM Williams Lake be received.

Carried Unanimously

3. 09.02.04 Murry Krause, President, North Central Municipal Association re: Silent Auction Request – NCMA AGM & Convention
General discussion took place in regards to what the District of Wells could donate to the NCMA Silent Auction.

09-31 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** staff create a District of Wells Silent Auction prize package consisting of local items or services with a total cost not to exceed \$200.00.

Carried Unanimously

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. District of Wells Provisional Budget 2009
The Administrator provided the highlights of the District of Wells 2009 Provisional Budget.

09-32 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council approve the 2009 District of Wells Budget as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2. District of Wells Grant-in-Aid Request and Recommendation 2009

The Administrator provided an overview of the District of Wells Grant-in-Aid Requests and Recommendations for 2009. Councillor Wilkins asked if the District of Wells would go over budget if they approved the recommendations as presented. The Administrator noted that the District of Wells would not go over budget, as \$10,000 was assigned for grants-in-aids in the 2009 District of Wells Provisional Budget. General discussion took place in regards to the \$1,000 donation to the Friends of Barkerville for Barkerville Cemetery maintenance, and whether the grant should have conditions attached to it. The Mayor noted that the grant could be awarded to the Friends of Barkerville without specifically mentioning Barkerville Cemetery maintenance. General discussion took place in regards to the 2009 grants-in-aid.

09-33 **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the District of Wells Grant-in-Aid Recommendations for 2009 be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. 2009 Standing Committees Meeting Schedule
09-34 **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council amend the 2009 Standing Committees Meeting Schedule as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4. Built Environment and Active Transportation - Community Planning Grant
The Administrator provided an overview of the opportunity to apply for the Built Environment and Active Transportation - Community Planning Grant
09-35 **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve the submission of an application to Union of BC Municipalities for funding a Community Planning Grant under the *Built Environment and Active Transportation Program*.

Carried Unanimously

5. Wells/Barkerville Geothermal Project Contract motion
09-36 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council authorize the District of Wells to enter into a funding agreement with the Union of BC Municipalities for the provision of grant funding for the Wells Barkerville Community School Geothermal Heating Project.

Carried Unanimously

6. Snowmobile Tourism Trends in Wells
Councillor Wright noted that at the Wells & District Chamber of Commerce AGM held on March 16, 2009 it was brought up that there is considerable concern in the local business community over what appears to be inconsistent snowmobile enforcement in the District of Wells. Councillor Wright noted that there appears to be inconsistencies in what has been written in the local paper concerning snowmobiling enforcement by local RCMP members, and what was reported at the Wells & District Chamber of Commerce AGM. Councillor Wright noted that he believes that Council needs to take a role in liaising with law enforcement officials to discuss snowmobile enforcement in the District of Wells. General discussion took place in regards to snowmobiling regulations. Mayor Vermette suggested that staff invite the local RCMP to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the issue.

09-37 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** staff invite RCMP Corporal Steve Chin and the local RCMP members to attend a future Council meeting to discuss the enforcement of snowmobiling within the District of Wells.
Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

1. Outstanding Action Items Report
Councillor Campbell noted that she wanted to make sure that the District of Wells Heritage Registry was formed before the funding disappeared. The Administrator noted that an action item concerning a committee to identify for retention purposes all items of historical value currently stored in the Wells Community Hall, and authorizing staff to dispose of all other accumulated materials and debris, should be done as soon as possible. General discussion took place in regards to a date that would work for committee member Councillor Campbell and the Administrator. It was noted that February 24, 2009 is a date that would work. Councillor Campbell asked if Barkerville Historic Town was included in the District of Wells Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Administrator noted that it was his understanding that Jason Griffin, the Marketing and Economic Development Officer, had ensured that the contractor creating the CWPP was liaising with Barkerville Historic Town staff during the completion of the plan. General discussion took place in regards to the Outstanding Action Report items.

09-38 **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Outstanding Action Items Report be received.
Carried Unanimously

2. Cheque Register 09.01.01 to 09.01.31
09-39 **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council approve Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) and Cheques 5232 to 5264 for the period of January 1, 2009 to January 31, 2009 for a total amount of \$41,094.27.
Carried Unanimously

I. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS: NIL

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:
Councillor Wallace noted that there would be no Northern Trust Regional RAC meeting for February due to a lack of Agenda items.

Councillor Wilkins thanked Deb McKay for doing a great job in organizing the Wells Spirit Week. Councillor Wilkins also noted that she heard that arts and heritage had been slashed in the Provincial Budget.

Councillor Campbell noted that Barkerville Historic Town did not yet know if they would be getting their \$1.3 million dollars in funding for 2009. Councillor Campbell noted that Barkerville Historic Town could use reserve money to survive for the upcoming year if they did not receive the funding, and they would be going full-bore ahead for the upcoming summer with a full schedule of events and activities. Councillor Campbell noted that High Speed Internet Access for

New Barkerville should be brought up with the Cariboo Regional District at the CRD Townhall Meeting on February 19, 2009, as there is currently a monopoly in the community that is limiting choice. Councillor Campbell relayed a number of questions that could be asked in regards to High Speed Internet in the community. Councillor Campbell also noted that she attended the Council of Tourism Associations (COTA) Conference, and that it was a productive event. Councillor Campbell also said that she attended the Northern Caucus meeting at the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George in January, and that the meeting was informal and Tourism wasn't discussed much.

Councillor Wright noted that he would be holding a Protective Services and Emergency Planning meeting at 3:00 PM on February 24, 2009 at the District of Wells. Councillor Wright also noted that having access to High Speed Internet is a necessity for his business. Councillor Wright brought up an issue in regards to reporting that took place in the Wells Chronicle regarding District of Wells funding for the new fuel tanks at the Wells Service Station. Councillor Wright also noted that the Theatre Royal is going on tour again in the spring, thanks to funding received from Barkerville Historic Town and Barkerville Heritage Trust. He said that it would be a three-week tour taking place this spring, with a special emphasis on the northern part of the province. Councillor Wright also noted that he attended the Northern Economic Summit in Prince George, and enjoyed the weekend, but that the emphasis was mainly focused on energy and mines. Councillor Wright also mentioned that International Wayside had been putting out a number of press releases in regards to restructuring, and wondered if the board make-up and management of the company had changed.

Mayor Vermette noted that he attended a number of productive meetings at the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) in Williams Lake the previous week, and that the CRD Board came up with a list of five regional issues that they would be working on. He said that the tone of the meetings was very upbeat, with everybody pledging to work together.

2. Staff:
The Administrator noted that the Wells Gourmet Ski Tour and Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival were taking place in Wells on February 21, 2009.
3. Public Gallery:
Neva Hohn asked Council about an item from the Agenda in regards to information that municipalities can display in regards to affordable housing. The Administrator noted that staff would examine ordering some information for the municipality.

K. ADJOURNMENT:

09-40 **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:57 PM.

Carried Unanimously

John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

Gary Champagne, CAO