

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday, October 6, 2009 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, Aleta Wallace, and Virginia Wilkins

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Champagne, C.A.O.; Dennis Manuel, Superintendent of Public Works; Jason Griffin, Marketing & Economic Development Officer and Sundance Topham, Deputy Clerk

**PUBLIC GALLERY:** 2 People

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

**09-236 MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended as follows:

E.3 Fire Hall Floor Reinforcement Contract

F.3 09.10.05 Judy Campbell, Treasurer, Island Mountain Arts re: Island Mountain Arts Funding

Carried Unanimously

**B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**09-237 MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 22, 2009 be adopted as amended as follows:

J.1 Councillor Wallace noted that she was thanking Council on behalf of Mike Wallace, not herself.

Carried Unanimously

**C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL**

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. District of Wells' participation at Provincial Finance Committee meetings in Prince George on October 14, 2009.

Councillor Campbell noted that she applied online to make a presentation at the Provincial Finance Committee meetings in Prince George and her application was accepted. She said that she applied under the umbrella of both the District of Wells and Island Mountain Arts, and was looking to present the information contained in the resolution that the District of Wells brought forward to UBCM in regards to cuts to provincial arts and culture funding.

**09-238 MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the update on District of Wells' participation at the Provincial Finance Committee meetings in Prince George on October 14, 2009 be received.

Carried Unanimously

**09-239** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Councillor Campbell represent the District of Wells at the Provincial Finance Committee meetings in Prince George on October 14, 2009.  
Carried Unanimously

2. District of Wells Third Quarter Financial Update  
The Administrator provided the Third Quarter Financial Update.

**09-240** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the Third Quarter Financial Update be received.  
Carried Unanimously

3. Fire Hall Floor Reinforcement Contract  
Councillor Campbell asked how many tenders were received. The Administrator noted that there was only one tender was put forth, and luckily the tender came in right on budget. Mayor Vermette asked when the project would start. The Administrator noted that the project would start when the contractor was finished their obligations on an in-town contract, in approximately two weeks.

**09-241** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council approve the District of Wells entering into a contract with Berlin Construction for floor reinforcement at the Wells Fire Hall at a tendered cost of \$37,197.00.  
Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 09.10.01 Phil Leroy, Vice President, Wells Snowmobile Club re: Bombardier Groomer loan forgiveness.  
The Administrator provided Council with information on the Bombardier Groomer loan arrangement with the Wells Snowmobile Club. The Administrator noted that District of Wells has the ability to apply 100 per cent of the existing Additional Hotel Room Tax (AHRT) towards the Bombardier Groomer Loan, but that the AHRT is only guaranteed until July 1, 2011. The Administrator recommended using 100 per cent of the AHRT to pay down the groomer debt for 2009 through 2011 and relieve the Wells Snowmobile Club of trail fee payments in that time. In 2011 review the situation when it is anticipated there would be approximately \$4,500.00 left on the loan. Mayor Vermette asked what would happen with any outstanding balance. The Administrator noted that the outstanding balance would need to be reviewed and negotiated at that time. He also noted that the ownership of the equipment should remain in the District of Wells' name until the balance owing is paid off.

**09-242** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 09.10.01 letter from Phil Leroy, Vice President, Wells Snowmobile Club re: Bombardier Groomer loan forgiveness be received.  
Carried Unanimously

**09-243** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the District of Wells relieve the Wells Snowmobile Club of paying Trail fees to the District of Wells for 2009 and 2010 and review the outstanding Bombardier Groomer balance and trail fee payment agreement after July 1, 2011.  
Carried Unanimously

2. 09.10.01 Judy Mooring, Visitor Programs and Communications, Barkerville Historic Town re: Ghostly Halloween Tour Donation  
**09-244** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the 09.10.01 letter from Judy Mooring, Visitor Programs and Communications, Barkerville Historic Town re: Ghostly Halloween Tour Donation be received.  
Carried Unanimously
- 09-245** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the District of Wells donate the same amount to the Ghostly Halloween Tour that was donated in 2008.  
Carried Unanimously
3. 09.10.05 Judy Campbell, Treasurer, Island Mountain Arts re: Island Mountain Arts Funding  
Councillor Campbell provided an overview of the funding cuts at Island Mountain Arts and highlighted the impact that they will have on future programming. She noted that Island Mountain Arts is looking for financial help, either through facility rental discounts or increases to Grants in Aid, and that is why they are approaching the District of Wells. Councillor Campbell excused herself from the discussion. Mayor Vermette said that ArtsWells, hosted annually by Island Mountain Arts, has turned into a major financial draw to the town and that the event is an important community draw. He also said that making any changes to the rental fee structure at the community buildings, such as forgiving rental fees, would open up a number of issues and was not the best option, but that the District of Wells should do something to help Island Mountain Arts. Councillor Wilkins said that forgiving rental fees for public buildings would not be prudent. Councillor Wallace said that looking at an increase in the District of Wells Grant in Aid available to Island Mountain Arts was a possibility. The Administrator said that he agreed with Councillor Wallace in regards to a possible increase in the Grants in Aid. The Administrator said that other groups in town might be equally needy, and that perhaps accelerating the District of Wells Grant in Aid program to help local community groups might be a solution. The Administrator said that if Council wanted to look at upping the amount of money available in Grants in Aid, and inviting applications from the community organizations earlier than usual, that this could help community groups. The Administrator noted that any increase in the Grants in Aid would most likely result in less funds going into reserves in 2010. The Administrator said that his recommendation would be to accelerate the Grant in Aid program and increase the amount given out from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Councillor Wallace asked if the District of Wells could look at a temporary loan agreement. The Administrator noted that he believed that the District of Wells could provide loans, but that any other loans that the District of Wells had provided to community organizations in the past had been based on a secured asset. General discussion took place in regards to District of Wells Grants in Aid.  
**09-246** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the 09.10.05 letter from Judy Campbell, Treasurer, Island Mountain Arts re: Island Mountain Arts Funding be received.  
Carried Unanimously

**09-247** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** the District of Wells authorize staff to proceed with recommendations on an accelerated and increased 2010 Grants in Aid program.  
Carried Unanimously

G. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. District of Wells Tax Exempting Bylaw No. 105, 2009  
**09-248** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council give final reading to and approve the District of Wells Tax Exempting Bylaw No. 105, 2009.  
Carried Unanimously

H. REPORTS:

1. Cheque Register 09.09.01 to 09.09.30  
**09-249** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve Electronic Fund Transfers and Cheques 384 to 465 from Integris Credit Union for the period of September 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009 for a total amount of \$302,980.19.  
Carried Unanimously

2. Superintendent of Public Works Report  
The Superintendent of Public Works provided a verbal report.

3. Fire Chief Report  
The Fire Chief provided a verbal report. Councillor Wilkins asked what condition Fire Truck 12 was in. The Fire Chief noted that the truck is 35 years old and needs to be looked at. Councillor Wilkins said that we need to look at getting a new fire truck to replace Fire Truck 12 as well as uniforms for the fire chief and officers of the Wells Fire Brigade. Councillor Campbell asked if there were any recommendations coming forward in regards to replacing Fire Truck 12. The Administrator said that administration would examine alternatives for replacing Fire Truck 12, and that more information would be presented to Council once discussions between the Wells Fire Brigade and District of Wells took place. Councillor Campbell also asked for clarification on the Wells Community Hall roof clearing project which was provided by the Administrator.

**09-250** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Superintendent of Public Works Report and Fire Chief Report be received.  
Carried Unanimously

4. Marketing & Economic Development Officer Report  
The Marketing & Economic Development Officer provided a verbal report, including updates on the Mt. Trail Project, Wells Community Forest Application, Wildfire Prescription Project and Handicap Accessibility Project. Councillor Wilkins asked for an update on the handicap bathroom at the Wells Community Hall. The Marketing & Economic Development Officer provided an overview of the project. Councillor Wilkins asked a question in regards to winter signage concerns. General discussion took place in regards to signage for motorized recreational use in the community.

- 09-251** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Marketing & Economic Development Officer Report be received.  
Carried Unanimously

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 09-252** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as amended as follows:

1. 09.09.18 Suzanne Allard Strutt, Chief Executive Officer, BC Recreation & Parks Association re: Thank-you for letter of support.
2. 09.09.24 Danyta Welch, Policy & Program Officer, UBCM re: 2009 West Nile Virus Risk Reduction Initiative – Completion.
3. 09.09.28 Mary Polak, Minister of Children & Family Development and Minister Responsible for Child Care re: Foster Family Month.

Carried Unanimously

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

Councillor Wallace noted that she attended the Cariboo Prince George Citizens' Conservation Council Climate Action Summit at the UNBC Campus in Quesnel where recommendations for the Citizens' Conservation Council were gathered. These recommendations would be presented to the Premier. Councillor Wallace noted that she would write a report on the workshop for the next Council meeting.

Councillor Wilkins said that she enjoyed the UBCM Convention in Vancouver.

Councillor Campbell said that she enjoyed the UBCM Convention in Vancouver and attended some good workshops. She also asked the Administrator if there was any new news with the senior's housing that the District of Wells was turned down for. The Administrator noted that the District of Wells would reapply if the opportunity arose, however no news on the housing initiative had come through. Councillor Campbell also thanked the Marketing & Economic Development Officer and his trails crews for all the excellent work on the Mt. Trails Project. Councillor Campbell also said that Barkerville Historic Town is looking for a place to store their stagecoaches for the winter as their usual storage places are being worked on.

Mayor Vermette noted that UBCM was enjoyable.

2. Staff:

The Deputy Clerk noted that the first Wells Community Potluck of the season would take place on October 15, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Wells Community Hall Banquet Room.

3. Public Gallery:

K. ADJOURNMENT:

- 09-253** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 8:09 PM.

Carried Unanimously

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John P.S. Vermette, Mayor

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Gary Champagne, CAO