



DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2018 @ 7:00 pm.
School House, 1589 Millstream Road

PRESENT:

Mayor	Ken Williams
Councillors	Leslie Anderson
	Ann Baird
	Gord Baird
	Karen Burns
	Marcie McLean
	Karel Roessingh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Administrative Officer	Loranne Hilton
Corporate Officer	Tina Neurauter
Fire Chief	Dean Ford
Public	12 members

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MCLEAN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ROESSINGH

That the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

a) Committee of the Whole – February 13, 2018

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR MCLEAN
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD

That the February 13, 2018 Committee of the Whole minutes be adopted.

CARRIED

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Report – L. Hilton, CAO, January 3, 2018
RE: TRAFFIC SAFETY/REGULATIONS

The CAO introduced the item. The item is before Council as it was referred from Council to a Special Committee of the Whole to invite public comment. Staff was asked to report on options for controlling speed and improving traffic safety on District roads. Council further requested that concerns from residents of Millstream Lake/Ross Durrance Roads also be specifically addressed in the report.

Council has before them tonight:

- A report from the CAO with recommendations for consideration,
- Input via a survey from the residents along Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake Road, and
- a petition from August 2017 from residents living on Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake Roads expressing their concerns with the volume of traffic, speed of traffic and aggression of drivers.

Mayor Williams reported that the West Shore RCMP has had a much stronger presence in the community and that it had been very effective in slowing down traffic.

Council members had the following comments and concerns regarding traffic safety and regulation:

- concern with spending tax dollars on speed readers, additional signage or consultant work
- the District could consider the concept of becoming a “slow” community with one option being reduced speed limits
- reducing speed limits would be a deterrent to commuter traffic
- District roads should become multimodal transportation corridors where everyone can feel safe
- constructing road-side trails throughout the District is cost prohibitive, current road systems need to be multimodal
- focus on enforcement and education is most important, aggressive driving is one of the biggest concerns
- concern that the District may not have all the information available to deal with this situation, is the District missing anything and is speed limits the real issue?
- an aggressive communication plan would be required should Council consider reducing speed limits further
- statistic show Millstream Road as the worst area for speeding and accidents
- speed humps can be very effective to slow traffic but concern with the negative effect on response times for all emergency services
- the District should inquire with the RCMP about maintaining their increased presence in the District – could the District “buy” more time from the RCMP? - what would be the process and what would be the cost?
- the increased RCMP presence and ticketing has been very effective
- information on an aggressive driver can and should be passed along to the RCMP
- the current situation on Highlands’ roads is a quality of life issue as the roads cannot be used safely by other users.

David Lees, Highlands resident, stated that he would not like to see any tax dollars spent on surveys, consultant fees, signage or anything else. He feels that you cannot do anything to change certain types of drivers who do not care. He suggested a gate be placed at some point on Millstream Lake/ Ross Durrance to deter traffic from using it as a commuter route.

Sally Gose, Highlands resident, thanked Council and staff for the work that has been dedicated to this issue. After seeking advice from an Engineer and reading a couple of road safety books she had come to the conclusion that dangerous type roads tend to be safer roads due the care and attention of drivers. Ross Durrance Road had inherent traffic calming attributes and should naturally slow traffic down. Ms. Gose stated that she supports option number four of the Chief Administrative Officer’s report (continue to collaborate with the WS RCMP in respect to traffic/speed/aggressive driving enforcement), speed watch/ speed reader boards may be effective, continuing presence of RCMP (which has been very effective) and enforcement. She also stated that she loves the idea of branding the community as a “slow” community.

Vicky Husband, Highlands resident, stated that she supports the work and comments of Sally Gose. Ms. Husband stated that it is a broader issue than what is just affecting Highlands residents and that it is time for growing communities and the Province to step up and implement a rapid transit type system. Residents and Council members have to put pressure on the Premier of BC.

Libby McMinn, Highlands resident, asked if the District has received feedback from the WS RCMP regarding the results of their increased presence in the community?

Ian Pattulla, Highlands resident, said he does not believe that all residents should be punished over the few who are causing the concerns. He stated he did not believe that a slower speed limit would work as it would just upset drivers even more.

Diana McMinn, Highlands resident, asked the question “would narrowing the traveled portion of the road and delineating it with painted lines help to slow traffic down?”

Scott Richardson, Highlands resident, thanked the residents and Council member for the work that has been done. He stated that the last couple of weeks have shown much improvement due to the increased presence of the RCMP. He believes a speed reader may be a good idea, but instead of purchasing could it be a shared investment with another municipality? Could interval cameras be used at either end of the road? He also stated that he has environmental concerns and safety concerns regarding Ross Durrance/Millstream Lake Roads.

There was consensus that staff will bring forward information to Council on the results of the increased presence of the West Shore RCMP in the District; information on what amount of time, going forward, will the WS RCMP be able to dedicate to the District; and information on the process to acquire more RCMP hours dedicated to just the District of Highlands for traffic enforcement.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

That it be recommended to Council:

That staff be directed to continue collaborating with the West Shore RCMP in respect to traffic speed/aggressive driving enforcement.

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BURNS
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD

That the motion be amended to include:

and; That staff be directed to liaise with ICBC regarding developing an education program on traffic safety, along with other potential initiatives that would be volunteer/resident driven, and with ICBC and the RCMP regarding the potential implementation of a Speed Watch Program if deemed appropriate.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR BURNS
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD

That the amended motion be amended to include:

That staff be directed to investigate and bring back to Council any opportunities to rent or to cost share the purchase of a speed reader board with another jurisdiction, or any other sharing type opportunities, including cost sharing with ICBC.

CARRIED

The question was then called on the amendment.

CARRIED

The question was then called on the main motion as amended.

CARRIED

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR ANN BAIRD
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD

That the concept of the District of Highlands branding itself as a “slow” community be referred to the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee for comment and recommendation back to Council. **CARRIED**

*Note: it was understood that the Council Liaison, Councillor Burns, would reiterate to SLUSC members the ideas and suggestions discussed this evening with respect to the idea of a “slow” community and that Councillor Ann Baird would forward any information she acquired to staff on the topic to be included in the referral.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR GORD BAIRD
SECONDED: COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

That the Special Committee of the Whole meeting of February 26, 2018 adjourn at 8:20pm. **CARRIED**

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER