



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
SCHOOL HOUSE, 1589 MILLSTREAM ROAD**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Williams	Councillor Marcie McLean
Councillor Leslie Anderson	Councillor Rose Stanton
Councillor Ann Baird	Councillor Karel Roessingh
Councillor Gord Baird	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Administrative Officer Lorraine Hilton
Corporate Officer Tina Neurauter
Planner Laura Beckett
Public in Attendance 9

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: 083-2019

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Stanton

That the agenda be approved as amended: ADD: Vicky Husband, Elaine Eastman, Don Eastman, Bob McMinn, Stephanie Wilkins, and Scott Richardson under Petitions and Delegations. CARRIED

2. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Vicky Husband, Highlands resident, addressed Council regarding updating the Official Community Plan s. 2.6 to better reflect Highlands values, she urged Council to make the necessary changes.

Elaine Eastman, Highlands resident, addressed Council regarding OK Industries Mine Permit Application which she believes does not represent the vision of Highlands residents.

Bob McMinn, Highlands resident, commented on the need for a South Highlands Local Area Plan and believes the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee could manage the project. Mr. McMinn submitted correspondence to staff.

Stephanie Wilkins, Highlands resident, addressed Council regarding the OK Industries property. She feels this is an undisturbed area and should stay that way and that it is not reflected properly in the Official Community Plan and urged Council to change s. 2.6 to better reflect this.

Don Eastman, Highlands resident, addressed Council and stated that he supports a revision of s. 2.6 which would better reflect Highlands vision for the area.

Scott Richardson, Highlands resident, addressed Council regarding s. 2.6 of the Official Community Plan and urged Council to correct what he feels is serious misrepresentation of the OK Industries property.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1

Motion: 084-2019

MARCH 4, 2019 COUNCIL MINUTES

Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird

That the Council minutes of March 4, 2019 be approved. CARRIED

3.2

Motion: 085-2019

EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2019*Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*

That the Emergency Planning Committee Minutes of March 7, 2019 be received.

CARRIED

4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Councillor Leslie Anderson

Heritage Select Committee and Western Communities Policing Advisory Committee

Councillor Ann Baird

CRD Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force (CRD CAIMTF) – First meeting on April 3rd, 2019. I have asked for three items to be included on the agenda:

1. To meet more often than twice per year as per the terms of reference. Suggest monthly meetings.
2. To discuss holding multiple "Forum of Councils" this term on various topics related to the Climate Emergency.
3. Discuss a CRD organized "Forum of Community Associations" on the topic of the Climate Emergency to allow for direct and facilitated discussions including elected officials and Community Associations (the community leaders), in an interactive and sharing environment.

On a related topic, after listening to the CRD climate emergency deliberations it was clear to me that there was understandably some confusion as to what was meant by Carbon Neutrality by 2030. I wrote a blog post on this and Lisa Helps liked it and reposted on her blog. Here's the link: <https://lisahelpsvictoria.ca/2019/03/05/what-is-carbon-neutrality-offsets-and-counting-emissions/> I have also shared this with the CRD CAIMTF chair for information for our group.

Here's the text of that post:

Who counts greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)? What emissions are counted? What are carbon offsets?

On Feb 13, 2019, the CRD made a Climate Emergency Declaration and has committed to becoming **carbon neutral by 2030**. What does this mean? These are the questions that will be explored in the coming months. It is expected that many local governments will also make Climate Emergency Declarations and commit to carbon neutrality in 11 years. The question of who counts what Green House Gasses (GHGs) has been one that the District of Highlands has explored in quite a bit of detail. In 2017, the District submitted a resolution to UBCM that was endorsed by BC municipalities. The resolution asked the province of BC to report more comprehensively on municipal community GHGs. Here is a short memo with an update on that process and what we learned.

In summary, our communities only count about half of the GHGs we are responsible for. Obviously, we need to count them all if we hope to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Historically, the Province has been inconsistent in counting GHGs from large sources such as aviation, embodied carbon (emissions produced in the production of all of our material goods), food and agriculture, and deforestation in our communities (due to logging, or land clearing for development). Thankfully, some municipalities are beginning to count these with Saanich and Victoria leading the way.

The basic challenge is that we have to be consistent with how we define where our emissions come from and who is ultimately responsible for counting them. Do we count the GHGs emitted in our community or in another community for a product that we consume that was manufactured somewhere else? Cars are a good example. Historically we have only counted the fuel burned that we use and *not* the fuel used to mine the materials and manufacture the car. We have also completely avoided aviation. Who counts these emissions? The community who manufactures the aircraft, or the community that has the airport, or the person who chooses to fly and the community where they live? As you can see it's complicated, but still far simpler in reality than doing one's income taxes. It's just important to decide up front who counts what and be consistent.

Offsets are an important piece of the whole carbon neutrality conversation. Will we allow carbon offsets to be used to offset items like aviation and if so what kind of offsets will truly achieve the intent of reducing emissions. Protecting an existing forest is said to not be a good offset as the forest already exists. In order for an offset to qualify it must take carbon out of the atmosphere and lock it up (sequester it) in some very long term or even permanent way. A few examples of good offsets could be:

1. Planting a *new* forest could achieve this, but not if it will be logged in 50 years. A food forest would be an excellent way to produce food *and* sequester carbon.

2. Creating wetlands are another excellent carbon offset while potentially also achieving other important benefits like storm water management and water filtration.
3. A third offset is regenerative forms of agriculture. Industrial agriculture based on tilling the soils, use of fertilizers and pesticides, and monocultures are enormous sources of GHGs. But, agriculture can be done very differently to sequester large amounts of organics (carbon) in the soil. Other obvious benefits to regenerative agricultural methods include food crops that are more resilient to extreme weather events, they use less water, prevent soil erosion, produce a higher quality organic food, and support important natural habitat simultaneously to food production. This is a clear example of something called Low Carbon Resilience or LCR for short.
4. A fourth type of offset could be the use building materials that sequester carbon literally in the structures we build. Materials that lock up carbon are wood, cellulose insulation, fungal insulation, hempcrete buildings, types of plasters, straw bales, and even carbon absorbing high tech products. A good book exploring this topic is *The New Carbon Architecture* by Bruce King.
5. A fifth type of offset is something that can be scaled up everywhere from backyard gardens, to community parks, and to forest ecosystems. It's called biochar. The creation of high quality charcoal produced in a very particular way can be added to the soil where it essentially locks of the carbon for a very long time. Other benefits include a much higher level of soil health, plant health, and water retention all of which are again an example of LCR where local resilience is increased as a byproduct of sequestering carbon.

With any offsets program we need to consider, decide upon, and implement three major items:

1. A method to allocate amount of carbon emitted with activities. There should be an offset required for all of the carbon intensive activities.
2. An offset price per tonne. Note that this is a very different tool/price than a carbon fee or tax. Also, unlike carbon taxes or fees, I'm pretty sure that this offset is in the jurisdiction of local governments, whereas carbon taxes are provincial/federal.
3. A way of vetting the quality of offsets to meet our requirements.

Obviously, if we keep burning fossil fuels at the same rate and then rely on offsets, we will make no progress. The science is extremely clear in that we need to reduce total carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and create a fully zerocarbon civilization by 2050. The science goes on to say that in addition to this we must also sequester enormous amount of carbon.

My understanding is that **carbon neutral** means total carbon emissions less carbon offsets, balances out to zero. **Zero carbon** means near zero carbon emissions without relying on offsets.

In summary we must count all of our emissions and reduce them all to zero in a very short period of time with extremely limited reliance on offsets. High quality offsets can only be relied on for a very short period of time as we transition rapidly to carbon neutrality by 2030 and ZERO carbon by 2050. We are going to have to change everything including: energy sources and how much we use, agriculture and what we eat, transportation including aviation, consumption of material goods, and how we work and play. Even more importantly, we will simply not be able to do some things. We have entered a time of rapid and exciting change with incredible opportunity to build a better world.

Some useful links:

- Report from SFU ACT on [Low Carbon Resilience](#)
- [IPCC Summary for Urban Policy Makers](#)
- [Climate Change Mitigation Strategies for the BC Forest Sector](#)
- [Basics behind soil carbon storage](#)
- [Article on carbon offsets](#)

Councillor Marcie McLean

Councillor McLean informed that the regular meeting of the Sustainable Land Use Select Committee scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019 is cancelled.

Councillor Karel Roessingh

Capital Region Emergency Services Telecommunications, CRD Arts and Greater Victoria Public Library Board

Councillor Rose Stanton

Emergency Planning Committee met on March 7, 2019 and reviewed the Emergency Program Strategic Plan prepared by the consultant.

Social Sustainability Select Committee met on March 12, 2019 after a hiatus of 18 months. Minutes of October 12, 2017 were approved. A new Chair, Vice-chair and Secretary were selected. Warren Lee is the Chair, Karen Burns is the Vice-Chair and Bob McMinn is the Secretary

Mayor Williams**Wed. Mar. 6, 2019 CRD Governance and Finance Committee Meeting**

The Governance and Finance Committee vigorously debated the costs and scope of a motion created to enhance transparency in governance. At issue were the creation of a voting dashboard, financial disclosure, and expanded publishing of highlights of the meetings including "in camera" items. These initiatives if implemented in full would require two full staff positions. There is also the question of privacy to consider. The committee referred the motion back to staff for more information. The Governance and Finance Committee recommended to the board that the Corporate Asset Management Policy be adopted and implemented by staff. link:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=15254&GUID=F77D44B1-6120-4EF2-8183-288223829568&Options=&Search=>

A report on procedures for "Notice of Motion" and "Motion with Notice" was recommended for consideration by the CRD board.

Wed. Mar. 6, 2019 Opening of New E-COMM Centre

A new Vancouver Island post-disaster emergency centre opened replacing the three call-taking and dispatch centres in the Capital Regional District. The new 1,200-square-metre facility will handle dispatch calls from all of Greater Victoria and the Gulf Islands including our West Shore RCMP .

Wed. Mar. 13, 2019 CRD Board Meeting

Here is a link to the CRD response to the Climate Emergency Declaration (see appendix A): <https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=15163&GUID=C27A3B00-3419-47BC-858A-0A48FBE4EEFB>

A motion to apply for a regional version of UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Grant was passed by the CRD Board. This grant will help mitigate the threat of wildfire by vegetation management as well as address other issues caused by our changing climate. The CRD Board has voted in two separate motions to voice opposition to an alternative route to the Malahat going through neighbouring watershed or parklands. Chair Plant will request a meeting with the Premier to stress the urgency of the situation for residents and the CRD Board. Chair Plant will also write, on behalf of the Board, to the Premier, copying the Ministers responsible for Environment and Transportation as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island.

A recommendation from the Parks and Environment Committee to expand the Hartland Renewable Gas Project by building another anaerobic digester to deal with kitchen scraps was referred back to staff with a request for more information on alternative processes.

CRD Corporate Finance Officer Nelson Chan gave his take on the provincial budget highlights.

Highlights of Provincial 2019 Budget released February 19, 2019:**Summary**

- Estimated surpluses \$274 million for 2019/20, \$287 for 2020/21 and \$585 million for 2021/22
- 2019 has more than \$1.5B of unallocated spending - essentially a 3% contingency built in year 1
- Year's 2 and 3 have \$2.3B in unallocated spending.

3 New spending commitments

1. Province will commit \$902 million to implement CleanBC

CleanBC-Transportation

- \$90 million to encourage the adoption of zero emission vehicles
- \$3 million to develop and implement a Zero Emission Vehicle standard
- \$42 million to maintain point of sale incentives
- \$20 million for fast charging and hydrogen fueling stations + \$5 million over three years for battery charging stations at highway rest areas
- \$6 million over three years for active transportation projects

CleanBC-Commercial & Residential Buildings

- \$168 million to support commercial reduction of GHG emissions
- \$58 million to make homes and buildings more energy efficient

CleanBC-Other CRD related

- \$15 million for the Remote Community Clean Energy Strategy
- \$3 million for the Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative
- \$1 million over three years to develop a program increase organic waste diversion
- \$299 million in contingency funding

2. First Nations and Reconciliation

- Gaming revenue sharing of \$297 million over three years projected to provide \$3 billion over the next 25 years
- Forthcoming legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

3. Childcare and Support for Parents

- additional \$9 million will be provided for childcare fee reduction.
- \$400 million has been committed to introduce a new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit starting in 2020 that will replace the Early Childhood Tax benefit.

Continuation from Last Budget

Housing

- additional \$24 million in operating funding grants will be provided over the next 3 years
- additional 200 modular units for homeless or at risk of homelessness will be built
- province wide homelessness count will be undertaken
- provincial homelessness coordination unit will be established
- accelerate payment of \$38 million in grants to housing providers to reduce ongoing borrowing costs

5. RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1

MOTION 086-2019

Emergency Planning Committee – March 7, 2019

RE: EMERGENCY PROGRAM STRATEGIC PLAN*Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*

That Council endorse the Emergency Program Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and further, that the estimated required funding be incorporated into the Five Year Financial Plan for consideration. CARRIED

5.2

MOTION 087-2019

Committee of the Whole – March 11, 2019

RE: ASSET MANAGEMENT – Reserves and Surplus Policy*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Stanton*

That Policy III-1720 Reserves and Surplus Policy be adopted, and that the associated bylaws be prepared and brought forward to Council for formal consideration. CARRIED

6. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No items

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1

MOTION 088-2019

Report – Planner, March 14, 2019

RE: POTENTIAL CHANGES TO OCP SECTION 2.6*Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird*

That Council direct staff to prepare a subsequent report providing:

- Wording to amend the OCP by revising sentences 1 and 2 and to eliminate sentence 3; and in addition that this come forward to a Committee of the Whole meeting.

MOTION 089-2019*Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird*

That the words “no later than May 13”.

Question was called on the Amendment. CARRIED
 Opposed: Councillors Stanton, Roessingh, and Mayor Williams
 Question was then called on the Main Motion. DEFEATED
 Opposed: Councillors Stanton, Roessingh, Anderson, and Mayor Williams

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Correspondence – Capital Regional District (0470.02)
RE: CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION
Moved Councillor Ann Baird, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird
 a) That Council declare a Climate Emergency, and
 b) That Council commit to the objectives of achieving carbon neutrality in the District of Highlands by 2030. CARRIED

Motion 090-2019

8.2 Correspondence – Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission (0110.20)
RE: SUPPORT FOR GREATER VICTORIA'S BID TO HOST THE 2022 INVICTUS GAMES
Moved Councillor McLean, Seconded Councillor Anderson
 That the correspondence from the Greater Victoria Sport Tourism Commission regarding the Invictus Games be received. CARRIED

MOTION 091-2019

8.3 Correspondence – B. Gibbons (0110.20)
RE: PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER
Moved Councillor Ann Baird, Seconded Councillor McLean
 That the correspondence from B. Gibbons be forwarded to the Consultant working on the Groundwater Protection Program. CARRIED

MOTION 092-2019

9. BYLAWS

No items

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Report – Corporate Officer, February 19, 2019
RE: HIGHLANDS STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION (2470.20)
Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
 That the report from the Corporate Officer regarding the Highlands Stewardship Foundation be received. CARRIED
 Opposed: Councillor McLean

Motion 093-2019

10.2 Report – Corporate Officer, March 14, 2019
RE: HIGHLAND HERITAGE PARK SOCIETY – 2019 MASTER PLAN AND BUDGET (2470.20)
Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Anderson
 That the Highland Heritage Park Society 2019 Master Plan be approved and that the proposed 2019 infrastructure projects to remediate the School House and orchard restoration and the associated funding of \$10,300 be referred to the 2019 Budget process for consideration. CARRIED

MOTION 094-2019

11. IN CAMERA

MOTION 095-2019

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
 That Council move In Camera at 8:51 PM to discuss items specific to the Community Charter, specifically s. 90 (1)(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements; s. 90 (1)(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service; and s. 90 (1)(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report]. CARRIED

12. RISE AND REPORT

Report from March 18, 2019 In Camera Meeting

EXTENSION – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

That Council approve a six month extension of the Highway Maintenance Agreement with Victoria Contracting and Municipal Maintenance Corporation and that the Mayor and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the District.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion 096-2019

Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Stanton

That the Council meeting of March 19, 2019 adjourn at 9:43 PM.

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER