



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Administrative Officer Lorraine Hilton
Corporate Officer Deb Hopkins

Public Observation: 13

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Roessingh
That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2021

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Stanton
That the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1

The following applicants addressed Council with respect to their Grant in Aid applications:

1. Maria Weaver, Need2 Suicide Prevention and Education Support
2. Inspector Todd Preston, West Shore RCMP
3. Ingo Lambrecht, Highlands Stewardship Foundation
4. Marlene Tyshynski, Highland Parks and Recreation Association
5. Scott Richardson, Highlands District Community Association (Fling)
6. Scott Richardson, Highlands District Community Association (Broom)
7. Sally Gose, Highland Heritage Park Society
8. James Coates, Bike Victoria Society
9. Judith Cullington, JDF Performing Arts Society
10. Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society
11. Anna Mendez, Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Round Table (CRFAIR)

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1

Report, Corporate Officer, April 1, 2021 (1850.02.21)

RE: 2021 GRANT IN AID REQUESTS

In response to Council, the Chief Administrative Officer advised that there were opportunities within the current budget to increase the funds available for Grants in Aid should Council wish to do so.

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
That it be recommended to Council that the Highlands District Community Association be awarded \$1,500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird

That it be recommended to Council that the Highlands District Community Association's Invasive Species Broom Removal Program be funded from the Invasive Species budget for 2021

CARRIED

Councillor Stanton left the meeting at 8:09 pm due to a personal relationship with a Director of the Highland Heritage Park Society.

Moved Councillor Ann Baird, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird

That it be recommended to Council that the Highland Heritage Park Society be awarded \$3,000.

CARRIED

Councillor Stanton returned to the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird

That it be recommended to Council that the Highland Parks and Recreation Association be awarded \$2,000.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird

That it be recommended to Council that the Highlands Stewardship Foundation be awarded \$500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Anderson

That it be recommended to Council that the West Shore Arts Council be awarded \$1,000.

There was consensus from Council that a decision on this motion be tabled until the end of the application deliberations.

The previous motion was withdrawn.

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Roessingh

That it be recommended to Council that the West Shore Arts Council be awarded \$500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Roessingh

That it be recommended to Council that the Bike Victoria Society be awarded \$500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird

That it be recommended to Council that the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Round Table be awarded \$500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Stanton

That it be recommended to Council that the Greater Victoria BMX be awarded \$100.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Roessingh
That it be recommended to Council that the Habitat Acquisition Trust be awarded \$1,500.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Stanton
That it be recommended to Council that the Intermunicipal Advisory Committee on Disability Issues be awarded \$200.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor Anderson
That it be recommended to Council that the JDF Performing Arts Centre Society be awarded \$50.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
That it be recommended to Council that the Need2 Suicide Prevention Education and Support be awarded \$500

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
That it be recommended to Council that the Peninsula Streams Society be awarded \$1,000.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Roessingh
That it be recommended to Council that the Royal Canadian Legion BC/Yukon be awarded \$100.

Council consented to tabling a decision on this motion until after discussing the West Shore RCMP funding request.

The previous motion was withdrawn.

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Gord Baird
That it be recommended to Council that no funding be awarded to the Royal Canadian Legion BC/Yukon and Prince Edward #91.

DEFEATED

*With Councillors Anderson, Ann Baird, Gord Baird, McLean,
and Mayor Williams opposed*

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor McLean
That it be recommended to Council that the West Shore RCMP be awarded \$2,000.

CARRIED

Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Stanton
That it be recommended to Council that the Royal Canadian Legion Prince Edward #91 be awarded \$500.

CARRIED

4.2

Report – Chief Administrative Officer, March 26, 2021 (1700.25)

RE: DRAFT 2 – 2021-2025 FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

In response to questions from a member of Council the Chief Administrative Officer noted that with the introduction of the Asset Management Plan and related Council policies over the past few years, the revenues and expenses have been refined to more closely reflect prior year actual figures, although the estimates remain conservative. Accordingly, she noted, the budget as it stands cannot accommodate significant new initiatives without impacting service levels or reassigning funding for already included projects. Ms. Hilton advised that Council may direct changes in this regard.

Responding to questions about the possibility of hiring additional staff to undertake outstanding strategic priorities, funded from the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant versus property taxation, Ms. Hilton advised that the grant is not intended to offset taxation increases or for items that are not directly linked to COVID-19. In answer to additional questions, she estimated that approximately \$78,000 of the grant had been used to offset staff time spent directly working on the pandemic in 2020.

Following further discussion, the Chief Administrative Officer said that there are guidelines issued by the Province for appropriate use of the grant funds and that funding an ongoing staffing position function that is not COVID-related does not appear to fit within those parameters.

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor McLean

That staff be directed to bring forward a Financial Plan Bylaw and Tax Rates Bylaw to the May 3, 2021 Council meeting based on the current tax policy and current draft budget attached to the report from the Chief Administrative Officer.

Council discussion ensued regarding the phased approach to implementing higher tax rate multiples for various classes, which was developed in 2015. It was noted that all of the proposed changes have been implemented except for the remaining 0.2 increase for Class 5 (Light Industry), and there was a desire to complete the final change in accordance with the 2015 plan.

Moved Councillor Gord Baird, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird

That the motion be amended to replace “and current draft budget attached to the report of the Chief Administrative Officer” with “incorporating an increase to the Class 5 (Light Industry) multiple of 0.2”.

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

5. IN CAMERA

Moved Councillor Anderson, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird

That the Committee of the Whole meeting move In Camera in accordance with Section 90 (1) (g) of the *Community Charter* to discuss items specific to litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

CARRIED

The meeting reconvened from In Camera at 9:41 pm.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Ann Baird
That the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 12, 2021 adjourn at 9:42 pm.

CARRIED

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

Adopted May 10, 2021