

Hi everyone:

I looked at the agendas for today's Committee of the Whole and tonight's Council meetings, and decided the items being discussed at COW were of more interest than those scheduled for Council (see this link for Council agenda - <http://www.gowebtide.com/gibsonsddocuments/090901CouncilAgenda.pdf>), so I spent the morning in my usual corner on South Fletcher.

The Mayor and all members of Council were present for the COW meeting, which got underway just after 8:30 am. There were two delegations and three administration reports.

Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority

- Carol Doyle, Chair; Bill Oakford, Harbour Manager; Jim Conway; Fred Strom

Operations

July and August have been strong months for the Harbour, with visits from record numbers of boats.

Harbour Expansion Project

The Harbour Authority's application to Western Diversification (WD) for assistance from the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) is still being considered by WD, however they have no money left in FY 2010 (ending March 31, 2010). According to WD, they have allocated all the funds they have in FY 2010 to projects which are more "shovel ready". WD will keep the Harbour Authority's application active, pending further information on two fronts - environmental assessment and First Nations consultation. (The requirement for First Nations consultation was something of a set back, as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has agreements in place with First Nations for all Small Craft Harbours.) When the environmental and First Nations issues have been dealt with, WD will prepare a funding agreement to be implemented immediately in FY 2011, i.e. soon after April 1, 2010. Paul Gipps will try to engage the Squamish people. The portion of the harbour expansion project being funded by DFO (the floating breakwater) is expected

to get underway in January.

Town of Gibsons Recreational Lease

For the harbour expansion project, the Harbour Authority needs access to a strip of the Town's recreational lease about 45m x 140m. There was a good deal of discussion about how to achieve this. In the end, it was pretty clear that the Harbour Authority will get support from the Town to transfer this sliver to the Harbour Authority. Provincial approval will be required in the end.

Commercial Drop Off and Pick Up Charges

A complaint that charges have not been made consistently has been dealt with.

Best Coast Initiatives (BCI)

- Bob Hoy, Chair; Shelley McDade, Vice Chair; Michael McLaughlin, Economic Development Coordinator.

BCI (formerly GCIA) made the quarterly report required by its agreement with the Town. Read the report on pages 11 and 12 of the following agenda: <http://www.gowebtide.com/gibsonsddocuments/090901COWAgenda.pdf>

There are a number of encouraging trends:

- Areas B & D (Halfmoon Bay and Roberts Creek) and the District of Sechelt want to participate in the Investor Attraction Information project, and have agreed to contribute funds to do so.
- The SCRCD has asked BCI for an assessment of impact on taxation and service delivery should Howe Sound Pulp and Paper close, and an amount for this assessment will be negotiated.
- These could be small first steps towards a more regional approach to economic development. There was much said about the value of presenting a picture of a robust economy in a market area of 30,000 people.
- A promotional video about the potential of Hillside Industrial Park for a marine services cluster and value added wood products is being made with funds from SCRCD and Coastland Wood Industries.
- BCI has raised over \$40,000 towards economic development projects this year. This is in accordance with the strategy that partners fund projects, local government fund the operation of the economic development office.

- The Mayor summarized the comments of individual members of the committee with the statement, "All good."

Liv/Com Awards

The Liv/Com Awards are endorsed by the UN's Environment Program, and have

taken place annually since 1997. This year they will be held in Pilsen in the Czech Republic in October. An entry was sent by Town staff (before it was known that to compete for the Award, a community must send a presentation and presenters), and lo and behold, Gibsons was shortlisted for an International Award for Liveable Communities for towns under 20,000.

The problem is that the cost of participating was not anticipated in the Town's budget for this year. It will cost about \$5,000 to send two presenters. No estimate was given for the cost of developing a presentation capable of attracting attention on a world stage.

Councillor Johnson asked that Michael McLaughlin stay to address the business and economic opportunities that might accrue should Gibsons win the award. He pointed out the branding benefits. He also noted that three of the seven shortlisted towns are in the Czech Republic, and they might have a homefield advantage.

- Chris Marshall and Wendy Gilbertson both spoke of the professional development benefits they would receive by attending as the Town's presenters.
- Marshall pointed out that the cost would be in the "nice, but not necessary" category.
- Gilbertson noted that Jeff Barringer and Jackson Davies have agreed to help put the presentation together.
- Councillor Koopmans pointed out that the Town has yet to receive Ian Poole's mid-term budget report, and that report is really required to know whether the Town will have any budget flexibility.
- Poole expects to bring the report to Corporate Services by the end of the month.
- In the end it was agreed that Paul Gipps would coordinate Town efforts to underwrite the costs of participating through private sector sponsorship. Should this be insufficient, the Town could contribute through the application of unbudgeted non-tax revenues, and finally through the judicious use of travel and training funds.

Approved unanimously, after much debate.

UBCM Meetings with Ministers

Paul Gipps is preparing three position papers for meetings with Provincial Ministers at the annual UBCM meetings Sep 28 - Oct 2 in Vancouver.

Boundary Extension

The results of the Alternative Approval Process will be known September 15.

Given approval by the electors, the Town will report to the Minister of Community & Rural Development. The Province should be able to have the necessary legislation in place by the middle of November.

Community Forest

A position paper for a community forest for Gibsons is being prepared for the Minister of Forests & Range.

Highway 101

The Town will present its questions to staff of the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure in advance of a meeting between ministry staff and the Town planned for September 15. Ministry staff will bring their responses to the meeting. The Town will then share ministry staff responses with affected businesses on Gibsons Way as well as with emergency services people. Their input will inform the Town's position paper to the Minister.

Members of Council seemed disturbed by the intensity of public opposition to the traffic management changes on Gibsons Way. Councillor Curry made the point that some decisions Council needs to make will not be popular, and that Council should not back down. The Mayor wondered about the concrete barriers (proposed in the original plan) with what appeared to be a little trepidation.

Torch Relay - February 4, 2010

Michelle Jansson reported that the Province has made a grant of \$8,000 to support the Town's program for the passage of the Olympic Torch through Gibsons on Thursday, February 4th, 2010.

The rest of the committee's deliberations were "in camera". If I hear that anything arresting comes out of this evening's Council meeting, I'll pass it along.

Cheers,

Hammy

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