

Hello Everyone:

The Mayor and three Councillors were present for the last regular Council meeting of the year. Staff was well represented as well by CAO Gipps, Corp Officer Jansson, and Directors of Engineering (Newman), Parks (Gilbertson) and Finance (Poole)

Confirmation of the agenda, minutes and the ubiquitous Post Meeting Action Checklist were dealt with.

## **DELEGATION**

Eleonora Molnar, Community Developer for Vancouver Coastal Health presented a 12 minute video on Population Health, which describes the effect of income, education and neighbourhood on health equity. Councillor Johnson, noting the concerned reaction expressed at a public hearing earlier in the evening by neighbours to a proposed subdivision to create a duplex at the corner of Trueman and Burns in Lower Gibsons, declared that a change in attitude will be required so that higher density, a pre-requisite of affordable housing, can be developed. HWTM suggested that Ms Molnar make the presentation to the Community Services Committee on January 12 where a broader conversation can be held. It was noted that "it doesn't take much to knock someone from being OK to down and out".

## **COMMITTEES**

### ***Planning***

Council approved a recommendation to transfer \$15,000 to the 2010 budget to augment the SCRD's Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan for public meetings and educational outreach. Approved 3-1, HWTM opposed, being not sure the expense is good value for the dollars.

Council approved a recommendation to notify the neighbours of 744 Hillcrest Road of a development variance permit application.

### ***Parks & Community Services***

Council approved a recommendation to adopt a flag raising and display policy. Henceforth only the Canadian flag will be flown at the Town Hall. Other flags may be flown at Brothers Park and Pioneer Park Council consenting, on application to the Director of Parks and Cultural Services at least a month beforehand. The policy states that flags of nations or organizations which may be considered controversial, contentious or divisive within the community shall not be flown on municipal lands.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Council dealt with three recommendations from the **Gospel Rock Refinement Working Committee**:

- Receive the committee's report of December 15, 2009 regarding the Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan – approved
- Revise the terms of reference for the GR Refinement Committee to extend the deadline for the Committee's report to May 2010 from December 2009 – approved, after a discussion in which Councillor Johnson expressed concern that there be no further delay as she wants this, and not a subsequent Council to deal with GR, Councillor Currie noted that there is no guarantee that the Committee will come up with a solution, and HWTM noted that it will take a Council of all five members to deal with it.
- Three properties on the south side of Inglis Road west of Shaw Road be included within the boundaries of the Gospel Rock Neighbourhood Plan for planning purposes (notwithstanding the

fact that all three property owners have indicated that they are opposed to being included).

Approved 3-1, Councillor Rowe opposed, stating that “we can’t blame them for not wanting to be sucked into this whirlpool.”

In a brief discussion regarding a replacement for former Councillor Koopmans on the Committee, the CAO noted that it can’t be resolved until Council has a complete complement, and that the Committee can bring a request to Council in January.

Council approved a recommendation to **remove all traffic calming measures on O’Shea Road**, including 30kmh speed limit signage, along with a number of other measures, the last of which is that no further traffic calming be considered at this time for O’Shea between Shaw and Spyglass. The tone of the discussion, especially regarding the speed limit signs, (there is a good argument that says leave these up, just as they are up on Shaw Road to limit speed near Christensen Centre) was not pleasant. One had the sense that the residents were considered ungrateful. Council did not seem to understand that many people think the traffic calming measures being undertaken are excessive for our little town.

Council instructed staff to enter into negotiations with Dayton & Knight Ltd for the Zone 2 **Payne Road Reservoir Design**. Dayton & Knight was one of five firms that submitted proposals in response to the RFP. Their bid of \$93,700 was significantly higher than the lowest bid (Delcan at \$64,300), however the Dayton & Knight bid scored higher on the weighted system utilized by the staff review team. Approved 3-1, Councillor Curry opposed, expressing concern that the wide variation between the bids warranted further review.

CAO Gipps reported that letters patent for the **boundary extension** have been received from the Province, dated 10 December. Eleven properties are now in the Town of Gibsons. An official census will be required to be taken in January to establish the number of resident in the properties (there may be 5). HWTM welcomed the eleven properties into the Town, noting that not all eleven were unanimous in the desire to join the Town, that the Town will do its best to provide services they don’t currently have, and that the extension will bring jobs, business opportunities and new taxation to the Town. Councillor Rowe, his tongue planted firmly in his cheek, invited the new residents to send their request for traffic calming directly to the Towns Director of Engineering. In response to a question, Gipps noted that as the new residents will have been residents of the Town for only ten days, they will not be able to vote in the by-election on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Mayor made a joke about gerrymandering.

Council instructed staff to award the **Gibsons Way Sanitary Sewer System Extension** design to RF Binnie & Associates in the amount of \$19,688. The extension will serve the boundary extension area. The RFP was issued to five qualified consultants. RF Binnie submitted the only proposal. The Town’s budget for the design work is \$20,000. Approved 3-1, Councillor Curry opposed, expressing disappointment that only one bid was received, particularly one so close to the budget, and noting that given the short turn around on the RFP (two weeks), staff might have extended the deadline a day or two to attract more bids.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Commenting on a letter from the Independent Contractors and Business Association of BC regarding the Agricultural Land Reserve, Councillor Johnson expressed her opposition to the idea that, after 30 years, it is time to review the ALR. HWTM suggested that Councillor Johnson’s reaction might have more to do with the messenger than the message, and that the strategy of keeping growth in the Town while

retaining the rural character of the adjoining areas is the way to manage growth over the next millennium.

## **BYLAWS**

Final reading was given to three Bylaws:

- 1110, 2009 regarding Water Development Cost Charge Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$558,800)
- 1111, 2009 regarding Statutory Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$83,700 for equipment)
- 1112, 2009 regarding Road Development Cost Charge Reserve Fund Expenditure (\$87,270)

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Curry**

- Sea to Sky Air Quality – budget has been cut by the Province
- 350 Committee made a presentation to MP Weston
- MP Weston presented a cheque (\$46,000) to the Gibsons Curling Club

### **Mayor Janyk**

- The Town's efforts resulted in a contribution of \$735 to the Elves Club
- St Mary's Hospital expansion is going ahead. The work on the two year project will start in February or March
- Waterfront Plan Open House was well attended. A sound system is required for such large gatherings.
- Islands Trust semi-annual meeting
- HWTM wished all a happy, safe, wonderful Christmas and New Year

### **Johnson**

- GLBA Christmas party and AGM (a clever combination)
- Invitation from United Church dinner theatre group to participate in a play they are preparing about the LivCom award

### **Rowe**

- "I don't sing, I don't dance."

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm

I found out that Council would be meeting Thursday 17 December both in Committee of the Whole and as Council, but I couldn't attend. I'll try to discover what was on the agenda (it's not on the website) and let you know what happened.

**Please vote on Saturday! Gibsons Community Centre, 8am – 8pm.**

To all my readers, I wish you joy for the Christmas season, and health and prosperity in the New Year!

Hammy

604-741-5305 (cell)

[www.hammcc.com](http://www.hammcc.com)