

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2015 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Acting Mayor D. MacKay-Dunn
Councillor R. Bassam
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor J. Hanson
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor L. Muri

Absent: Mayor R. Walton

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. A. Wardell, Acting General Manager – Finance & Technology
Mr. D. Milburn, Deputy General Manager – Planning & Permits
Ms. S. Carroll, Manager – Utilities
Mr. R. Danyluk, Manager – Financial Planning
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Mr. S. Ono, Manager – Engineering Services
Ms. E. Geddes, Section Manager – Transportation
Ms. N. Foth, Transportation Planning Technologist
Ms. I. Weisenbach, Transportation Planner
Ms. C. Archer, Confidential Council Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. November 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the agenda for the November 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. 2016 Utility Rate Bylaws
File No. 05.1715.20/020.000

Mr. Gavin Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities, provided an overview of utility rates, noting that current utility rate planning is for one year as Metro Vancouver will be coming forward with their Capital Plan in early 2016, which will influence future rates. After this information is received from Metro Vancouver, the District will create a five-year plan. Minor shifts are being made to align the costs of services with consumption, such as a continued freeze of sewer rates for secondary suites and half the increase for water rates for secondary suites.

Mr. Rick Danyluk, Manager – Financial Planning, reviewed the three proposed utility rate bylaws, highlighting significant differences between 2015 and 2016, including:

- Water use is expected to return to normal levels as there is no evidence to indicate another drought is expected in 2016;
- The new garbage and organics carts to be introduced in 2016 will be funded through reserves;
- The shift from garbage to organics collection has reduced costs as green waste costs the District less and has a positive impact on the environment;
- The budget amount for creek work for the coming year will be determined by the results of a study to evaluate debris hazards related to culverts and creeks;
- Development reserves for utilities from Development Cost Charges are expected to reach \$18 million; and,
- Reserves are being applied to eligible capital projects.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Sewer rates will likely increase due to the cost of building the new Metro Vancouver Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- The lack of five- and ten- year projections from Metro Vancouver;
- The possibility of Federal funding under the newly elected government;
- Concern was expressed about the escalating costs of the Secondary Wastewater Treatment Plant and that cost-sharing has not been assured;
- Costs associated with the additional upcoming major capital projects at Iona and Annacis and the effect on future District utility rates;
- The effect of creating a sewerage region on the municipality, including future tax obligations;
- The Waste to Energy program is restarting, examining the possibility of using the 20-30% of solid waste that is not diverted from landfills to produce energy;
- Possible changes to solid waste rates for secondary suites in the future;
- Possible changes to the date Metro Vancouver implements Stage 1 water restrictions;
- The possibility of starting a rain barrel program for District residents;
- Cost of service for water to multi-family versus single-family dwellings; and,

- Metro Vancouver is discussing possibilities for increasing the amount of water available for residents, including an increased allocation from Coquitlam and raising the Seymour dam.

Staff advised that Metro Vancouver has indicated they will not proceed with the Wastewater Treatment Plant until cost-sharing arrangements have been made. It was suggested that the other North Shore municipalities be engaged in the discussion. Despite uncertainty about the capital costs involved, the increase in reserves gives flexibility to keep utility rates stable.

Ms. Shaun Carroll, Manager - Utilities, advised that Stage 2 water restrictions did not have the desired effect on total water usage as residents used much more water per day when they were only able to water one day a week, increasing the draw on the system at peak times. The effect on operations of the different restriction levels is being reviewed.

Staff confirmed that data is reviewed before making adjustments to utility rates. The previously proposed increase for single family homes with swimming pools did not go ahead when data showed that the difference in water use for homes with swimming pools was one percent. The possibility of creating a separate class for single-family homes with irrigation systems is being examined as it has been demonstrated that these residences consume significantly more water than those without.

MOVED by Councillor HICKS
SECONDED by Councillor BOND
 THAT

- The November 12, 2015 report of the Chief Financial Officer entitled 2016 Utility Rate Bylaws;
- The November 13, 2015 report of the Manager – Utilities entitled Sewer and Drainage User Charges and Connection Fees – 2016 Bylaw 8151;
- The November 9 report of the Manager – Utilities entitled Water User Charges and Water Connection Fees – 2016, Bylaw 8152; and,
- The November 10, 2015 report of the Manager – Engineering Operations entitled Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Service Fees – 2016, Bylaw 8153

be forwarded to Council for consideration.

CARRIED

3.2. Transportation Priorities Update
 File No. 16.8620.01/000.000

Mr. Gavin Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities, reported that staff review transportation funding and projects and solicit Council's input in advance of the budget cycle to ensure the budget reflects Council's priorities.

Ms. Nicole Foth, Transportation Planning Technologist, provided an overview of the transportation planning process, noting that general direction for transportation planning is provided by the OCP and Transportation Plan. Transportation continues to be a top public priority, with comments following the

Transportation presentation to Council in March 2015 indicating public priorities are the same as those identified in the presentation, including:

- Traffic congestion;
- Limited transit service, cycling routes and pedestrian network; and,
- Pace of development.

Ms. Foth advised that a report providing highlights of 2015 transportation initiatives and improvements entitled 2015 Update – Transportation Projects is available on the District website and has been circulated to Council.

The District is making progress on most of the first five-year priorities in the Transportation Plan, with a focus on Town Centres. Projects are prioritized using Council's past guidance, the Transportation Plan and opportunities for partnerships and grant funding.

Council discussion ensued regarding the Transportation Plan implementation and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- East-west traffic on Highway 1 is reaching crisis levels and addressing the situation should be a high priority;
- Traffic travelling to new recreational areas in and north of Squamish will increase congestion across the North Shore;
- Secondary routes must be improved as traffic moves off the highway onto side roads during peak times;
- Painted bicycle lanes are not effective; separated bicycle lanes are critical for safety and help avoid confrontation between cyclists, drivers and pedestrians;
- The possibility of creating cycling routes off main routes by putting bicycle and pedestrian paths through the end of cul-de-sacs;
- Link bicycle routes into trail networks and parks and facilitate cycling between Town Centres;
- Street parking could be reduced to open up additional cycling lanes without sacrificing capacity on the transportation network;
- Queried if aging population will use improved and expanded cycling network; and,
- Mobility pricing would work to reduce congestion but is not being considered.

Staff advised that current bridgehead traffic accident management is complicated by jurisdictional boundaries and Provincial contracts for different police to handle incidents depending on where they occur. Staff will be meeting with the Provincial government in early 2016 to explore options for improving accident response.

Ms. Foth reviewed the estimated funding sources for each type of project remaining from the Transportation Plan, noting that:

- Cycling projects and the Spirit Trail are likely to be eligible for more grant funding;
- Roads and pedestrian projects have a much larger gap requiring the use of District funds or identifying other sources of funding to implement;
- The maintenance of existing infrastructure is adequately funded through taxes and ongoing grants;
- Projects in Town Centres are funded by development; and,

- A funding gap exists for projects outside of Town Centres.

Council discussion ensued regarding prioritizing projects outside of Town Centres and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Make Safe Routes to School for all schools a priority;
- Cycling network between Town Centres;
- Possibility of using CAC's outside of Town Centres for important projects; and,
- Clarified that projects in the Transportation Plan are for implementation over twenty years.

The meeting recessed at 7:00 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 7:33 pm.

Council discussion resumed and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Projects can be prioritized once the cost, benefit and funding sources for each project are known;
- Diversion of Community Amenity Contributions (CAC's) to transportation infrastructure;
- Concern was expressed about the future tax burden on District residents;
- Invest in Town Centres to be complete, walkable communities, including recreation centres;
- The need to find sustainable funding sources for projects outside of Town Centres; and,
- The Phibbs Exchange upgrade is short \$2.5 million.

Staff advised that Council will be discussing CAC allocations in early 2016.

Ms. Foth reviewed the Transportation Plan investment projects, noting that some of the projects affect more than one type of transportation. The total estimated cost for the projects over the life of the Plan is \$110 million. The estimated cost for new Transportation Projects proposed for 2016 is \$5.2 million.

Council discussion ensued regarding whether to advance specific modes ahead of others and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Discussed whether to prioritize modes of transportation other than roads;
- People living in Town Centres might not need cars and may downsize when moving from single family to multifamily housing, but the sprawling nature of the District requires many to rely on cars;
- Many residents will not commute or shop on bicycle;
- Agreed that the best projects should be brought forward no matter which transportation mode;
- Invest in projects that connect trails and Town Centres;
- Suggested that Translink pay for the Phibbs Exchange upgrade out of funds collected from District residents in Translink taxes and levies; and,
- The possibility of using technology to improve traffic flow.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

4.1 Mr. Eric Andersen, 2500 Block Derbyshire Way:

- Commented on east-west congestion on Highway 1 during afternoon peak times.

4.2 Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Commented on the effect of watering restrictions on residential properties;
- Commented on investment in the road network;
- Expressed concern about safety of cyclists and pedestrians if those modes of transportation are promoted;
- Expressed doubt that an aging population will move to cycling to meet transportation needs; and,
- Suggested adding digital travel time estimate signs to Highway 1 in North Vancouver.

5. RISE AND REPORT

MOVED by Councillor HANSON

SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the November 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED
(8:19 pm)

Mayor

Municipal Clerk