

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

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

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

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. N. Deveaux, General Manager – Finance & Technology
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. A. Wardell, Director – Financial Services
Mr. R. Danyluk, Manager – Financial Planning
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. E. Geddes, Section Manager – Transportation
Mr. E. Iorio, Revenue & Taxation Manager
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council Clerk
Ms. N. Foth, Transportation Planning Technologist

Also in

Attendance: Councillor Don Bell, City of North Vancouver
Councillor Mary-Ann Booth, District of West Vancouver

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. March 31, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda

**MOVED by Councillor BOND
SECONDED by Councillor HICKS**

THAT the agenda for the March 31, 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. Tax Distribution

File No.

Ms. Nicole Deveaux, General Manager – Finance & Technology, provided an update on the Tax Strategy highlighting the 2015 implications. Ms. Deveaux noted that the purpose of this meeting is to provide staff with direction on how to spread the tax distribution between the property classes.

Ms. Deveaux advised that the Tax Strategy is at a juncture as the Provincial intervention on Fibreco valuations has caused a significant fluctuation in the heavy industry class. Ms. Deveaux noted that the BC Assessment valuation error of the Fibreco property is detrimental; however, the tax appeal is provided for in the budget. Ms. Deveaux noted that the list of non-capped properties is shrinking.

Ms. Deveaux presented three tax strategy options:

- a) New investments benefit heavy industry non-capped only;
- b) New investments benefits some classes; or,
- c) New investments benefit residents only.

Council requested that this item be brought forward to a Finance and Audit Committee meeting for further discussion.

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor MACKAY-DUNN

THAT it be recommended to Council:

THAT staff be directed to prepare the 2015 Tax Rates Bylaw based on Option A presented by staff.

CARRIED

Opposed: Councillors BASSAM and HICKS

3.2. North Shore Priorities for Transportation Investments

File No. 16.8620.01/000.001

Ms. Nicole Foth, Transportation Planning Technologist, provided an update on issues related to the North Shore transportation system. Ms. Foth identified ten of the North Shore transportation network deficiencies as follows:

1. Three different municipalities, a regional government and the Province are making decisions about the North Shore transportation system, even though the North Shore transportation system functions as a single network.
2. Expansion of the road network is unlikely. Given constraints ranging from topography and rivers/streams to land prices, enhancements to the transportation network will generally need to be focussed on upgrades to the existing infrastructure.
3. Congestion on Highway 1 occurs regularly. The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is currently undertaking an operations review to determine why this is happening.
4. Highway interchange configuration and a limited number of east-west roads means that getting across Highway 1 can be difficult when the highway is congested. Funding for the Lower Lynn interchange improvements is not yet finalized.
5. Bus service improvements cannot be implemented without funding. Residents regularly request improved transit service, especially east-west connections within the North Shore and longer service hours. As a solution bus service has been reallocated from less-used routes to busier

routes such as the routes which service Marine Drive, Lonsdale Avenue and Capilano University.

6. Bridge congestion could increase without more transit service. As a result of transit service investments made in the past, nearly 30% of the people travelling daily over the Lions Gate Bridge are being moved on transit in 2% of the vehicles; traffic volumes have been declining steadily over the past decade.
7. The North Shore will remain largely car-oriented in the immediate future. North Shore residents live primarily in single family neighbourhoods and will continue to rely on cars for most of their trips. Land use transitions in the town and village centres from the municipal Official Community Plan (OCP) will take time.
8. Better alternatives to driving are sought by seniors, youth and other members of the community, e.g. improved transit as well as infrastructure for walking and cycling.
9. Construction activities impede traffic flow. As the housing stock and municipal infrastructure are aging across the North Shore, there is an increasing amount of renewal underway. This is resulting in more road use for public and private construction activities. Improved construction traffic management planning is helping to manage the negative consequences of this activity.
10. Gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle networks will take years of capital investment to retrofit. Much of the North Shore was built in years when the focus was on moving cars. People of all ages have said they would like better pedestrian and bike access to schools and other key destinations.

Ms. Foth noted the importance of addressing these issues through continued collaboration between the North Shore municipalities, TransLink, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Metro Vancouver, Transport Canada, Port Metro Vancouver, First Nations and other partners.

Ms. Foth advised that the District of North Vancouver is developing an online transportation feedback tool that will allow residents to pinpoint where they are experiencing transportation challenges, share anecdotal information, and suggest possible improvements. The online tool will be live for approximately eight weeks, after which staff would collate the results and report back to Council.

Council Discussion:

- Commented on the importance of collaborating with the North Shore municipalities and other partners;
- Commented that an improved transportation system will be a challenge due to major developments occurring in the three municipalities;
- Suggested advertising the transportation survey in the newspapers;
- Commented that the District of North Vancouver should look at cities with similar transportation issues to see what solutions have worked;
- Opined that walkable communities with better connections are important;
- Commented that transportation issues are a regional issue;
- Opined that the District of North Vancouver is not an affordable place to live and this is causing more people to commute;
- Encouraged Councillors from other municipalities to attend the April 27, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting to further discuss transportation issues;
- Opined that smart and sustainable development may reduce cars;
- Commented that transportation issues are continuing to get worse;
- Stated that the North Shore is one community;
- Commented on the importance of making evidence-based decisions; and,
- Commented that losing the Handy Dart parking facilities will have a negative impact on the

community.

Councillor Mary-Ann Booth, District of West Vancouver:

- Commented on the importance of the three municipalities working together;
- Suggested coordinating different school hours, ferry schedules and trade labour hours;
- Stated that in order to solve transportation issues it is critical to collect data; and,
- Expressed interest in attending the District of North Vancouver's April 27, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Don Bell, City of North Vancouver:

- Spoke in support of collaborating with the District of North Vancouver;
- Stated that transportation issues are a regional issue;
- Commented on the importance of sharing information between municipalities; and,
- Commented that the bus depot is important and should be made a priority.

MOVED by Councillor BASSAM

SECONDED by Councillor HICKS

THAT it be recommended to Council:

THAT District of North Vancouver staff continue to engage in integrated transportation planning with North Shore municipalities, TransLink, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Metro Vancouver, Transport Canada, Port Metro Vancouver, First Nations and other partners;

AND THAT staff report back to Council after on-line public input is collected about North Shore transportation issues and after the transportation plebiscite results are finalized to confirm the next steps in strategic collaboration with the North Shore municipalities, TransLink and other partners.

CARRIED

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Nil

5. RISE AND REPORT

MOVED by Councillor BOND

SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM

THAT the March 31, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED
(6:40 pm)

Mayor

Municipal Clerk

