

A regular meeting of the District of Wells Council was held Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 4243 Sanders Avenue, Wells, BC V0K 2R0

## MINUTES

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Robin Sharpe and Councillors Judy Campbell, Mike Wallace, Virginia Wilkins and Richard Wright

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Champagne, C.A.O.; Dennis Manuel, Superintendent of Public Works and Deborah McKay, Deputy Clerk

**PUBLIC GALLERY:** 8 People

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA ADOPTION:**

**14-01 MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Agenda be adopted as amended as follows:

E 1. Withdrawn

Carried Unanimously

**B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

1. Minutes of Regular Council Meeting, December 17, 2013

**14-02 MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, December 17, 2013 be adopted as amended as follows:

D. 1 **13-245** should read Seconded by Councillor Wright .

Carried Unanimously

**C. DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS: NIL**

**D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. HMC Snow Clearing Meeting

The Administrator provided a verbal report in regards to the meeting with HMC, noting the follow points:

1. The main concern of HMC is the vehicles being left on the street which make it impossible to complete the street clearing. A possible option is to designate one day a week, Wednesday for example, for the graders to work on the whole town of Wells. On this day all vehicles would park in public parking lots. All parties would prefer this voluntary option. Snow clearing could be done on other days but Wednesday would be the guaranteed day for widening.
2. HMC is running out of places to dump snow. If they have to move snow by truck this could impact the cost in future.
3. Residents are requested to please talk to the District Office and not the HMC drivers if you have a complaint.

The Administrator noted that the contract between HMC and Wells is for \$72,000

as opposed to the \$15 million contract HMC has with the province for this region. The Administrator also noted that the District had reviewed the option of doing the snow clearing ourselves which would result in double the cost and therefore taxes would go up substantially. The Administrator concluded that it was in everybody's interest to keep HMC as the District of Wells' primary service provider. Councillor Wright noted that the grader requires 16 feet in width to plow the street; therefore a car cannot be parked on the street during plowing. Councillor Wright noted that some municipalities have a winter ban for parking on the street. The Mayor inquired as to where the snow storage lots are to which the Administrator responded that there was a map of lots that the Superintendent of Public Works and Brad Gassoff of HMC looked at last year. Councillor Campbell noted that when the District of Wells first considered incorporation that snow clearance was the main issue and that Wells was fortunate to enter into a contract with HMC. Councillor Wilkins noted that the town would have to go into considerable debt if we lost HMC and she also noted that the streets always get plowed. Councillor Wright noted that the \$72,000 paid annually to HMC also included dust control and summer grading.

**14-03** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** Council receive the verbal report re: HMC Snow Clearing Meeting.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Amend Appointment of Auditor for 2013 Audit

**MOVED** Seconded **THAT** Council receive the report and **THAT** the appointment of PMT Chartered Accountants to perform the municipal 2013 audit be withdrawn and **THAT** the firm of Fraser, Bevs, Broughton Chartered Accountants be appointed to undertake the annual municipal audit and prepare the District of Wells Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Carried Unanimously

2. Wells Snowmobile Corridor Amendment

**14-04** **MOVED** Seconded **THAT** Council receive the report and **THAT** Council add the segment of Legion Drive between Highway 26 and Goldquartz Drive to the Wells Snowmobile Corridor as outlined on the map provided by the Administrator.

Carried Unanimously

F. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. 13.12.18 Kim Eglinski, Regional Councillor Chair, NCLGA re: Resolution Submission Deadline: March 7th, 2014

Mayor noted that Council members could present ideas for resolution submission at the February 4, 2014 Council meeting.

**14-05** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council receive the letter from Kim Eglinski, Regional Councillor Chair, NCLGA re: Resolution Submission Deadline: March 7th, 2014.

Carried Unanimously

2. 13.12.23 Kelsey Dodd re: Highway Visibility Concerns

The Mayor noted that the piles of snow at the exit from the Jack O Clubs General were still too high and needed to be taken away. The Administrator noted that the

District could supply the backhoe if HMC isn't available. Kelsey Dodd noted that the trees getting cut back was one issue but that you still could not see the highway without pulling right out into speeding traffic. The Mayor noted that that speeding issue was also being dealt with through the RCMP. Councillor Wilkins reiterated Ms. Dodd's concerns in regards to sight lines when pulling out into traffic.

**14-06** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council receive the letter from Kelsey Dodd re: Highway Visibility Concerns.

Carried Unanimously

3. 14.01.03 Danette Boucher re: Excessive Idling of Vehicles  
The Mayor noted that "NO Idling Zone" signs could be posted on Pooley Street. The Administrator noted that a Bylaw could be written up in regards to idling. Councillor Wright noted it would better if the message could come in the form of education rather than a bylaw. Councillor Campbell suggests that we look at some idling bylaws that were enforced in other municipalities. Councillor Wallace said the District should not make a bylaw that could not be enforced. The Administrator noted that when the Adjudication Bylaw comes into effect that other bylaws will be much easier to enforce. The Administrator also noted that the District could utilize both the signage and education approach to deal with the excessive idling issue.

**14-07** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT** Council receive the letter from Danette Boucher re: Excessive Idling of Vehicles.

Carried Unanimously

#### G. BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. District of Wells Hotel Room Tax Bylaw No. 131, 2014  
The Administrator noted that the District of Wells Hotel Room Tax Bylaw No. 131, 2014 must be withdrawn. Councillor Campbell asked what impact removal of the Hotel Tax has on funds. The Administrator replied that the Hotel Tax is paid for by tourists and has been used locally, providing funds in Wells for the snow groomer for the Wells Snowmobile Club as well as contributing to the curling rink upgrade for the Wells Recreation Society.

#### H. REPORTS:

1. Cheque Register 13.12.01 to 14.01.14  
**14-08** **MOVED** Councillor Campbell Seconded Councillor Wilkins **THAT** Council approve Electronic Fund Transfers and Cheques 3140 to 3212 from Integris Credit Union for the period of December 1, 2013 to January 14, 2014 for a total amount of \$130,591.87.

Carried Unanimously

2. Employee Cheque Report 13.01.01 to 13.12.31  
**14-09** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** Council approve Employee Cheques from Integris Credit Union for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 for a total amount of \$254,304.22.

Carried Unanimously

3. Outstanding Actions Item Report

- Remove 11-139
- 14-10** **MOVED** Councillor Wallace Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Outstanding Actions Item Report be received.  
Carried Unanimously

I. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- 14-11** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wright **THAT** the Consent Calendar be adopted as circulated.
1. 13.12.12 Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development re: Input on the Second Phase of Local Government Elections Reform.
  2. 13.12.10 John Massier, Chair, Barkerville Heritage Trust re: Announcement-Ed Coleman New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Barkerville Historic Town.
  3. 13.12.17 Justine Herman, Office Manager, Ministry of Justice re: Crime Reduction Deadlines Extended.
  4. 14.01.09 Jack W. Davidson, President BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association re: A Municipal Councils' Guide to Infrastructure Construction. (Please see Deputy Clerk for Brochure).
  5. 14.01.09 Alec Dale, Executive Director, Ministry of Environment re: Provincial and Local Governments Working Together to Protect Biodiversity.
  6. 12.01.06 Dave Jorgenson, Owner, The Bear's Paw Cafe re: Trees on Camel Drive.

Carried Unanimously

J. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Council Members:

**Councillor Wright** noted that he would be away for the Council meetings on February 4th and February 18th, 2014. Councillor Wright also noted that there was a good-size turnout at the Forestry Open House on January 20, 2014. Lastly, Councillor Wright thanked West Fraser for changing the cut blocks. Lastly, Councillor Wright noted that the District of Wells was not receiving up to date maps.

**Councillor Campbell** noted that the District should receive a digital terrain model from West Fraser. Councillor Campbell also noted that she is nearing her retirement date at Barkerville and that Ed Coleman, the newly appointed CEO, will be a wonderful addition. Lastly, Councillor Campbell noted that she will miss the next three meetings.

**Councillor Wilkins** thanked Chris Randall and Tyler Schmode for digging her out last week when she couldn't get out of her apartment Councillor Wilkins suggested that a list of names and contact information of people who could do shoveling be kept at the District Office and posted on the District's facebook page.

**The Mayor** noted that the Dog Sled Gold Rush Mail Run was from January 24th to 26th, 2014 with the Barkerville Dash being the last leg of the journey on January 26th. The Mayor further noted that tickets were still available for the

banquet dinner at Troll on Saturday, January 25, 2014. The Mayor also noted that it was Robbie Burns night on January 25, 2014 at the Quesnel Legion. Lastly, the Mayor noted that the Barkerville Heritage Trust meeting was Friday, January 24 to January 26, 2014.

2. Staff:

**The Administrator** noted that the result of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Audit was that the District of Wells would not have to collect GST.

**The Superintendent of Public Works** noted that HMC has been a big supporter of Wells in the past.

3. Public Gallery:

**Dave Jorgenson** noted that he is very concerned about the Hotel Tax being removed and he inquired if it could be revisited after the Whitecap decided if they were going to rent hotel rooms. The Administrator noted that if the CCCTA collects the Hotel Tax it would go toward projects in the whole Cariboo, not specifically Wells but that if the Whitecaps provided rooms to rent to tourists and were willing to sign, this would qualify for the Hotel Tax .

**Bill Horne** thanked the Administrator and the Superintendent of Public Works for their response to the ice buildup. Mr. Horne also noted that, despite rumours to the contrary, the grant to Wells Area Trails Society (WATS) from Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC) was under \$6000.

**Danette Boucher** noted that was good to hear the information presented about HMC and that she is glad that the District has a facebook page to get more information out to people. Ms. Boucher also noted that she agrees with Councillor Wright that education is very important in regards to the idling issue.

**Corey Hardeman** noted that her concern is with the out-of-towners who idle their cars and further noted that we need signs erected to deal with the idling.

**Kelsey Dodd** addressed the status of the feral cats that live in the empty home behind her. Ms. Dodd noted that the cat population had grown to approximately twenty cats and that her neighbours have taken on the task of feeding the cats as well as attempting to catch the cats. Ms. Dodd also noted that the SPCA has stated that they could not deal with the feral cats in Wells and she wants someone to deal with this issue. Councillor Wright noted that wild cats kill hundreds of birds. The Administrator suggested that we investigate how other towns have dealt with feral cat problems.

**Mark Norman** noted that when the Hotel Tax was discussed he was not asked why he was opposed to it and noted that compromise, which he had not seen so far, was necessary. Mr. Norman noted that he had brought up snow removal a number of times over the years. Mr. Norman noted that on New Year's Day he had hotel guests parked in front of the Wells Hotel who could not get out because there was a three foot windrow. Mr. Norman suggested that Fred Schmode could plow out the front of the Hotel when he comes by to do the District parking lot,

which he feels should be plowed by the District. Mr. Norman said snow removal had cost him \$2000 this year. Mr. Norman also stated that he pays high taxes; he is not satisfied with the job HMC does; HMC is loud at night for his hotel guests and windrows are left in front of the Wells Hotel. Councillor Wright asked Mr. Norman if he thinks that the District should pay to have all the businesses plowed clear or just the Wells Hotel. Councillor Campbell inquired as to why taxpayers should pay for the private businesses to be plowed because businesses are supposed to provide off street parking, which Mr. Norman does not. Dave Jorgenson inquired if Mark Norman is rejecting the Hotel Tax because the District does not clear the snow? It was pointed out by Council that the Hotel Tax could not be used to pay for snow clearing but had to be used for things that were tourist related. Lastly, Mr. Norman stated that he had asked for some receipts a number of times and he does not have them yet. The Administrator informed Mr. Norman that his request could take several hours to complete and was not a priority. The Administrator told Mr. Norman that he could request a Freedom of Information (FOI) and that the Administrator could provide an estimation of the cost to Mr. Norman.

K. CLOSED MEETING:

**14-12** **MOVED** Councillor Wilkins Seconded Councillor Wallace **THAT**, pursuant to Section 90(1) (c) of the Community Charter, the following portion of this meeting is closed to the public.

Carried Unanimously

L. ADJOURNMENT:

**14-13** **MOVED** Councillor Wright Seconded Councillor Campbell **THAT** the meeting adjourn at 9:14PM.

Carried Unanimously

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Robin Sharpe, Mayor

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Gary Champagne, CAO