

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS MINUTES  
OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**



**DATE:** March 18, 2009  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Council Chambers  
Harrison Hot Springs, B. C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mayor K. Becotte  
Councillor B. Perry  
Councillor D. Harris  
Councillor A. Jackson  
Councillor D. Kenyon

Larry Burk, Chief Administrative Officer  
Dale Courtice, Director of Finance  
Ken Fleckenstein, Superintendent of Public Works  
(arrived at 9:06 a.m.)

Recording Secretary, D. Key

**ABSENT:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Becotte called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. ADOPTION AND  
RECEIPT OF  
MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Perry

THAT the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of March 16, 2009 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**3. LATE ITEMS**

Mayor Becotte – Committee/Commission appointment

**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Committee/Commission  
appointment

Moved by Councillor Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Kenyon

THAT Ken Burningham be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Stephanie Key be appointed to the Economic Development Commission.

**CARRIED**

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**2009 Financial Plan**

Director of Finance provided the next copy of the proposed budget with changes highlighted in yellow. Some additional changes have also been made which he went through.

Infrastructure grants dropped down to \$312,500 by taking out Memorial Hall and McCombs Road. Transfers from Reserves dropped from \$805, 000 to \$428,000 by taking out Fire Department transfer of \$345,000.

Provincial Grants infrastructure – changed slightly leaving a balance of \$32,000 eligible to claim for the #2 pump station.

In 2008 Council committed to using water frontage rate fees to help offset reservoir borrowing interest charges. Water frontage fees in 2008 were \$123,000 combined and has jumped to \$164,000. Council at the time felt the water reservoir could be financing the water frontage and would be adjusted annually to cover the interest cost. Water frontage charges are currently at \$7.64/m. Had to increase to \$11.14 metre. CAO reported that the increase is what will show on the tax notice. (\$5.40 per bill on a short lot and a \$9.00 increase on longest lot).

CAO prepared preliminary estimates to install water on Pine, Lakberg, Emerald and Diamond. The total would be about \$289,041.00. This could potentially increase fire flow in these areas and even up to about 16-18% in the rest of the Village. Approximately 45 lots will/should provide income from user fees and frontage charges. Councillor Harris added that there is no policy in place that insists residents connect to the water system. Fraser Health frowns upon residential wells. Councillor Perry asked what the return would be on the new mains including hookup. CAO indicated perhaps \$40,000 and we could institute an incentive to hookup. Councillor Jackson asked if this could be done by a local improvement bylaw. The Mayor stated Pine is also a special planning area. There has been some interest in developing some of this property. Maybe look into going into Emerald. CAO reported any developer coming in would be required to provide upgrades. Emerald Avenue and Diamond's total cost would be \$141,414.00 with a 200 m main on Emerald and 150 m on Diamond.

DoF says current Water DCC's had been previously allocated to help offset water reservoir borrowing costs to pay the principle down before locking in to the loan. Councillor Jackson indicated that the money paid by IRCA can be allocated to the water reservoir. Councillor Perry asked CAO for reports on IRCA and Lakehill Villas.

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**Moved by Councillor Harris**  
**Seconded Councillor Kenyon**

**THAT** installation of a water system on Emerald Avenue and Diamond Street be added to this years budget.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Harris asked that the design include a loop through the neighbouring development to improve fire fighting in the complex. CAO agreed provided costs could be offset somehow.

- DoF advised that promotional materials have been contemplated for the Village's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- He also added a licence and permits account to track Village permits.
- The Mayor asked Council to consider purchasing logo'd jackets.
- DoF condensed Grants to Groups rather than have individual accounts.
- Dropped planning/engineering consultant by \$5,000.
- CIB Awards Banquet dropped from \$15,000 to \$10,000. Canada Day was bumped up to \$7,000. Community Development to \$1,500.

Bylaw Enforcement was adjusted to account for the new service agreement. As there may be additional policing this year, the CAO is hoping to bring in curfew bylaw for the beach to provide some assistance. Mayor reported that after meeting with the RCMP, and due to their budget constraints, maybe we could consider providing additional funding to open a community policing office. Mayor asked Councillor Perry to consider setting up a Public Safety Committee.

Based on the Fire Department's report, the DoF increased honorariums. Current Fire Chief Remuneration has been increased. The Mayor asked Council their thoughts on the remuneration. Council unanimously agreed to increase. Training allowances are not currently included. CAO researched other municipalities which indicated varied policies associated with funding.

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CAO indicated that the provincial draft fire standard practices model suggests different levels for different community types and populations. Recommendation was suggested Agassiz and Harrison combine training practices and recruiting as a regional centre. Can increase training based on development. Councillor Jackson asked about the purchase of a defibrillator. This has been budgeted for in capital.

Public Works office increased to \$3,000 for patch work on roof; took roof replacement out.

Drainage and Ditching increased to \$50,000, dropped \$5,000 to \$2,500 for contracted services.

Street lighting dropped, sand and salt increased, waste collection dropped \$2,000.

Removed mechanical lift from the garbage truck. CAO reported that FVRD are looking at another centre for recycling to include Hope, Harrison, Kent, Deroche, Harrison Mills. Looking at contractors.

Boat Launch and washroom wages reallocated.

Dropped gardening supplies due to previous project.

Arts Centre bumped up for washroom renovations.

Rendall Park increased to include for equipment rentals (fibercans).

Training under sewer dropped.

Sewer Collection contract services dropped \$1,500.

Sewer Treatment Plant repairs dropped and chemical allocation reduced based on last years totals.

Other Capital Expenditures dropped or amended

- Fire truck – out
- Public Works vehicles – increased – CAO researched costs for vehicles, possibly would be less
- Drainage – out
- Leave Engineering for McCombs bridges –\$30,000
- Memorial Hall deferred to 2010
- Beach Erosion out of capital and shuffled to repairs and maintenance

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Councillor Jackson asked if there is sufficient money in the budget for strategic planning retreat? Believe this should be done away from home. DoF stated there could be money set aside in the budget to go up to the Hotel but would be difficult to go out of town without adding to the budget.

CAO reported that staff could support recommending moving \$435,000 from surplus to offset the deficit in the current budget. CAO states DoF's advice on being very careful on the surplus, is very worthy of note. DoF asked for direction for next budget meeting.

DoF stated that he would plug on the 1.9% tax rate residential increase, adjust non-profit/commercial rates and then report the actual transfer from surplus at next meeting.

Councillor Harris asked about the increase in staff and budget for public works. Would like to advance expenditures to the budget. DoF states that an advance would be allowed at July 1<sup>st</sup>. CAO anticipates May 1, 2009 before anyone can be hired with job descriptions. Mayor stated we have to work on some personnel changes. CAO indicated he will start working with Union as soon as possible with respect to Union approvals, etc.

**Moved by Councillor Kenyon**

**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

**THAT** Council direct staff to use surplus to augment a zero balance revenue of expenditures for 2009.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Kenyon**

**Seconded by Councillor Harris**

**THAT** the residential tax rate for 2009 to be set based on maintaining 2008 tax revenue levels.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Harris**

**Seconded by Councillor Jackson**

**THAT** staff send a letter to District of Kent to stop all proceedings of the current Ken-Harrison sewer project.

**CARRIED**

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- Mayor stated trails development could be increased.  
Take \$45,000 out of gas tax and put in trails.

Mayor asked to use surplus.

CAO reported he received a letter from Kent and recommended taking a position on this project as if from the beginning. There is no significant agreement between Harrison and Kent to actually connect to their sewer.

Councillor Perry asked if we have any idea on the cost to establish our own plant? CAO has talked to industry people. Mayor asked how this would impact the current funding application? CAO stated he has had conversations on rescoping and suggested that the Ministry has been willing to look at options up to now. We still have 2 ½ years to commence/complete the project. Councillor Perry stated he believes our existing plant be relocated due to its proximity to the hot springs site. What's wrong with putting a treatment plant on Crown land?

Councillor Kenyon asked if it impacts the current budget if we stop the Kent process. CAO stated he would like to keep it in pending the outcome of the current situation. Mayor stated he believed Corrections should pay their portion, Harrison pay theirs and Kent pay theirs.

DoF asked if putting it on hold will affect what Dayton & Knight have done. CAO suggested we can put it on hold until we receive clarification from Kent.

DoF stated he doesn't mind using the surplus but warns that the surplus is what we have in the bank to carry on business between budget approvals.

Mayor stated we budgeted \$300,000 in 2008 from surplus but didn't use it.

DoF stated Council/Mayor has requested a zero increase based on most recent assessments in order to generate the same revenue resulting in a 1.9% tax rate increase. That may also result in a slight decrease on the business side.

DoF stated even with a tax rate increase, there is the distinct likelihood that residents will be paying less taxes based on the assessments provided by BC Assessment Authority. Councillor Jackson stated a 1.9% tax rate increase is doable.

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The next budget meeting will be scheduled for April 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

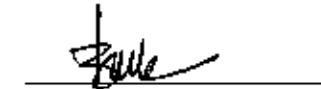
Moved by Councillor Perry  
Seconded by Councillor Jackson

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 11:03 a. m.

**CARRIED**

Certified a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held March 18, 2009 in the Council Chambers, Village of Harrison Hot Springs, BC.

  
Ken Becotte  
Mayor

  
Larry Burk  
Chief Administrative Officer

