

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

DATE: Monday, June 12, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, Memorial Hall,
290 Esplanade Avenue, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Ed Wood
Councillor Leo Facio
Councillor Allan Jackson
Councillor Michie Vidal

Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Acting CO, Kelly Ridley
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Ryan Chiarot, Emergency Planning Coordinator

ABSENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wood called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
Mayor Wood acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Mayor Wood announced that Council has appointed Tyson Koch as Chief Administrative Officer.

Mayor Wood introduced the new Corporate Officer Amanda Graham.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the Committee of the Whole agenda dated June 12, 2023 be approved.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
COW-2023-06-01

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Superintendent Davy Lee, Upper Fraser Valley Regional District
Re: Upper Fraser Valley Regional District Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025

Superintendent Davy Lee introduced himself to Council and explained the process of gathering information from local municipalities for the Upper Fraser Valley Regional District Strategic Plan 2023-2026.

Superintendent Lee provided the following questions to Council for their feedback on RCMP operations:

- *Question 1: From a safety perspective, what is the number one issue that your local RCMP needs to address?*

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Council reported concerns surrounding speeding of both passenger vehicles and larger commercial vehicles such as logging and gravel trucks, specifically on Hot Springs Road and Rockwell Drive onto Lillooet Avenue. Council also expressed concerns regarding the burden created by repeat offenders being arrested and released. Updated equipment and training were also highlighted.

- *Question 2: What does your local RCMP do well?*

Council advised that seasonal patrols and presence on the beach has been helpful, specifically on Canada Day. Council complimented the RCMP on their cooperation with the Bylaw Officer and their regular communication with Council regarding updates and statistics. Council expressed appreciation for the RCMP's proactive communication surrounding the recent drug decriminalization changes.

- *Question 3: What could your Local RCMP do better?*

There was discussion surrounding the reinstatement of the seasonal policing program on the beach, lake patrols on the boat and the continued use of temporary office at the boat launch.

Superintendent Lee was asked what the Village could do to help with RCMP operations. Superintendent Lee advised that the Village does not have a specific municipal contract with the RCMP and that policing in the Village comes from the provincial allocation. If the Village were to enter into a contract with the RCMP, there would be members specifically dedicated to the Village's needs.

- *Question 4: What are one or two concrete actions your local RCMP could undertake in the next year that would make a positive difference in the community?*

Council reported that it may be beneficial to meet with the business community to assist them in making their businesses more secure.

- *Question 5: What's the one thing that your local RCMP and your organization could work on together?*

Council responded that lobbying for funding and more members could be a joint project and encouraged the RCMP to provide them with any information that might assist.

- *Question 6: Do you have any advice for us on how to better communicate with people in your community – both to get our messages out, but also to listen to your concerns?*

It was noted that many of the residents use Facebook and other social media for information. The RCMP could consider using these avenues to get information out when needed. The importance of reaching people who are not on social media was also highlighted.

- *Question 7: Is there anything else you'd like us to consider?*

Council discussed Surrey's transition to a municipal police force, a reasonable growth strategy to 2050, RCMP 150th Anniversary events and the RCMP Musical Ride.

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- (b) Bruce Blackwell, BA Blackwell & Associates
Re: Urban Forest Master Plan – May 23, 2023

Mr. Blackwell provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Urban Forest Master Plan and raised several concerns:

- There is no routine hazard tree assessment by a qualified tree risk assessor in priority areas. Adequate records are not kept. Trees along popular trails and those stressed by previous droughts and ice storms will need to be regularly assessed and monitored.
- Tree preservation and protection, especially during construction. Enforcement of bylaws surrounding tree protection is needed. The existing bylaws are not strong enough to ensure adequate tree protection.
- Caring for the current and future urban forest. The tree population is aging and new trees will need to be planted. New landscaping is inspected for quality by the developers Qualified Environmental professional and may not meet Village standards. The right trees should be planted in the right places.
- The effects of climate change on the urban forest. Climate change is predicted to cause an increase in risk of fire, pests, disease, droughts, and flooding. The urban forest can counteract climate change by reducing emissions, sequestering carbon, and mitigating heat. Unmanaged resource land increases the risks from hazard trees and wildfire.

Mr. Blackwell gave the following recommendations:

- Building Internal Capacity – Amend the vision statement to support the protection, establishment, and enhancement of the Village/s urban forests. Pool resources with other FVRD communities to retain a Qualified Professional and coordinate FireSmart assessments, fuel treatments, and tree risk assessments.
- Tree Management and Preservation Bylaw No. 1015 – Require homeowners to replace trees that have been removed as a condition of the tree management permit. Include tree protection guidelines and specifications and implement penalties for excessive pruning or damage to trees on private property.
- Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw No. 578 – Require replacement trees as a condition of tree cutting. Implement maintenance securities for tree replacements to aid in successful establishment. Provide incentives to land developers for retaining mature trees by reducing permit fees or tree replacement requirements.
- Hazard tree management for public safety – Identify priority areas for tree risk assessments. Schedule routine tree risk assessments for priority areas to be conducted by a qualified tree risk assessor. Create assessment and management guidelines for high-value, distinct trees as they age.
- Climate change and building urban forest resilience – Identify residential areas in the wildland urban interface at risk of wildfire and adopt a preferred tree species list to promote genus and species diversity.

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(c) Synthetic Ice Rink

Re: See also Staff Report dated April 3, 2023 regarding 2022 – 2023 Synthetic Outdoor Rink Operation and Toxicity Document from Xtraice

Moved by Mayor Wood

THAT the synthetic rink operation and future projects associated to it be discontinued; and

THAT the matter be referred back to staff to investigation whether the synthetic rink can be sold due to it having been purchased with RMI funds.

CARRIED
OPPOSED BY COUNCILLOR FACIO
COW-2023-06-02

Recess at 2:40pm

The meeting reconvened at 2:47pm

Moved by Mayor Wood

THAT the June 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting reconvene.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
COW-2023-06-03

(d) Ryan Chiarot, Emergency Planning Coordinator

Re: Emergency Evacuation Route

See also Staff Report dated June 30, 2020 regarding Evacuation Route Recommendation

Discussions took place on the chosen route through Sasquatch Park, and the other routes that were ruled out.

The Emergency Planning Coordinator was asked about the current status of the project. He stated that although the project is with the province for review, they are waiting for approval from one neighbouring First Nation's bands.

Mayor Wood asked the Emergency Planning Coordinator to explain the current Community Wildfire Protection Plan from 2018 and how the coordination between emergency services works during an emergency.

The Emergency Planning Coordinator was asked what the Village could do to help. He responded with advocating for the approval of the proposed route.

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Moved by Councillor Jackson

THAT Council investigate sending a delegation to the appropriate Minister and present a specific plan for the proposed evacuation route to them.

**CARRIED
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COW-2023-06-04

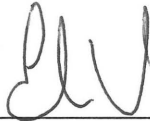
There was discussion surrounding the timeline of preparing and presenting a delegation before Parliament breaks for the summer. It was determined that the UBCM Convention in September 2023 presents a good opportunity to try and speak to the appropriate Minister.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Facio

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
COW-2023-06-05



Ed Wood
Mayor



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer