

MINUTES of
The Corporation of the Village of Slocan

May 10 2006

The regular meeting of the Slocan Village Council was held on the above date at the Village Office, 503 Slocan Street, with Mayor, John Van Bynen, in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Mayor John Van Bynen, Councillors Joanne Ellis, John Gates, Madeleine Perriere, Marc Septav, and Village Administrator, Eunice Ludlow. Valley Voice reporter, Don Currie, was in attendance and there were five members of the public present.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

RES. 06/041 Moved by Counc. John Gates, seconded by Counc. Madeleine Perriere, that the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

RES. 06/042 Moved by Counc. Madeleine Perriere, seconded by Counc. Joanne Ellis, that the minutes be adopted as read.

Carried

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Len Mortensen spoke about the 2006 Budget and brought up the fact that there was an \$11,000.00 addition mistake and wondered if the amount could be used towards lowering residential taxes. Administrator Eunice Ludlow responded that the taxes are based on assessed rates, and in fact our mill rate has gone down. The amount could be used instead to reduce the amount of funds needed to be transferred from reserves. Mr. Mortensen mentioned that the Village can reduce residential taxes, but increase Industry by 2% and leave the reserves as they are. Counc. Joanne Ellis said we, as a Village, have no control over the rising costs of property. Mr. Mortensen countered that we can set the mill rate. Counc. Madeleine Perriere also brought up the fact that we actually have a fairly low tax rate on our residential properties. In fact, this amount of \$11,000.00 was already budgeted for Tourism and it was a computer error that this amount came up. Council decided to take Mr. Mortensen's suggestions under consideration

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Mr. John Sargeant asked about the 5 year plan outlined in By-Law 557. Mr. Sargeant asked how in 2007 total taxes for residential will be reduced by approximately \$22.00, how is that possible. Administrator Eunice Ludlow said we anticipate revenues from other sources, and hope to create lower taxes. Counc. John Gates brought up the fact that Provincial Grants are doubling (case in point the Small Communities Protection Grant), although there will be costs attached to these grants. Don Currie asked how we know we will get this funding, and Counc. Gates mentioned the letter the Village had received regarding the above mentioned grant.

DELEGATIONS:

1.) Report from Public Works

Village Foreman Jerry Simmons reported that BC Dock and Deck will be here May 18 2006 to install the centre dock of the Boat Ramp. O'Brien's Repair Shop in Nakusp will be fabricating the steel 80 foot sections of the breakwater and they should be ready in early June. There is still some question on how to join the two sections at a 90 degree angle to be able to withstand the wave action of the lake. With the two 80 foot sections we will need about 40 feet of walkway for access to the section of breakwater from the shore. The walkway could be built locally by the Village Public Works Crew and local welders. The Boat ramp will need to be finished off with some rip-rap to be put in when the levels of the lake go down in the fall. All the dead trees in the RV Park, Cemetery, and the Ball Park have been removed. All trees have been cut into 12 and 14 foot lengths and will be cut into timbers, posts and planks for the floating breakwater. Trees have been planted at the R.V. Park to maintain separation of sites. It was noted that the Village Clean-Up was a huge success, with lots of garbage being cleaned up and many tires being sent to the Transfer Station. RDCK does not want tires at the Transfer Station, so there is a charge for dropping them off. Counc. Madeleine Perriere suggested that for the next Village Clean-Up a note be made in the newsletter stating that tires may not be put out for pick up with a charge as the Transfer Station charges us to drop them off. This years cost was approximately \$120.00 for tires alone. The new Chipper was also used quite a bit and the pile of chips at the Compost area was available to Village residents who wanted them.

2.) Report from the Fire Chief

No report at this time.

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DISBURSEMENTS:

Motion to ratify April disbursements in the amount of \$74,058.99 was made by Counc. Joanne Ellis, seconded by Counc. John Gates.

RES. 06/043

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES:

Counc. Madeleine Perriere asked to pass a motion for the Village to apply for Initial Grants to start the process of the Official Community Plan.

RES. 06/044

Carried

COMMITTEES:

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

John Gates, RDCK Director, presented April 2006 report, which is attached for perusal.

REC. COMMISSION:

No report at this time.

DOG COMMITTEE:

No report at this time.

COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE:

Counc. Marc Septav will be meeting with the IWA on May 24, 2006. Members of the Slocan Valley Community Forest group and Springer Creek Forest Products will also attend this meeting.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- 1. Letter and petition had been received from Citizens concerned about the re-opening of Dick Avenue. A letter will be written in response stating that there is no consideration being given to the opening of Dick Avenue at this time. This matter has been taken under instruction
- 2. Correspondence #2 moved In Camera
- 3. Request from John & Reta Patterson for variance on their property dated May 9th 2006. Presently the Village does not have a Board of Variance, but Mayor Van Bynen is considering appointing one. Without a Board of Variance in place, Council is able to grant a variance. The Village would need three un-biased people to serve on this board. Regarding the application from Mr. & Mrs. Patterson, the letter received shows hardship, which is a requirement for granting a variance. Council has agreed to view the property then make a recommendation regarding the variance application.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Ratify all funding re: Columbia Basin Trust Proposals. The proposals that will get funding are:

Fred Fraser Memorial Garden	\$1000.00
Slocan Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$500.00
Mother Goose Program	\$500.00

Moved by Counc. Joanne Ellis, seconded Counc. John Gates to approve funding amounts.

RES 06/045 Carried

- 2. Three readings of Bylaws #557 & 558
 - 1st Reading Moved by Counc. John Gates, seconded Counc. Joanne Ellis

2nd. Reading Moved by Counc. John Gates, seconded Counc. Joanne Ellis

3rd Reading Moved by Counc. Joanne Ellis, seconded Counc. Madeleine Perriere

RES 06/046 Carried

- 3. Review of Bylaw #483 Section 4(1), regarding keeping of chickens within the Village of Slocan. This matter is still under discussion at this time.

- 4. Appointment of Board of Variance. This matter is still under discussion.
- 5. Valhalla Fire Crew. There have already been a few members of the Crew in to speak with Administrator Eunice Ludlow and Village Foreman Jerry Simmons about potential jobs that the crew can do this summer while in the Village. It was proposed that a list of jobs be drafted.

Moved by Counc. Madeleine Perriere, seconded Counc. Joanne Ellis that a list of jobs be drafted for the Fire crew for this summer.

RES 06/047

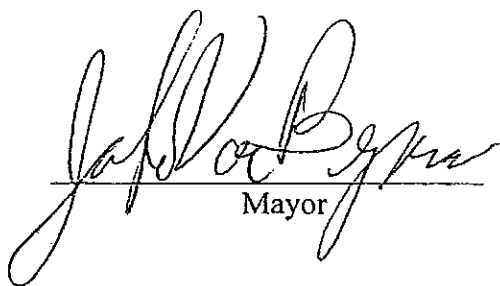
Carried

- 6. A motion was put on the table to re-affirm Berg Naqvi as the Auditor for 2006. Moved by Counc. John Gates, seconded Counc. Joanne Ellis.

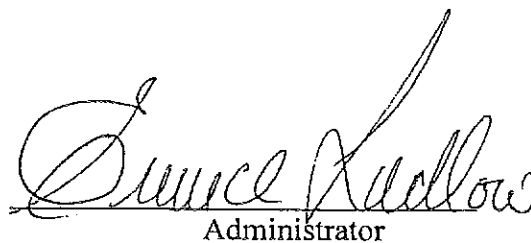
RES 06/048

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



John Gates
Mayor



Eunice Ludlow
Administrator