

The Corporation of the Village of Slocan  
Minutes of the Meeting  
January 9, 2008

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 Van Bynen, Councillors John Gates and Marc Septav, Councillor Madeleine Perriere was absent. Administrator Eunice Ludlow and Valley Voice Reporter Don Currie were present, as were 9 members of the public.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was adopted as prepared.

Motion to adopt the agenda as prepared was made by Councillor Marc Septav, seconded by Councillor John Gates.

08/106

Carried

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:**

Motion to adopt the minutes as prepared from December 12, 2007 was made by Councillor John Gates, seconded by Councillor Marc Septav.

08/107

Carried

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

Council asked staff if they had received the proposal from the W E Graham Community School regarding the request for a donation for the "Project Save the Turtles" program they have started. Staff to request information from the school.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:**

A member of the public asked a question regarding the proposed Municipal Ticketing Bylaw. The agenda stated some of the bylaws that would fall under the municipal ticketing bylaw and it was wondered if this bylaw could include a penalty for an unsightly premises.

The Municipal ticketing bylaw is still being discussed and there has not been a final decision on which bylaws will be included.

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The state of the streets brought up and how slippery it was for pedestrians especially close to the sidewalks on the streets edge. More sand on the edges would be appreciated. Administrator Ludlow said that she would speak with public works to have this situation remedied.

There was concern raised over the recent assessments that residents have received. Even though the Village did not raise the mill rate of 3.30 last year, the increase in assessments contributed to residential taxes going up substantially. With the new increase in residential assessments, the concern for a raise in this years taxes was discussed. Could the mill rate be adjusted to compensate for the above-mentioned increase? Are we going to have another increase?

The taxes have not been discussed by Council yet this year. It was mentioned that the Provincial Government would like the large gap between the amount of taxes that industry pays and residential taxes decreased. The Council is looking into what we can to keep both the Village and the Provincial Government content. Council will be looking at the tax situation at budget preparation time.

A member of the public asked how long the public works staff is trained on machinery before they operate on their own.

Administrator Ludlow answered that Foreman Jerry Simmons has a training program and staff has had training sessions on the machines.

A member of the public questioned whether the Village must pay a severance fee of \$6000.00 to the Bylaw enforcement officer if his contract is terminated.

Administrator Ludlow replied that there would only be severance paid if 30 days notice was not given to end the contract, and, as it has been there will be no fee paid out to the Commissionaires.

Council was asked as to whether or not they would consider changing the Zoning Bylaw to allow building on 30 to 45 foot lots. At present, the Village only allows new construction on 2 lots (approximately 60ft x90ft) and on new subdivisions, 3 lots (approximately 90ft x 90ft). There are new septic systems available that would allow septic systems to operate on much smaller parcels. It was commented that if the minimum lot sizes were changed then the tax base would also go up.

Mayor Van Bynen replied that he would need to have more information regarding the new septic systems and the new requirements. Council stated that they would consider but a recommendation for the change in lot sizes would have to be based on more fact. Concern was voiced over whether or not a new sewer system would have to be built.

Council was asked if they would consider making a resolution regarding the abattoir and the end of the Village's interest in this project.

Council said they would consider a resolution.

Council Procedures Bylaw #550 was questioned. It is stated in the bylaw that there will be two meetings a month by council and the member of the public was concerned that one meeting a month was not sufficient to do Village business.

The bylaw states that as long as one meeting a month is held, then they are following the bylaw, and that business was being taken care of.

A member of the public commented that the R.C.M.P. in the Slocan valley have the need for cell service. Apparently, Slocan could be the only Village who might welcome this service and should property be required, he offered a portion of land to have the cell tower built on.

#### **REPORTS AND DELEGATIONS:**

**Foreman's Report:** None

**Administrator's Report:** No report was given during this meeting, but there were several items to mention. An information list was passed out to Council at the meeting. Council was asked to pass a resolution to approve the 2008 meeting schedule, and then staff would forward the dates to be advertised in the newspaper. It was mentioned to council that salary reviews should be discussed by mid January. A list of annual memberships needs to be approved so that they may be paid.

#### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

Motion to approve December accounts payable of \$10,401.35 was made by Councillor John Gates, seconded by Councillor Marc Septav.

08/108

Carried

#### **DISBURSEMENTS:**

Motion to approve December disbursements of \$66,743.36 was made by Councillor Marc Septav, seconded by Councillor John Gates.

08/109

Carried

**R.D.C.K:** See attached report.

**Rec. Commission:** Nothing to report.

**Community Forest:** Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The All Candidates Meeting has been scheduled for January 17, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Silvery Slocan Hall with Councillor John Gates to be the moderator.

2. Letter from Delterra was acknowledged, and as the meeting requested by Mr. Sheppard is not urgent and it will be scheduled at a time that is acceptable to all parties.

3. An email was received from Dr. Andre Piver regarding his being invited to operate out of the Wellness Centre. Dr. Piver thanked the Village for the opportunity, but at this time, it was not something his schedule would allow.

4. The Public meeting has been set for January 24, 2008 at the Silvery Slocan Hall. This meeting is to allow the Council to answer some of the questions that were posed by the public at the last public meeting.

5. Council has requested a meeting at a later date to go over information regarding the proposed Municipal Ticketing Bylaw. Staff to schedule this meeting as soon as possible, and to contact Councillor Madeleine Perriere.

6. An update to the Community Health Promotion Fund was given. To complete the requirements of this application, there are a few more details that need to be attended to. An innovative partnership will be required to go forward with this grant application.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Mayor

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Administrator