

DISTRICT OF SOOKE

Committee of the Whole Minutes
Meeting held June 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 2225 Otter Point Road

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Janet Evans
Councillor Sheila Beech
Councillor David Bennett
Councillor Bev Berger
Councillor Ron Dumont
Councillor Maja Tait

STAFF PRESENT

Evan Parliament, Chief Administrative Officer
Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer
Sue-Lin Tarnowski, Director of Finance
Gerard LeBlanc, Planner
Elisabeth Nelson, Municipal Engineer
Steve Sorensen, Fire Chief
Lisa Urlacher, Corporate Assistant

ABSENT: Councillor Herb Haldane

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED to approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED

3. BC Ambulance – Shawn Carby, Executive Director for BC Ambulance on Vancouver Island

Mr. Carby reported that as of June 1st the BCAS are entertaining a 90 day trial deploying two ambulances that operate out of the WestShore during daytime hours to be reassigned to the central station on Douglas Street near Uptown. Mr. Carby explained that the Province does not consider municipal borders as the service is created where the need is by deployment to ensure the demand is met. Mr. Carby stated that the intent of this trial is to optimize resources and that it should not impact the service in Sooke. It was noted that the average response time in Sooke is 12-13 minutes.

A discussion ensued amongst Council and Mr. Carby as to the effects on service within Sooke. The following is a summary of the Committee's concerns:

- Concern that emergency response time will increase putting the residents at risk
- Fire Department as first responders to call-outs
- Providing coverage from Sooke to Port Renfrew
- Presentation to Council after the 90 day Trial
- No municipal consultation for support of the trial
- Semantics of the 45 minute border to Sooke and beyond
- No clinic or hospital service in Sooke

The Committee agreed to the following suggested actions:

- Presentation to Council after the 90 day trial to review the results
- Provide statistics from 10-15 years and when Sooke has no ambulance coverage within its border

Public Input:

Rick Atkinson representing the Ambulance Paramedics of BC Union (CUPE 874), expressed opposition to shifting recourses from the WestShore to ease the problem and commented that this trial has been exercised in the past. The Union objected to the trial as they would like to see an increase of full time staff. Mr. Atkinson noted that Sooke has always had a high call volume and is a long way from the hospitals. Mr. Atkinson stated that this past weekend Sooke was without coverage for 12 hours. Mr. Atkinson expressed concern that taking services from one place and putting them somewhere else does not solve the problem, the trial is unethical as time counts, minutes count. It was also noted that the cross coverage is a terrible waste of resources related to the policy for an ambulance to sit at Kangaroo Road. Mr Atkinson stated that a grievance has been filed as there are no facilities and no rest area. Mr. Atkinson referred to the commitments made to Council so that the WestShore has covered and expressed concerns as to the units being pulled into Victoria. The resources should be increased in the Victoria area. Mr. Atkinson suggested that Council send a letter to the BCAS Executive Director and noted that the round trip time should be questioned and that statistics will not show and account for the side trips into the WestShore area.

Moonfist, commented on borders being a non issue and stated that the trial may identify where the need for service is.

MOVED to send a letter to the BCAS Executive Director expressing the concerns as to the lack of municipal consultation and the impacts on coverage and response time for the service in Sooke.

CARRIED

4. **Sign Regulation Bylaw**

Gerard LeBlanc provided an explanation of the process to date and Bonnie Sprinkling introduced Mary Jane Rose, representing the Sign Bylaw Review Committee.

Ms. Rose provided the history of the Sign Bylaw Review Committee process and the mandate to review the current bylaw and make recommendations for Council consideration.

The Committee overviewed the changes to the regulatory bylaw and the following is a summary of the discussion:

- Difficulty with understanding the exceptions – it was explained that a regulatory bylaw must not be silent to enable enforcement
- Conforming signs are grandfathered
- Council of the day provides direction to enforce or not to enforce

- Checklist available on the form – It was noted that Development Services will be creating a new form
- Clarity on Open House Realtor Signage
- Large Pylon signs and Wayfinding signs to alleviate the need for sandwich board signage
- Sponsorship signage to be mounted on the inside of fencing
- Home based and commercial signage
- Third party signage clarification and examples
- Realtor signage removed 7 days after house is sold
- Electronic message board SEAPARC and High School – signage falls under government institution.
- Signage not allowed on the Hydro poles
- Construction signage allowed while constructing
- Special event signage
- A reserve fund for the fines and permit fees
- Definition of a billboard sign – prohibited due to size
- Garage sale and community event signage
- Banners

Public Input:

Moonfist, resident, inquired as to backlit signs and expressed concerns as to fluorescent lighting.

MOVED to receive from the Sooke Bylaw Review Committee draft Bylaw No. 480, *Sign Regulation Bylaw, 2011*;

AND direct staff to proceed with Bylaw No. 480, including:

- a. Forwarding Bylaw No. 480 to Council for first and second reading;
- b. Scheduling of public input meeting for Bylaw No. 480;
- c. Forwarding Bylaw No. 480 to the Sooke Harbour Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders for comment.

CARRIED

5. **Wild Fire Protection Plan**

Fire Chief Sorensen provided an overview of the Wild Fire Protection Plan which indicates the lowest and highest threat of a wild fire. The Committee discussed using the document as a guide for staff when considering developments. Fire Chief Sorensen reported that there is an opportunity to apply for a grant for a fuel treatment demonstration project.

The Committee Discussed:

- Penticton Interface Vehicle has extensive knowledge and educational material
- CRD Watered areas and Wells within Sooke
- CRD Water Services and CRD Park involvement
- Fire Smart guidelines for developers

- Average Danger Class Per Month colours have two blue spectrums – hard to reference
- Key pad entry to replace locks on gates
- Evacuation plan

Public Input:

There was no public participation.

MOVED to receive the Final Draft of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for review; **AND TO** direct staff to provide comments back to consultants for completion of the final document.

CARRIED

6. Fortis BC Agreement

Sue-Lin Tarnowski provided a power point presentation of the Interim Operating Agreement with Fortis BC as well as a negotiation update as to the new contract and franchise and operating fees.

The Committee discussed the high priority operation issues:

- Cross bores
- Construction standards
- Design and as-built drawing standards
- Defining standard gas main locations
- Field locates
- Reconstruction costs
- As-built and construction certification

Ms. Tarnowski explained the objective of negotiating as a group to ensure that the high priority operations are met and to opt out of the 3% franchise fee. The Committee inquired as to what the estimated 3% fee would be for the District of Sooke.

Public Input:

Wendel Milne, resident, commented on franchise agreements and the ownership of infrastructure. Mr. Milne inquired as to the current agreement being imposed on Vancouver Island municipalities.

Gail Hall, resident, quoted a resolution of June 9, 2003 relating to Terasen (Centra) Gas and that the executed agreement expires in 2019. Staff clarified that the agreement was not approved and not signed.

Ms. Hall provided information from the Nanaimo News Bulletin in regards to franchise fee regulations and responsibilities.

MOVED to receive the Fortis BC negotiation update report.

CARRIED

MOVED to direct staff to continue discussions with Fortis, other interested local governments, AVICC and provincial government to protect operational interests and to provide Council the future ability to access operating or franchise fees;

AND TO direct staff to bring forward further information as to the 3% franchise fee for council consideration.

CARRIED

7. **Motion to close the meeting to the public**

MOVED to close the meeting to the public under section 90(1) (e) to discuss the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

CARRIED

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Janet Evans
Mayor

Bonnie Sprinkling
Corporate Officer