

**MALCOLM ISLAND ADVISORY COMMISSION (MIAC)**

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020C.E.

Old Medical Building, 270 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Sointula, BC

PRESENT: Sandra Daniels, RDMW Electoral "A" Director  
Carmen Burrows, Roger Lanqvist, Joy Davidson, Dennis Swanson,  
Michelle Pottage, Guy Carlson.

STAFF: Patrick Donaghy - Manager of Operations  
Rose Liu, Treasurer

ABSENT: Chris Chateauvert, Sheila Roote  
Jeff Long - Manager of Planning & Development Services

PUBLIC: No Public Delegations.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carmen Burrows called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m. (19:10)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda for the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 MIAC meeting.

**Motion** that the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 MIAC agenda be approved with the following additions:

- Appointment of Chair, Vice, Secretary.
- Knotweed

M, S, Carried

**ADOPTION OF: Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 MINUTES**

**Motion** the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 MIAC Minutes be approved.

M, S, Carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Updates from Patrick

Budget situation for 2020: Patrick & Rose

- Fire Truck for Sointula Volunteer Fire Department.

- In 2019 Sointula's Fire Truck was paid for out of Reserve funds. Fire truck was purchased in 2006 with no interest incurred.
- Estimated costs at current rates of inflation, for a new Fire Truck is at \$450,000.00CAD by 2030C.E. the cost of a new truck is estimated at approximately \$600,000.00CAD
- Need to start saving for the inevitable, future Fire Truck now. Costs for a new truck are estimated to have increases of up to 3%/year due to inflation.

- Sointula's Fire Truck is well maintained, sheltered and not used very often, we may get up to 25 years of service of which, 11 years are remaining before requiring to purchase a new truck by 2031C.E.
- In 2021, if we put \$30,000.00CAD/year going forward, we may have the truck paid off within 5 years after purchase. If debt cannot be paid within 5 years after purchase, you must go to the public to pay the debt.
- Insurance on vehicle would pay out up to the amount on file at time of purchase and not take inflation rates into consideration.
- Live Fire Training for Fire Fighters cannot use equipment over 10 years old. Fire Department purchased 3 sets of turn out gear recently. With the intent to send 3 firefighters for Live Fire Training.
- Current operational costs are at \$16,000.00CAD
- Radios need replacing estimated costs at approx. \$2,000.00CAD
- S.C.B.A.'s will need replacing and can cost up to \$12,000.00CAD for used.
- Current operational budget is \$40,000.00CAD  
R.D.M.W. recommends increasing the operational budget to reflect inflation rates of approx. 3%/year.  
This can increase the operational budget up to \$60,000.00CAD within the next 6 years.
- Will need to replace existing bylaw to get the Fire Department to sustainable financial support.
- Rose says the current bylaw allows for up to \$40,000.00CAD/year from 2005C.E. Need to update bylaw from fixed to a mill-rate that takes into consideration inflation rates over the coming years.

**Motion** The Malcolm Island Advisory Commission supports the tax requisition be set for the Sointula Fire Protection service be \$43,050.00CAD and Regional District staff initiate a process to raise the tax cap for the long term financial sustainability of the service in 2020.

D, G, Carried

**Motion** To pursue a fiscal model that allows a ramping to the operational budget in reflection of inflation on an annual basis.

D, G, Carried

- *Street Lights Budgeting.* (20:03)

- Current annual cap on funding is \$10,000.00CAD and is not enough. Actual spent in 2019 was \$13,000.00CAD.
- Current funding expenditures is restricted to requisition based off of current bylaw from 1989.
- There is a \$4,000.00CAD reserve.
- All street lights are moving towards LED; which should make costs go down, but by how much? When is the LED conversion to take place?
- BC Hydro carries the cost and will pay for the conversion of current street lights, to LED. Will this reflect higher rates in Hydro?

**Motion** The Malcolm Island Advisory Commission supports the tax requisition be set for the Sointula Street Light service be \$10,500.00 for 2020.

D, G, Carried

- *Garbage.* (20:13)

- Self inflicted shortfall costs in 2018 that no one noticed. February's cost didn't go through resulting in 13 months in 2018 as opposed to 11 months in 2019.
- Need to balance budget by adding 5% for garbage/recycling. R.D.M.W. is recommending charging \$3.00CAD/garbage bag drop off, rather than the current \$2.00CAD/bag.
- Rate for a pickup load is currently approximately: \$20/load. Need to bring rate up to cover transportation costs for bin.
- Current regulations includes a possible tipping fee for bringing in garbage but will not be brought into place unless everyone in the district follows through as well.
- Tipping fees are waived on cleanups of beaches.
- Follow up on this in 2021, there are operational reserves to help balance the short falls.
- Raising garbage fees may result in people dumping on logging roads.
- R.D.M.W. insists the increase of fees is necessary to cover operational costs.
- When new fees are set, can they be posted on the R.D.M.W. website and at drop-site?
- Increase fee for truck load drop-off will be brought to the attention at the next MIAC meeting in February.

**Motion** Cover \$10,000.00 from reserve and increase recycling fees by 5% for roadside pickup and change \$3.00CAD/bag for dropping fees. Recycling charge increase of 3.5%

G, D, J-Opposed, Carried

- Sewer. (20:27)

- Not calling for an increase.
- Lack of oxygen in the system
- Recent tests were not seeing an oxygen fall-off as was expected.
- In actuality there was a lack of bacteria in the system.
- More sludge was pumped back into the system to increase the bacterial population. Within 2 weeks oxygen levels began to drop and the bacteria began to eat up the organics.
- Environment Canada was pleased with these results. Sointula's innovations showed a method of adjusting oxygen levels through measuring oxygen levels and adjusting sludge and analyzing the results. This resulted in the plant working better than before and showed solutions that will save money in other plants around the province.
- No sewer hook-up at #120 1<sup>st</sup> St. Location is still on septic tank.  
R.D.M.W. will write them a letter giving them 2 months to hook-up.

**Motion** The Malcolm Island Advisory Commission supports the continuance of the current sewer fee structure for 2020.

D, M, Carried.

2. Knotweed (20:37)

- Dennis Swanson intends to invite Jillian MacDonald of Strategic Natural Resource Consultants, to speak at the next MIAC meeting in February or March, regarding Knotweed.
- Jillian can also talk in regards to wildfire preparedness.
- There will possibly be another year of government funding for the Knotweed elimination program.
- Leonard Nelson, Kelly Robinson and Graham MacDonald to speak at the public meeting in opposition of Glyphosate spraying.

### **Old Business (20:43)**

#### *- Containment Wall at Recycling Centre.*

- No current plans. Will start organizing plans hopefully by Spring ideally sooner.
- Factor into transfer budget under gas tax.

### **Resignation(s) (20:46)**

#### *- Sheila Roote is resigning.*

- Carmen will ask Sheila if she will consider a temporary leave of absence.
- Sandy will look into the bylaws to see if it is allowable to have a leave of absence.
- Sandy will call Chris Chateauvert to see if he intends to remain on the MIAC board, as he has been absent for several meetings.
- Sandy will look into the regulations within the bylaws to see how many consecutive absences to meetings are permissible.

### **\*\*\*Hiatus\*\*\* (20:49)**

- Sandy called B.C. Ferries in Port McNeill, to ensure the last ferry is not cancelled due to the storm, which would leave Patrick and Rose stranded in Sointula overnight.

#### *-General Comment (20:52)*

- A better method of public notice of bylaw changes should be made possible to bring general publics awareness to them. Post bylaws on a public noticeboard in town.
- Process is already in writing and may be subjective to change.

### **Appointment of Chair, Vice, Secretary (20:58)**

- **Chair:** Michelle Nominated: Carmen,  
Sandy Nominated: Roger,  
Carmen Accepted.
- **Vice:** Dennis Nominated: Michelle,  
Michelle Accepted.
- **Secretary:** Michelle Nominated: Roger,  
Patrick Appointed Roger by Acclimation.  
Roger Accepted the role temporarily.

#### *General Comment*

Roger can not take on the role as Secretary on a permanent full-time basis as he cannot guarantee the time dedicated to typing out the minutes outside of MIAC meetings.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** (21:04)

- No notes.
- A new tourism business coming to town. Sandy will be relocating a shed on a currently vacant property to a location residing by the hotel, downtown on 1<sup>st</sup> St. The building has been purportedly allowed to be moved to the new location by the owner of the property's sister, and will be used as the office for the new business.
- Possibility of adding speed bumps in select locations of 1<sup>st</sup> St.

**\*\*\*Hiatus\*\*\*** (21:07)

- Call came in, ferries will be running, Rose and Patrick left the meeting to catch the ferry.

**PUBLIC:** No Public Delegations

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**QUESTIONS FROM FLOOR:** None

**ROUND TABLE COMMENTS:** (21:10)

- Updates to bylaws to reflect current events.
- May require extra MIAC meetings that are unofficial, outside of official monthly meetings to discuss reviewing current bylaws that may need to be updated to current affairs.
- Converse through e-mail regarding updating any potential bylaws before bringing to official MIAC meetings.
- Start with oldest bylaws and open discussion to see if any updates are required.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020C.E. at 7:15p.m. (19:15)

**ADJOURN** meeting called to adjournment at 9:30p.m. (21:30) by Chair: Carmen Burrows