

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, November 12, 2024
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Zachary Wells

Council Members Absent: Councillor Dusty Smith

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Robin Beukens, Director of Community Development
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer

Others Present: 3 members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the November 12, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Committee of the Whole

Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held October 28, 2024 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. STAFF REPORTS

(a) **Report dated October 31, 2024 from the Director of Operations**
Re: Summer Road Private Water System

The Director of Operations advised that Staff have prepared a report to present options for the integration of the Summer Road Private Water System. He noted that the East Kawkawa Lake Water System is supplied by a single well that directly feeds a 53m³ reservoir that is designed to improve well pump operation, but is not suitable for daily flow balancing, emergency storage, or to provide sufficient firefighting flow. He added that the supply of water is sufficient for only 2-3 minutes of hydrant flow, and that the entire East Kawkawa Lake area is no longer recognized as hydrant-protected due to these limitations. This has resulted in increased insurance premiums for residents in the area.

Proposed Network Improvements:

- Phase 1
 - Creation of a 300mm diameter supply main between the 138 zone and the East Kawkawa Lake zone to provide redundancy to both systems.
 - By connecting the two zones, the need for a larger reservoir and additional pumps is negated as existing wells 8 and 10 would become available to both zones.
 - This solution is recommended by the Water Master Plan to address system deficiencies.
- Phase 2
 - Replacement of the undersized watermain that currently services properties on Kawkawa Lake Road with a new main that has the capacity to provide for fire flow requirements.
 - Involves the creation of a loop connection between Kereluk Road and Stephens Road.
- Phase 3
 - Includes expansion of the water system further along Kawkawa Lake Road, past Camp Kawkawa, to the end of the road.
 - Expansion up Johnson Road would be undertaken looping back to Kereluk Road to complete the network.

The Director of Operations advised that the District would not be utilizing the existing Summer Road Water System as it has done with the 753 Water System due to its non-municipal standard construction. He noted that it would be a full abandonment of the existing system and a new network would be constructed in its place. Council inquired as to whether Well 8 would continue to be utilized after the Zone 138 and East Kawkawa Lake Zone connection is completed. The Director of Operations advised that it would stay in use with the addition of an altitude valve

due to the differing elevations of the reservoirs.

Council inquired as to which of the identified phases the Summer Road Water System project would take place. The Director of Operations advised that Phase 1 should be completed before the consideration of any expansion to the water system. He advised that this expansion would occur concurrently to include Phase 2, 3 and Summer Road. Council inquired as to the timeline for the completion of the Summer Road portion of the project. The Director of Operations advised that ideally, the project will be completed within the extension provided by the Province to comply with the Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing regulations, December 31, 2030. He added that as phases are completed, areas which have received sufficient water service can have the Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing regulations applied to them.

Council inquired as to what liability the District holds should the Summer Road Water System suffer a failure prior to the District amalgamating the system. The Director of Operations advised that in his opinion, it is a private water system that is not under the jurisdiction of the District, so the District holds no responsibility for its operation. He noted that if it were to fail, there would likely be political pressure on the District to act. Council noted that the report provided by the residents of Summer Road indicated that there are other options to resolve their situation, but that amalgamation with the District may be the best one.

Council inquired as to whether connecting the East Kawkawa Lake Zone to Zone 138 would supply water to all of the properties in East Kawkawa Lake. The Director of Operations advised that the connection would create a redundant supply to all properties along the blue lines in Figure 1 of the report. Council inquired as to whether grant funding is required to complete the phases outlined in the report. The Director of Operations advised that work is being done to ensure that the District has projects prepared for grant opportunities that become available. He added that alternative funding through long-term borrowing or reserves may be necessary if grant funding is not available.

Council inquired as to what the response to property owners in the East Kawkawa Lake Zone would be when asked for a timeline to achieve fire protection capacity. The Director of Operations advised that for existing water customers, the goal is to achieve connection prior to December 31, 2030. He added that they would like to accomplish this sooner and will bring forward costing to Council once those figures have been determined.

Council noted that they would like to Rise and Report the recommended resolution, regarding Option 3 as outlined in the report, to the November 12, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

Moved / Seconded

THAT expansion of the East Kawkawa Lake Water System on Summer Road not be considered until such time as a connection between Zone 138 and the East Kawkawa Lake Zone is completed and that any future expansion is to include all un-serviced areas in East Kawkawa Lake; and

FURTHER THAT Council Rise and Report to the November 12, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. **CARRIED.**

5. QUESTION PERIOD

Bob Shore, resident of Summer Road and President of the Summer Road Ratepayers Association, noted that the association has its own liability insurance for the water system through Fraser Health. He advised that he has been working with the Director of Operations over the years and noted that the main concerns of residents include the costs that they will be responsible for and ongoing testing and maintenance by aging users. He advised that the existing pipes are made of PVC and were installed in 1964 and were not buried very deep which will lead to eventual failure, although he has been able to add another aquifer to the system and maintain the catchment. It was noted that he will speak with the Comptroller of Water Rights to see if there are any funds available for the proposed works.

The CAO advised that in his dealings with the Comptroller of Water Rights he does not recall if they had funds available but noted that they do urge municipalities to take on systems that are assumable.

6. CLOSE

Moved / Seconded

THAT the November 12, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourn at 6:57 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 12, 2024 in Council Chambers of the District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services