



Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Village of Chase
held in the Council Chamber of the Village Office at 826 Okanagan Avenue
on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: S. Scott, Chairperson
R. Berrigan
N. Egely
D. Lepsoe
A. Maki

FINAL

In Attendance: J. Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer
L. Pedersen, Director of Financial Services

Public Gallery: 6

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Scott called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Maki

“That the April 7, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda be adopted as amended with the addition of Item 6.3 – Washrooms at Memorial Park - Opening prior to regular scheduled opening; and Item 6.4 - Request to honour Dr. Vagyi”

CARRIED

#2015/04/07_001

3. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Egely

Seconded by Mayor Berrigan

“That the March 3, 2015 Village of Chase Committee of the Whole meeting minutes be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

#2015/04/07_002

4. **DELEGATIONS**

None.

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1 Final Budget and Tax Rates

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That the report on 2015 budget changes as presented to the Committee of the Whole on April 7, 2015 be received for information.”

CARRIED

#2015/04/07_003

Discussion ensued regarding tax rates:

- Province has been encouraging the reduction in business tax ratios to encourage competition
- In our present financial situation, it will take 3 years of at least a 3% tax increase in each year for Council to begin putting funds into reserves
- A 3% tax increase in 2015 along with taxes generated on new construction/assessed values will provide 3% in additional revenues

Moved by Councillor Scott

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That the report regarding Property Tax rates for the 2015 budget preparation be received for information.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_004**

Moved by Councillor Egely

Seconded by Councillor Maki

“That Administration apply a 3% general tax increase for municipal taxes when developing the 2015 tax rates.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_005**

Tax ratios were discussed in relation to the commercial sector. It was queried whether there are options to either reduce the tax ratio for businesses or if there are other ways to assist this sector to thrive. Council was reminded that a reduction in commercial tax shifts the tax burden to the residential sector.

Moved by Councillor Scott

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That Administration brings forward options for discussion for the creation of a policy for commercial sector taxation ratios in Chase.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_006**

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That the amended 2015 budget and the proposed five year plan, both presented at the April 7, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved in preparation of the official five year plan Bylaw.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_007**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Wi-Fi at Community Hall

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Maki

“That a timer be applied to the wireless internet access at the Community and that the service be provided to the public and Community Hall user groups between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_008**

6.2 Request from Haldane Elementary School – Earth Day Assembly

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Maki

“That Councillor Scott be appointed to attend the Earth Day Assembly at the Haldane Elementary School on April 22, 2015.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_009**

6.3 Washrooms at Memorial Park

Mayor Berrigan stated that the past weekend Easter event at Memorial Park and the unavailability of the washrooms was a lack of communication and possibly a misinterpretation of what was requested and what was possible.

It was further noted that for the future, a policy/procedure should be in place to address these types of situations when the washrooms are not yet open to the public on a regular schedule.

He stated that he was unhappy to hear that he and his Council members were publicly slighted because the washrooms were not made available, when there was very little lead time for the request and that there is still frost in the mornings which could damage water pipes.

Discussion:

- Washrooms are integral part of park and should be made more available
- Council reduced the Village’s operating budget by almost \$250,000 for 2015 – if washrooms are provided for every event at \$300 per event, the savings from the budget cuts would quickly be eroded
- A policy needs to be in place to provide guidance to Administration with respect to special events/requests for washroom use
- Such a policy would need to ensure that the user groups know there would be a cost incurred by them to provide the washrooms during ‘off season’

6.4 Request to Honour Dr. Vagyi

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Scott

“That the Village of Chase provide for a memorial bench in honour of Dr. Michael Vagyi for placement in Memorial Park.”

**CARRIED
#2015/04/07_010**

Opportunity for the Public to Discuss Local Government Issues of Interest and Concern

Mr. Graham Bell

- Asked about the status of the letter he wrote to Council regarding the Loan Authorization Bylaw for the Golf Course – Administration responded by saying that a response is being awaited from the Province of BC
- Mr. Bell also stated that Council's strategic plan does not have any percentages of savings/cost increases
- Mr. Bell stated that a 10% increase in water rates over 4 years seems very high

Bill MacPherson/Beverly Murphy

- Informed Council of their dispute with their neighbour at 724 Hysop Road – his dock being utilized for a commercial marina (moorage) when he is not permitted by the Province to have more than a private dock
- Provided some documentation that had already been passed to Administration
- Have been in touch with the Provincial Forests Lands and Natural Resources ministry staff regarding the dock and its improper usage
- Raised concerns about the traffic and usage of the public access to the lake for parking by the owners of the boats moored at the dock – neighbours have been verbally threatened and bullied

Mayor Berrigan stated that Administration will be reviewing the document and will bring forward more information to Council for further action.

Rollie Mockford

- Complimented Councillor Lepsoe on initiating a reduction by half of rental waivers for the community hall earlier in 2015
- Tax exemptions add up to a lot of money – hopefully Council is considering a way to recoup some of those lost taxes
- Regarding the Memorial Park washrooms, they should be open for events

Beverly Iglasias

- Confirmed she was not speaking on behalf of the Chase Lions Club
- She was disappointed that her request for the washrooms to be open for an Easter event for children and families was denied
- Why have a state of the art building for washrooms in Memorial Park and not have them open for events?
- Other normal Spring clean-up activities have been occurring, why could the washrooms not have been opened?
- Understood that the Mayor would bring her issue up at a Council meeting
- Without washrooms, her event would have had to be cancelled – she was able to secure port-a-potties at a cost of almost \$400
- Thanked Councillor Lepsoe for supporting her
- I reached out and asked for help and I say, "Shame on our community" for not stepping up to provide the washrooms
- Provided a petition asking that washrooms be made available for special events

Lynne Moyer

- When will water meter sample billings begin?

7. IN-CAMERA

Moved by Mayor Berrigan

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That Council recess to an In Camera meeting pursuant to Section 90 (1) of the Community Charter, paragraph (c) regarding employee relations.”

CARRIED
#2015/04/07_011

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Maki

Seconded by Councillor Egely

“That the April 7, 2015 Village of Chase Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED
#2015/04/07_012

Chairperson Scott adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

S. Scott, Chairperson

J. Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer