



MINUTES

of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Village of Chase
held in the Council Chamber at the Village office at 826 Okanagan Avenue, and via Zoom
on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Lepsoe
Councillor Colin Connett
Councillor Ron Harder
Councillor Jane Herman
Councillor Fred Torbohm

In Attendance: Joni Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer (via Zoom)
Sean O'Flaherty, Director of Corporate Operations
Deb Lovin, Director of Financial Services
Mike McLean, Deputy Corporate Officer

Public Participants: 18 in-person, 6 via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lepsoe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Harder

Seconded by Councillor Herman

**"THAT the agenda of the March 7, 2023 Special Meeting be adopted as amended
to add an opportunity for the public to speak on municipal matters."**

CARRIED

#2023/03/07_001

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

None

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

Carolyn Parks-Mintz along with James Mintz congratulated the Chief Financial Officer for creating the budget report and providing such comprehensive information in the short time she has worked for the Village of Chase.

6. DELEGATIONS

None

7. REPORTS

None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 2023 Covid-19 Safe Restart Fund

The Chief Financial Officer presented a status report on the remaining funds the Village received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing's \$879,000 COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant.

Moved by Councillor Torbohm
Seconded by Councillor Herman

"THAT the remaining Covid-19 Safe Restart Fund balance of approximately \$13,933 be allocated to information technology upgrades for the municipal office, and the fire hall."

**CARRIED
#2023/03/07_002**

9.2 2023 Operational and Capital Budget Review

The Chief Financial Officer presented the proposed operational and capital budgets for the various Village departments.

<Councillor Connett left at 4:46 p.m.; returned at 4:48 p.m.>

<Councillor Torbohm left at 4:48 p.m.; returned at 4:51 p.m.>

The CFO explained:

- Amortization noting that its an annual expense that is required to be reported on equipment and infrastructure
- The revenues for grants is higher than what was budgeted in 2022 as we received additional grant funds after the 2022 budget was completed
- She explained various expense variances including call-outs for Fire Department, savings in certain areas, and amortization not being expensed in some departments, savings in the Community Hall cleaning contract

The CFO showed two departments' budgets in detail due to concerns about a few expenses. Two new and larger budget items for 2023 in Parks and Recreation are attributed to tree management (removal of dead/dying trees) and fixing the irrigation system at the Museum. She explained that Community Hall budget shows a savings in 2022 as a result of a new cleaning contract.

The CFO showed the comparison between the 2022 and 2023 budgets. She explained that the budget for 2023 is approximately 5% above the 2022 budget, in the amount of approximately \$99,850.

The CFO showed slides relating to Capital Projects done in 2022 and ongoing or proposed for 2023.

Upcoming meetings were noted for Financial Plan and Tax Rates bylaws.

Moved by Councillor Harder
Seconded by Councillor Herman

“THAT the Chief Financial Officer’s report on the 2023 Operational and Capital Budget be received for information.”

CARRIED
#2023/03/07_002

10. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

11. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Rick Berrigan of 1233 Bay Drive, referred to the Brooke Drive beautification and asked why MoTI is not paying for this. He also asked why the Village is paying for lighting on Brooke Drive between Safety Mart and Shuswap when it is MoTI’s design to make that the main entrance into Chase. He also stated that we don’t need a new plow truck we should buy a street sweeper and do our streets once a month.

The Corporate Officer responded that MoTI is paying a large portion of the lighting on Brooke Drive, and that they will not pay for any beautification of the roundabout. The \$5000 budgeted is for Council to explore various options for beautification.

He added that the plow truck is 22 years old and nearing the end of its life – a truck that will handle a belly blade will be more efficient.

Councillor Connett stated that the plow truck equipment is good – the Village used to have a belly plow years ago and it was never used. He suggested an angle blade on the loader would make much more sense.

Rick Berrigan also noted to put unionized Village staff as operators of the Arena would be very expensive. He asked if the headworks upgrade will alleviate the smell at the lagoons. The corporate officer answered that it will in part with the other works that are being done to the Sewer Treatment facility.

Blaine Covington of 420 Juniper Street was pleased to see the possibility of an emergency coordinator and looks forward to the report regarding this. He also asked what the \$35,000 for the Curling rink is for and the CFO explained it is to repair the roof and that the Village is waiting for the federal go-ahead on this project.

Dan Stevens, of 1016 2nd Avenue said that people want to see what is spent on flowers and generally what various department budgets are comprised of. He also asked if the Village is receiving any Active Transportation funding this year, and other than the Mill Park Boat Launch, what the does the Village do in relation to tourism.

Sheri Bojcic of 350 Juniper Street asked why the Village of Chase is giving money to the Arena when they generate income. She also stated that the paving on Juniper stopped halfway through her property which didn’t make sense to her and is wondering when the rest of the paving might occur.

Comments were made by members of Council that the Arena generates money to operate but is not enough to cover all the costs of running an Arena.

Devon Olson of 424 Larch Street questioned the Covid-19 restart funds. \$879,000 was the total amount, but only \$3,000 went to Chase Community Services. She asked if this is for the vulnerable population of Chase.

Blaine Covington stated that he is part of the Chase Community Service Society, and has two vehicles used to transport seniors and those with disabilities to medical appointments. The \$3000 assisted the Society in purchasing their second vehicle.

Devon Olson continued speaking to the Covid-19 fund report, that it refers to funds for vulnerable population individuals and wondering why no funds have been allocated for them. There is no talk of vulnerable persons anywhere in the budget. Staff indicated they would get back directly to Ms. Olson on this matter.

Kim Campbell of 5-746 Thompson Avenue asked about the Arena contractor receiving \$180,000 annually. It was noted that the contractor pays for all staffing costs, supplies, WCB costs as the operator of the facility. He also asked why the pathways in Willson Park were paved last year but Thompson Avenue was not paved. Staff noted that the scope of the original projects had to be reduced significantly due to the costs of paving. He added that the Village did receive grant funds to do the intersection improvements at Thompson Avenue and Chase Street.

Mr. Campbell also asked if the Village is aware that public works employees take Village vehicles home. The cost of fuel is significant. The Mayor noted that the employee is on call, and being in a Village owned vehicle allows that staff member to attend directly to the emergency situation.

Beverley Iglesias of 621 3rd Avenue gave kudos to the CFO for preparing a budget after only working with the Village for 3 months. She also asked if the Village applied for a grant to assist with the cost of the Summer Program. The CFO stated that the deadline for the grant was very soon after she started with the Village and the deadline passed before she was able to apply for the grant.

Ms. Iglesias asked if the funds the Village will be receiving from the Province can be used for services toward youth in the community. She also asked if the Recreation Society will be putting something in place for usage of the Arena during the summer months. Councillor Herman noted that in order to offer any activities 30 hours of ice time rental per week is required simply to break even to keep the ice in. There is a dry floor rental cost which can be provided to Ms. Iglesias.

Rollie Mockford of 25-504 Pine Street is concerned about the recreation society business and asked Councillor Herman what she has to do with the Recreation Centre Society. As volunteers it is my opinion that both Councillor Herman and the Mayor are in a conflict of interest in relation to their association with the Recreation Centre Society and should not be voting on matters relating to the Society. People should know that the Village contributes between 11% and 18% of taxation to the Recreation Centre Society for the Arena.

Mayor Lepsoe noted that the Recreation Centre Society has an annual general meeting every year and it is open to the public.

Carolyn Parks-Mintz noted that you get what you pay for. She said she and her husband were amazed when they first moved to Chase about how many amenities the Village of Chase has for such a small community. She added that an Emergency Coordinator would be most beneficial for the Village as we are one highway away from a major wildfire. She also referred to difference between the tax collection on schedule B and the tax rate setting on Schedule D. CFO said she would get back to Mrs. Parks-Mintz regarding this matter. Mrs. Parks-Mintz asked if the Evacuation Route Plan has been completed and it was confirmed that it has been. She thanked the CFO and Council for their work.

Shirley Papiz of 228 Arbutus asked what the Downtown Improvement Plan is about and why funds are allocated to the downtown clock and the Pocket Park. The Corporate Officer stated it is very preliminary and will provide for a plan to work towards various improvements to the downtown core. The clock is a long standing matter initiated by the former Council and will be completed once the parts are acquired. The pocket park was kept up by a volunteer but after they vacated the lands they were not well kept so the public requested the Village ensure that land is well maintained.

Kim Campbell asked what the TNRD does for the Village in the event of an emergency.

Zilly Palamar of 141 Shuswap Avenue stated that information about upcoming meetings especially budget meetings should be better advertised – she said she doesn't go on Facebook so putting information there does not help her. She also suggested that the budget meeting dates should be advertised farther in advance in the newspaper as Council knows that they will be doing budget meetings every year. Council meetings should also be advertised in the newspaper.

Ms. Palamar also asked about the Covid-19 restart funds. In 2020 these amounts of moneys were given to us and the allocation was done in 2021 to the Adams River Salmon Society. The Village owns a number of facilities and at the last meeting we gave grant-in-aid money to groups that are operating Village owned facilities – I do not approve of grant-in-aid money. In my opinion this is double dipping.

12. RELEASE OF IN CAMERA ITEMS

None

13. IN CAMERA

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

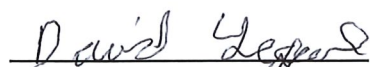
Moved by Councillor Harder


Seconded by Councillor Connett

"THAT the March 7, 2023 Special Meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED
#2023/03/07_003

The meeting concluded at 5:40 p.m.


David Lepsoe, Mayor


Sean O'Flaherty, Corporate Officer