



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF KENT

A SPECIAL IN CAMERA JOINT MEETING
of the Councils of the District of Kent
and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs
in Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, Agassiz, BC
on Tuesday, **October 29, 2024** at 3:30 p.m.

IN CAMERA MINUTES - CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Elected Officials

District of Kent

Mayor S. Pranger
Councillor D. Post
Councillor K. Schwichtenberg
Councillor S. Spaeti
Councillor S. Watchorn

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Mayor F. Talen
Councillor L. Facio
Councillor A. Jackson
Councillor M. Schweinbenz
Councillor M. Vidal

Appointed Personnel

District of Kent

Mr. W. Mah, Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Lee, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. M. Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services
Mr. G. Basten, Fire Chief
Mr. S. Gormley, Manager of Community Services & Projects
Ms. J. Bentrouti, Executive Assistant
Ms. L. Jonk, Assistant Deputy Corporate Officer (Recording Secretary)

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Mr. T. Koch, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. S. Schultz, Finance Manager
Ms. A. Graham, Corporate Officer

1 Call to Order

Mayor Pranger called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and acknowledged that we are on the Stó:lō traditional territory with our neighbours of Cheam First Nation, Seabird Island and with the independent communities of Sts'ailes and Sq'ewlets First Nation.

VIDAL / WATCHORN

THAT the Public be excluded and the meeting move In Camera under the *Community Charter*, pursuant to Section 90(1) (g) and (k) related to legal and proposed service delivery matters.

CARRIED

2 Introduction of Late Items or Supplemental Agenda

3 Approval of Agenda

SPAETI / SCHWEINBENZ

THAT the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of October 29, 2024 be approved; and

THAT all items set to the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of October 29, 2024 be received for information.

CARRIED

4 Minutes

4.1 Special In Camera Joint Meeting held June 22, 2023

JACKSON / VIDAL

THAT the minutes of the Special In Camera Joint Meeting held June 22, 2023 be received for information.

CARRIED

5 Items for Discussion – Joint Services

4.1 Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre

The Director of Financial Services, M. Veenbaas, and the Manager of Recreation/Culture and Projects, S. Gormley, spoke to the presentation attached as Appendix 'A'.

In reply to Mayor Talen, W. Mah stated that when the District originally applied for the funding for the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC) the application was made with a Regional approach, including the local First Nations communities and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

Councillor Facio stated that the LRRAC is a fantastic addition to the area.

In answer to Councillor Facio, M. Veenbaas advised that if the District were to borrow the full \$25,000,000, the cost per dwelling would be \$345 annually. Ideally, the District will borrow \$10,000,000 or less which would put the annual cost per dwelling at \$140.

Councillor Jackson commented that when the Village and the District met last year, the Village was in a very different place. As we are all entering into budget time, we have to work with the reality that this is a great facility for the entire region.



Councillor Schweinbenz expressed that it shouldn't matter what side of the McPherson you are on, everyone should be able to use the facility. He is supportive of finding a way to making a partnership work between the Village and the District.

Mayor Pranger explained that the term 'Lets'emot' is Halq'eme'ylem for 'one heart one mind.' This name came about as we already work closely with the C2C partners of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Seabird Island Band, Cheam First Nation, Sq'ewlets First Nation and Sts'ailes First Nation. This is a focus of ours to ensure that we can continue to do more work together and provide services to make the region stronger.

In reply to Councillor Vidal, M. Veenbaas advised that the District received \$9,500,000 funding from the Province and \$500,000 from the Federal government. The Federal government provided funding to each Province allowing them to recommend projects to fund. This breakdown allows more flexibility in using the Community Works Fund, which is a Federal grant, but because their contribution looks so small, there are no issues with grant stacking.

Mayor Pranger noted that MLA Kelli Paddon fought hard for the District and this project is a result of some of her work as well. The District continues to apply for grants for solar panels and other items that can reduce the operating cost.

Councillor Vidal added that MP Brad Vis also has been constantly advocating in Ottawa for the LRRAC as well.

In answer to Councillor Vidal, M. Veenbaas explained that unfortunately, construction was delayed and began at the end of July/early August which immediately put the project three or four months behind schedule. The construction window is 18 months, and we will have possession for occupancy in early June 2026; however, things can change in that time.

Councillor Watchorn commented that he hears a strong commitment from the Village to make something work and he is appreciative of that.

Councillor Facio enquired about the response received from the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Electoral Area D regarding the LRRAC?

Mayor Pranger advised that the District has not had a meeting with FVRD Electoral Area D yet as the District wanted to meet with the Village first.



In reply to Councillor Facio, W. Mah explained that the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) is only required if the Village needs to borrow. That is something that the Village will have to discuss amongst themselves. It was reiterated that the District is still working to secure grant funding for things such as solar panels and the numbers brought forward this afternoon are estimates in terms of what it may cost to operate the LRRAC.



W. Mah explained to Councillor Schweinbenz that as mentioned in the presentation, staff are currently proposing a two-tiered system. If the Village was to be a regional partner for the LRRAC that would not necessarily be the case. As a partner, Village residents will have the same benefits as a District resident.

Mayor Talen asked if Electoral Area D is not willing to partner with the District, with the costs shown in the presentation today change?



M. Veenbaas replied that the numbers would change, because the numbers shown in the presentation are based on having three community partners. If one of the proposed partners were to be a lesser partner, or not a partner at all, the numbers would change. The Village will need to determine what is fair and based on your decision, there are many different models.



Mayor Talen stated that the District can certainly recognize that the Village is small and residents expect the Village to partner and collaborate with other government when there are opportunities that interest the Village. The LRRAC looks like a great facility, and it would be best for both the District and the Village finance staff to work together.

Mayor Pranger added that the LRRAC is an investment in our youth, as well as an economic development opportunity and provides activities to support our healthcare system.

Discussion related to existing partnerships including Harrison Agassiz Chamber, Tourism Harrison River Valley, and the Agassiz Harrison Aquanauts Swim Club. In addition, some of the members on the LRRAC Fundraising Committee reside in Harrison Hot Springs.



It was agreed by consensus that M. Veenbaas and S. Schultz will collaborate to further discuss the financial proposals presented today.

Mayor Talen added that the Village Council needs to talk amongst themselves.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6 New Business/Other Business

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6 Adjournment

FACIO / POST

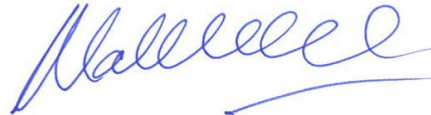
THAT the meeting adjourn at 5:38 p.m.

CARRIED



S. Pranger, Mayor

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



W. Mah, Chief Administrative Officer

CERTIFIED A TRUE & CORRECT COPY

of the Minutes of the Special In Camera Joint meeting
of the Councils of the District of Kent and Village of Harrison Hot Springs
held Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.
in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, Agassiz, B.C.



Clair Lee, Director of Corporate Services