



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 Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

IN CAMERA MINUTES - CONFIDENTIAL

Present: Elected Officials

District of Kent

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

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Councillor A. Jackson
Councillor L. Facio
Councillor M. Vidal

Excused: Councillor D. Post, District of Kent
Mayor E. Wood, Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Appointed Personnel

District of Kent

Mr. W. Mah, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Ms. C. Lee, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. M. Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services
Mr. K. Houlden, Director of Recreation / Culture & Projects
Mr. S. Gormley, Assistant Manager of Community Services & Projects
Ms. J. Bentroudi, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Ms. K. Ridley, Interim Chief Administrative Officer (ICAO)
Mr. S. Schultz, Finance Manager

Excused: Mr. T. Koch, Chief Administrative Officer (Village of Harrison Hot Springs)

1 Call to Order

Mayor Pranger called the meeting to order at 12:15 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.

SPAETI / SCHWICHTENBERG

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

CARRIED C2023-170

VIDAL / JACKSON

THAT the Public be excluded and the meeting move In Camera under the *Community Charter*, pursuant to Section 90(1) (f) and (k) related to legal and proposed service delivery matters for the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

CARRIED C2023-171

1.1 Introductions

A round table of introductions were made.

2 Introduction of Late Items or Supplemental Agenda**3 Approval of Agenda**

WATCHORN / VIDAL

THAT the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of June 22, 2023 be approved; and

THAT all items set to the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of June 22, 2023 be received for information.

CARRIED C2023-172

4 Items for Discussion – Joint Services**4.1 Recreation Services / Lets'emot Regional Pool**

The Director of Recreation, Culture and Projects presented slides 1 to 16 of the Lets'emot Regional Aquatic Centre PowerPoint attached as Appendix "A".

The Director of Financial Services presented slides 17 to 52 of the Lets'emot Regional Aquatic Centre PowerPoint attached as Appendix "A".

In response to questions from the Councils, the Director of Recreation, Culture and Projects and the Director of Financial Services conveyed the following:

1. The statistics of Harrison Hot Springs residents includes participation in recreation registration and memberships, it does not include outside sports clubs such as the Agassiz Harrison Aquanauts or the two-pitch league.
2. A Super Senior pass is for individuals aged 80 years and up. This pass gives members free access to all facilities and programs.
3. There are currently 33 Super Senior passes in the District of Kent and 7 from the Village of Harrison Hot Springs
4. The Economic Access Program is for low-income households to access recreation services at a subsidized price. This program is open to District of Kent residents only and there is a confidential application process. There are currently 12 households in the District that qualify, 3 households were denied as they live in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. Applications are renewed annually.
5. The public is aware of the draft design of the Lets'emot Regional Aquatic Centre (LRAC) and the estimated cost of \$21 million, the rest of the details have not been made available yet.
6. The Hope Recreation Centre is a joint effort between Electoral Area "B", Electoral Area "A" and the District of Hope. Electoral Area "B" and the District of Hope pay a tax requisition to the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), and Electoral Area "A" pays for certain recreation programming as they have their own outdoor pool. This is a good example that recognizes the District of Hope as the regional hub for shared services.
7. The Hope Recreation Centre is partly owned by the FVRD (arena portion) and the District of Hope owns the land. The Centre was built mostly through grants and the operation of the Centre is based out of the FVRD.
8. The "other" category of current active users of the Community Recreation and Cultural Centre is comprised of any community not listed such as Seabird Island, Rosedale and Chilliwack.
9. While they have not contributed financially, Seabird Island Band, Sts'ailes and Electoral Area "C" and "D" have contributed through letters of support and lobbying the Federal Government on the District's behalf.
10. Conversations regarding financial contributions to the project from Electoral Areas "C" and "D" are ongoing.
11. If the LRAC was funded through the FVRD, a similar funding model as the Hope Recreation Centre could be established where residents of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs pay through a tax requisition.

12. The District is looking for financial commitments from the Village for both the capital and operating costs of the LRAC. The District can be flexible on what these financial commitments look like, for example the capital contribution could be spread over a period of multiple years rather than one lump sum.
13. There is a fundraising committee that has a goal of raising \$1 million towards the LRAC with members who reside in the Village, this shows community investment from Village residents to the project.

Mayor Pranger commented that recreation is also economic development, when residents stay in the community for recreational purposes, they spend money in the community. Residents feel more connected to their community and volunteer more. Further, each First Nation community around the District of Kent sent letters of support when the grant was applied for.

Councillor Vidal voiced her [REDACTED] in the amount the Federal Government has contributed versus the Provincial Government and inquired if MP Brad Vis had been able to secure meetings with Ministers to lobby for more money.

Mayor Pranger answered that a meeting was requested with Minister Lablanc, but has not been willing to meet.

Councillor Watchorn noted that the majority of the money the Province gave came from a grant supplied by the Federal Government so from a federal perspective, they gave a large contribution.

Mayor Pranger added that the District continues to apply for grants and take advantage of as many money back initiatives.

- * The CAO urged the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council to think of what a fair monetary contribution to the LRAC project is. The District is putting a substantial amount of money into the project that benefits both communities and there are many solutions for the Village to investigate before making a commitment. The District looks forward to working with the Village on whichever solution is best.
- * Councillor Jackson commended staff on the presentation and requested that a delegation to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council be made in the future.

Mayor Pranger thanked Councillor Jackson for the invitation explaining that the delegation the District did to the Village Council early on in the LRAC project was not as detailed as it is now.

Councillor Watchorn explained how the LRAC would positively impact both communities as it attracts more people to live in the area such as doctors. Both communities are struggling to attract qualified medical personnel to work in the area.

Mayor Pranger mentioned that once ground has been broken on the project, it will invigorate residents to contribute. This project is a chance for both Councils to leave a legacy for future families.

- * Councillor Facio pointed out that the LRAC will make the District more attractive to tourists as well as add to home values.

- * Councillor Jackson explained that Village residents don't see ownership of the project, by making a monetary contribution that could change the way its viewed. The Village is not large enough to subsidize a project nor does it have the room, making it a regional facility is the best possible solution for all.

Mayor Pranger stated that the name Lets'emot means One Heart, One Mind representing all communities coming together to recreate.

The CAO requested the Village forward dates, keeping in mind summer holidays and the UBCM Convention, to District staff to prepare a presentation for a delegation to Village Council adding that all Council from the District should be in attendance. The District will be lobbying the Regional District for support as well.

- * Councillor Vidal thanked staff for the presentation stating that it has expanded her knowledge on the project.

VIDAL / FACIO

THAT the District of Kent be invited as a delegation to present the Lets'emot Regional Aquatic Centre presentation to the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Council.

CARRIED C2023-173

Councillor Vidal was excused from the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

5 New Business/Other Business

6 Adjournment

WATCHORN / JACKSON

THAT the meeting adjourn at 1:28 p.m.

CARRIED C2023-174


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 Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, Agassiz, B.C.


Clair Lee, Director of Corporate Services