



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF KENT

A SPECIAL IN CAMERA MEETING
of the Council of the District of Kent
in Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, Agassiz, BC
on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 4:00 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

Fraser Valley Regional District

Electoral Area 'D' Director Bill Dickey

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. S. Gormley, Manager of Recreation/Culture and Projects
Ms. J. Bentroudi, Executive Assistant (Recording Secretary)

1 Call to Order

Mayor Pranger called the meeting to order at 4:00 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.

POST / SPAETI

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

SCHWICHTENBERG / WATCHORN

THAT the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of November 27, 2024 be approved; and

THAT all items set to the Agenda for the Special In Camera Joint Meeting of November 27, 2024 be received for information.

CARRIED

4 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 response to questions from Councillor Watchorn and Director Dickey, the Director of Financial Services confirmed that the contribution amounts for each community are based on property with an assessment value of \$1,000,000. This was used as a base amount, if a home is worth more than \$1,000,000, that homeowner would pay more towards the facility. This same model is used to determine contributions to services such as transit.

Mayor Pranger announced that the District was successful in securing one other grant from SPARC BC that will pay for three aquatic wheelchairs and pool lifts for each tank.

* Director Dickey advised that there has been a preliminary discussion between [REDACTED] to collaborate on a [REDACTED]. If Electoral Area 'D' were to enter into an agreement with the District for the Lets'emot Regional Recreation and Aquatic Centre (LRRAC), they may not be able to contribute to a joint project with [REDACTED] and enquired as to the term of this agreement.

Councillor Watchorn suggested language in the agreement to allow Electoral Area 'D' out of the agreement should they want to build their own recreation centre.

The Director of Financial Services concurred, adding that a [REDACTED] for Electoral Area 'D' would not be [REDACTED] within five years and the agreement could have flexible language or an escape clause.

Director Dickey commented that the LRRAC looks like a beautiful facility and thanked staff and Council for their time. When faced with big decisions such as this one, he is careful not to make commitments before consulting with his community.

The Director of Financial Services responded that not all of the information shown in the presentation is public knowledge, but an edited version can be sent to Director Dickey so he may consult with his community.

- * The CAO added that District staff would be happy to schedule a public meeting for Director Dickey's community and present the project. Further, the District does not want to create a two-tier system for admissions and registrations to LRRAC, but if there are no partnering communities, this may be what happens. If Electoral Area 'D' were to enter into an agreement with the District, there would be other added benefits such as potentially hosting recreation programs in facilities in Popkum such as the Rosedale Traditional School.
- * The Manager of Recreation/Culture and Projects noted that there are approximately 150 Popkum residents that register for swimming lessons every year, the interest from the community exists.

Councillor Watchorn commented the following:

1. There are two different asks; the first is an overall contribution to construction, the second is a continuous contribution to operating the facility.
2. If the District does not receive contribution from neighbouring communities, a two-tier fee system will be implemented.
3. A new facility will draw more people and increase revenue generated by usage thereby reducing operating costs.
4. The District has been subsidizing training for lifeguards to build capacity for the new facility.
5. The Ferny Coombe Pool continuously maxes out usage due to its size.
6. There has been a reduction in school swimming programs over the years and an increase in drownings.

Mayor Pranger mentioned that there are also economic benefits to constructing a recreation facility in the community. People are more likely to stay and spend money in the community if they are already here.

- * Director Dickey conveyed that it makes sense why the District does not want to subsidize other communities to use the LRRAC, there should be some fairness when making sure costs are covered. He has always had a good working relationship with the District of Kent and hopes to maintain it moving forward. This topic will be brought up with his community for feedback.

Mayor Pranger thanked Director Dickey for coming and listening to the presentation and having a discussion on potential partnership.

5 New Business/Other Business

6 Adjournment

WATCHORN / SPAETI
THAT the meeting adjourn at 5:04 p.m.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

S. Pranger, Mayor

W. Mah, Chief Administrative Officer

CERTIFIED A TRUE & CORRECT COPY
of the Minutes of the Special In Camera meeting
of the Council of the District of Kent
held Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.
in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall, Agassiz, B.C.

Clair Lee, Director of Corporate Services