

NORTHWEST NANOOSE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

April 17, 2007

7:00 pm – 1400 Madrona – (Frank Herman's Home)

IN ATTENDANCE

President	Kirke MacMillan
Treasurer	Frank Herman
Secretary	Greg Field
Directors at Large	Bob De Buysscher Don Stewart
Regrets:	Dave Jamieson Mike Gray Lewis Vermeulen

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Kirke MacMillan at 7:07 pm.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – March 22, 2007

- The minutes were reviewed and accepted as read
- Items arising from the minutes:
 - o Kirke MacMillan and Frank Herman reviewed the Canada Post mailing charge and decided to continue paying postage on a 'pay as you go' basis.
 - o Kirke MacMillan received a copy of the Infrastructure Grant application from the RDN. It appeared to be fairly complete and was 46 pages long.
 - o A meeting with Dr. Dwernychuk has not been set up. The meeting will be set up for mid May.
 - o The meeting with the RDN was put off until April 17.
 - o Re: Membership cards: Since these will not reduce the Membership Committee's workload, these will be dropped.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (Frank Herman)

- Current balance: \$ 2063
- Bonds \$ 4251
- The membership account review meeting with Diane Hill has not occurred. Frank Herman is pursuing.
- Presently, membership renewals are about 60 lower than this time last year.

4. MADRONA SEWER UPDATE (Kirke MacMillan)

- After the water rate earlier meeting with the RDN, John Finnie reported to the NNRA members present:
 - o The RDN received a telephone inquiry from the Ministry of Community Services regarding the lot size requirement for non-sewer serviced lots in the RDN.
 - o (Background – Earlier Ministry policy for infrastructure grant eligibility required that properties not to be serviced by sewers be restricted to being larger than 1 hectare. The RDN incorporated this provision into the latest OCP for area E in order to conform to this requirement.)
 - o John Finnie reported that the Ministry’s interpretation of the minimum property size is that it *may* apply to the entire Regional District and not just the local service area (Area E). If this turns out to be the case, then the Madrona area would not be eligible for infrastructure funding for the sewer project.
 - o It was agreed by all present that if the revised interpretation is correct it would seem to represent a change to the Ministry’s earlier position.
- As a result of the above Kirke MacMillan will ask attempt to move the meeting with Ron Cantelon forward in order to clarify this situation and to advance the local resident’s position.
- Subsequent to the meeting Kirke MacMillan had a telephone conversation with Caroline Waters:
 - o The constituency office is currently dealing with issues surrounding the Barclay Crescent Sewer Installation project and infrastructure grant
 - o There is some concern that the RDN did not contact Mr. Cantelon’s office prior to submitting the grant application
 - o Caroline Waters contacted the Ministry of Consumer Services (Ida Chong’s ministry). The contact there (Debbie) was not aware of any changes in the infrastructure grant criteria.

5. RDN WATER RATES (Kirke MacMillan)

- The meeting Kirke MacMillan requested with the RDN was delayed until April 17. Brief notes from that meeting are appended to these minutes. Further comments:
- The RDN is not planning to have public meetings on this issue
- The NNRA BoD does not understand why Arrowsmith Water System taxes are not included when calculating the overall cost of water.
- The meeting did not give any insight into a comparison of water supply rates and costs for RDN resident’s verses similar systems elsewhere. It is evident that larger municipalities throughout Canada have significantly lower water rates. Also, in the RDN, the overall cost of water per cubic meter is more than double when compared to data for the Canadian average.
- Despite the meeting and presentation, it is still difficult for the NNRA BoD to fully understand the level of the rates and the increases.
- The NNRA BoD feels it has pushed this issue as far as possible.

6. MEETING WITH ANDREW PEARSON (Bob De Buysscher)

- Three NNRA members (Kirke MacMillan, Bob De Buysscher, and Ryan Pettersen) met with Andrew Pearson and his lawyer April 13. The main topic of discussion was whether or not the City of Parksville could annex the Madrona area as a result of the installation of sewers.

- Andrew Pearson's lawyer presented a document titled "Municipal Boundary Extension Criteria (Sept 2002) from the Ministry of Consumer Services.
- In general, it appears that the situation would favour NNRA resident's circumstances regarding possible annexation.
- The issue of contiguity is dealt with in the Criteria Document.
- Citizen Consultation Criteria are dealt with, saying that the wishes of local residents must be taken into account
- In the lawyer's opinion, there is little chance that the City of Parksville could annex Madrona against its wishes.
- Parksville does not own the sewer system. They would be in a stronger position if they did.
- The RDN and Parksville already have an agreement saying that the sewers could be extended to the Madrona area.
- There is a possibility that the City of Parksville could charge the Madrona residents service fees for the use of City of Parksville sewer pipes.
- Further information and a copy of the Boundary Extension Criteria Document can be found on the BC Government's website at http://www.cserv.gov.bc.ca/LGD/boundaries/municipal_extensions.htm.
- Regarding the sewer infrastructure grant application, Mr. Pearson's lawyer offered to write a letter of support on our behalf. Also, they could get in touch with the Ministry of Tourism and solicit that ministry's support, as they have an interest in reducing pollution.

7. APRIL NEWSLETTER

- Kirke MacMillan will write short articles on sewer and water.
- Greg Field will research a general interest article.

8. OTHER ISSUES

- No issues discussed

9. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.
- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th

RDN WATER RATES MEETING - RDN OFFICES

April 17, 2007
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE

From the RDN:	Carol Mason Mike Donnelley	John Finnie George Holme
From the NNRA:	Kirke MacMillan Martyn Greene	Don Stewart Greg Field
From NPORA:	Jim Lettic	
From Fairwinds Resident's Association:	Gord Buckingham	Gary Hackney Bob Coleman

Mike Donnelley presented information and a series of slides and information to answer questions previously sent from the resident's associations.

1. BUDGET CHANGES

- Certain items have been removed from the 2007 budget and deferred until later years:
 - o Well exploration expenditures are reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000
 - o Well redevelopment expenditures are reduced from \$15,000 to \$0
 - o Well de-activation expenditures are reduced from \$12,000 to \$0

2. CAPITAL RESERVES

- Information on the size of the current capital reserves was presented.
- Capital reserves built up in a given area will be spent in that area. Afterwards, capital reserves will be accumulated and spent on a regional basis.
- The Madrona Parcel Tax (to pay for the reservoir and wells 20 years ago) now goes toward building a capital reserve for maintenance and improvements on the Nanoose Peninsula. It was changed from the Madrona parcel tax to the Nanoose Bay Peninsula parcel tax.
- The Nanoose Bay Bulk Water parcel tax is in place to pay the debt from the Arrowsmith dam and to build up a capital reserve for large future expenditures, specifically the Arrowsmith Water System intake on the Englishman River. This intake is scheduled to be built in 2011, but may be deferred until 2015 if the increase in water demand is less than expected.
- The RDN is planning to increase the Nanoose Bay Bulk Water parcel tax and between 8% and 9% per year for the next few years in order to accumulate the capital reserve.
- The RDN has the authority to add more components to the Arrowsmith Water System and to raise taxes to pay for these.
- The RDN has a goal to always have some capital reserves available.

3. WATER SUPPLIED FROM THE ENGLISHMAN RIVER

- In the summer, our area receives water from the Englishman River to supplement our wells. The pipeline can handle up to 500 gallons per minute.
- When Nanoose Bay receives water through from the Englishman it goes through a City of Parksville pump station and is paid for as a percentage of the operating costs of that station per an agreement with Parksville.
- Parksville is limited in its pump station capacity, which limits how much we can get. Therefore, the requirement for the new intake in the future.

- In 2008 there is a plan to build a new pump station on Northwest Bay Road to replace the ones currently at Craig Bay and behind the library.

4. FAIRWINDS

- Fairwinds water supply is currently suffering from quality issues; it is brown and has a bad odour.
- The RDN is investigating ways to rectify this, including shutting in one of the existing Fairwinds wells, missing the supplies and procuring more supply.
- The Fairwinds developer is currently negotiating with the owner of an existing well in order to augment the Fairwinds supply. The RDN is staying outside these negotiations while they are underway.

5. TRANSPARENCY

- The RDN pointed out that they believe the budgeting process and dollar figures are transparent and that the costs paid by residents are the actual costs of maintaining, operating, and expanding the system. In the RDN's opinion the system is being run in a lean and efficient manner.