

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Angela Skoglund
Councillor Zachary Wells

Council Members Absent: Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Pauline Newbigging

Staff Present: John Fortoloczky, Chief Administrative Officer
Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Mike Olson, Director of Finance
Kevin Dicken, Director of Operations
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA

Others in attendance: 4 members of the public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held October 10, 2023, be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

(a) Report dated October 17, 2023 from the Director of Operations

Re: District of Hope Sanitary Sewer Regulation Bylaw No. 1563, 2023, Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1566, 2023, and Municipal Ticket Information Amendment Bylaw No. 1567, 2023

The Director of Operations advised that the District's 2019 Sanitary Sewer Master Plan recommended the creation of a Sanitary Sewer Regulation Bylaw. He added that this bylaw will give the District the tools necessary to put measures in place to control what is being put into the sanitary sewer system.

The following points were discussed:

- Provincial and Federal Regulations
 - The District must be compliant with regulations from both levels of government, with the Federal regulations being more stringent.
 - Sampling is done on a regular basis for biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids in the wastewater.
- Compliance Measures
 - Monitor industrial wastewater dischargers, such as the water bottling plant and breweries.
 - Promote voluntary compliance and work with entities to ensure they are following the guidelines.
 - Pollution Prevention Plan in place to improve the discharge that is put into the system.
 - Compliance Program setting out activities to undertake by the industry that will result in the prevention or reduction of non-compliant discharge.
- Reinforcing Current Practices
 - Require a service connection to be obtained before connection can take place.
 - Residential billing taking place annually, commercial and industrial being billed quarterly.
- Abandoned Buildings
 - Bylaw will allow the cutting and capping of lines on the District side for abandoned buildings to prevent misuse of the system.
- Sanitation and Septage
 - Septage receiving facility was built as part of the wastewater treatment plant in 1978, but it has not been used extensively in the last 10 years.
 - A fee was created in the *Fees and Charges Bylaw* in 2021 to support the Lytton recovery process, along with other septage.
 - Due to issues with contamination levels resulting from the increased usage, the usage of the receiving facility was discontinued.
 - Bylaw limits the usage of the receiving plant to those within the District's boundaries, with checks and balances in place including declarations to be signed by the property owner.
- Record Keeping and Sampling
 - Discharge permits for special circumstances where waste discharge is needed, with the bylaw providing authority to make that decision.

- Prohibited waste schedule
 - List of items that are not permitted in the system, and the parameters that waste must follow.
 - Reviewed by a third party and tailored for the District’s lagoon system.

Council inquired as to whether it would be a good idea to include an exception in the bylaw to allow for the disposal of septage in future situations such as the Lytton recovery process. The Director of Operations advised that it is difficult to define what an exceptional circumstance would be, and added that he believes the bylaw will provide a tool that supports staff in making decisions.

Council inquired as to whether new construction homes typically include garburators. The Director of Operations advised that you are still able to obtain them, but he does not know if they are standard. He added that organic waste should not be going down the drain, they should be going in the organics waste cart or in compost as it adds unnecessary volume and treatment needs to the system.

Council inquired as to how the District will be able to regulate the dumping of septage that has been brought in, such as companies coming from Chilliwack or Abbotsford who may have already completed jobs outside of the District. The Director of Operations advised that there may be ways around the regulations, but there are methods to ensure compliance such as tracking dumped volume and comparing to the number of jobs completed.

Moved / Seconded

THAT Council rise and report *District of Hope Sanitary Sewer Regulation Bylaw No. 1563, 2023, Bylaw Notice Enforcement Amendment Bylaw No. 1566 and Municipal Ticket Information Amendment Bylaw No. 1567, 2023*, to the November 14, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. **CARRIED.**

5. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions raised.

6. CLOSE

Moved / Seconded

THAT the November 14, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourn at 6:51 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 14, 2023 in Council Chambers of the District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services