



**MINUTES
DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL
7360 COLUMBIA STREET**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Fred Robertson, Councillors Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, John Tidbury and Leighton Wishart

ALSO PRESENT: Heather Nelson-Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Abbas Farahbakhsh, Director of Operational Services Adrian Maas, Director of Financial Services and Leslie Driemel, Recording Secretary

REGRETS: Mayor Hank Bood, Councillor Rick Marcotte and Allison McCarrick, Chief Administrative Officer

MEDIA: N.I. Gazette

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 5

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Fred Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded/Carried

THAT the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 24, 2017 be accepted as presented.

C. DELEGATION

1. Dr. Greg Kutney and Dr. Howard Lee re: Discussion of issues and concerns of public intoxication in the community and the challenges faced by the health teams(s).

Dr. Kutney introduced himself and members of the public in attendance to Council. He gave a brief biography that included time growing up and living on Haida Gwaii and Northern Vancouver Island. He commented that since his time here as a youth and his return to Port Hardy there seems to be a growth in public intoxication and that as a resident and parent he is concerned with this trend. He commented that there is no easy solution but that through this discussion with Council he would like to see stakeholders, such as Council, RCMP, BC Ambulance, local physicians, First Nations, mental health and drug addiction workers and others, work together and bring forward ideas to mitigate the issue.

Council members all agreed that public intoxication is an issue in the community and advised that this and past Councils have worked with local agencies to mitigate the problem.

Discussion with Council included:

- The importance of involving key stakeholders to discuss their roles and responsibilities regarding public intoxication.
- Effects on tourism and the local economy.
- Public intoxication impacts on hospital emergency services and bed availability.
- Generational issues part of the problem; acceptance of alcohol passed onto youth.

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APPROVAL OF
AGENDA AS
PRESENTED

- Community elders try to educate younger people about the long term effects and damage of alcohol on their health and family life.
- Assaults and sexual assaults as a result of intoxication are a serious concern and often unreported.
- Progress has been made in the community to help with intoxication through the Salvation Army, detoxification beds, cleanup of drinking area properties, local addictions nurse etc.
- Rehabilitation is often only effective until a person returns to their community and succumbs to social pressures.
- Bring together stakeholders to discuss their roles and obstacles as well as issues and concerns regarding public intoxication.
- There is currently a full complement of physicians in the community and this frees up time to take part in discussions and actions.
- Programs and services work to a point, there is still free will; people will do what they want to do.
- Implementing safe consumption sites that provide only enough alcohol to keep the withdrawal symptoms under control. Review existing models to see how they work.
- Need to find solutions for individuals that will make them stay away from alcohol.

Council members advised Dr. Kutney that the Mount Waddington Health Network and its Wellness First sub-committee would be a good place to bring this discussion forward. The Network is a mechanism for communities and community members at the grassroots level to have a voice on health issues, services planning and development. Council offered support where and when they can at the provincial and federal levels of government.

Heather Nelson-Smith distributed information from www.mysafecity.com on preventing public disorder that included measuring problems and how to develop response strategies.

D. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED

THAT the Committee of the Whole adjourn.

Time: 6:48pm

CORRECT

APPROVED

Original signed by:

DIRECTOR
OF CORPORATE SERVICES

DEPUTY MAYOR