



**MINUTES  
DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2018  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL  
7360 COLUMBIA STREET**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt, Dennis Dugas, Rick Marcotte, Fred Robertson  
ALSO PRESENT: Leslie Driemel, Recording Secretary  
REGRETS: Mayor Hank Bood; Councillors Leightan Wishart and John Tidbury; Allison McCarrick, CAO; Heather Nelson-Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Lynda Sowerby, Director of Financial Services Abbas Farahbakhsh, Director of Operational Services  
MEDIA: None MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Two

COW 2018-033  
APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA AS  
PRESENTED

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Deputy Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved/Seconded/Carried**

THAT the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 18, 2018 be accepted as presented.

**C. DELEGATION**

1. Mark Wilson, Vice President, Strategy & Community Engagement and Darin Guenette, Manager, Public Affairs - British Columbia Ferry Services Inc.  
re: Direct service between Port Hardy - Bella Coola

Letter to Office of BC Ferries Commissioner dated March 20, 2017 re: Mid-Coast Ferry Service was received for information.

Mr. Wilson thanked Council members for the opportunity to meet with them and update them on the *Northern Sea Wolf* direct service between Port Hardy and Bella Coola. Discussion included:

- A time line review of the project from announcement of the direct seasonal ferry service in 2016 to the announcement of delay of service to 2019.
- Timeline to build a new vessel vs search out and retrofit and existing vessel that meeting the required capacity levels.
- The upgrades and design elements that were needed to retrofit the chosen vessel.
- The volume of work, material challenges and final testing needed prior to hand over that couldn't be safely accomplished in time for this season.
- How delays have affected route service and tourism operators.
- How BC Ferries has handled cancellations, re-bookings, refunds and waitlists.
- Limited vehicle space on the *Nimpkish* and that all travellers may not be accommodated.

- Review of the services now being offered on the Central Coast routes on the *Northern Expedition* between Port Hardy and Bella Bella and on the *Nimkish* between Bella Bella and Bella Coola.
- Booked but not used reservations on Central Coast routes have been an issue.
- The vehicle capacity of the vessels and concerns raised by the District during the consultation period. It was commented that the size and capacity was a provincial government decision not that of BC Ferries.
- Opportunities for tourism operators to work with BC Ferries on visitor/tourism travel packages.
- Redeployment of the *Northern Adventure* on Sept 16 to provide two weekly round-trip sailings for the Bella Coola direct service until the end of the summer season on October 11.
- Issues and concerns with reservation call center staff, particularly their knowledge of the Central Coast area and technical issues with the reservation system.
- 3-4% growth in volume of BC Ferries services for the last 2-3 years.
- Population growth on Vancouver Island has increased southern route traffic and Duke Point sailings have increased due to lower mainland bypass route.
- BC Ferries looking to go from 17 vessel classifications to 5 and standardization of docks to allow easier re-deployment of vessels.
- BC Ferries looking at 24-hour sailings and discount/flexibility programs to promote bookings at non-peak times and routes.
- Concerns regarding overnight stays at BC Ferry terminals causing local campgrounds to lose out on business.
- The establishment of a freight service that would be beneficial to Central Coast communities.

Council members thanked Mr. Wilson and Mr. Guenette for their informative update and for listening to the various issues and concerns in our community.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED**

THAT the Committee of the Whole adjourn.

Time: 3:00 pm

CORRECT

APPROVED

*Original signed by:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR  
OF CORPORATE SERVICES

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEPUTY MAYOR

COW 2018-034  
ADJOURNMENT