

Report on the February 22, 2011 Anmore Regular Council Meeting

The Anmore Regular Council Meeting of February 22, 2011, began routinely when Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02. Councillors Sedergreen, Piamonte, Palmer-Isaak, and McEwen; and Howard Carley, Anmore Chief Administrative Officer, Karen-Ann Cobb, Manager of Corporate Services, Tim Harris, Manager of Public Works, and Michael Rosen, Planning Consultant, along with approximately 25 residents were in attendance. The Agenda was approved with several minor changes.

The Minutes of February 8, 2011 were approved. Under Issues Arising from the Minutes, Councillor Sedergreen, asked for an update on staff inquiries into the possibilities for residents to pay their bills on-line. CAO, Mr. Carley, reported that the Finance Officer had not been available because of a death in the family, but would look into this as soon as possible.

Under Tabled Items, there was discussion of the proposal by the Standing Committee on Public Works and Transportation to move the accessible bus stop from East Road in front of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall to around the corner on Sunnyside. Mayor Anderson referred to an e-mail that she had received from Chief Larry Scott and said that she had requested a letter from him explaining the problem. Councillor Piamonte confirmed that Chief Scott had indicated that he was writing a letter to the Mayor.

While 23 year SVFD veteran, Robert Schofield was clear that he was not speaking for Chief Scott, he explained the problem with the bus stop in its current location as he sees it. He said that there are four bus stops within 90 feet of the front of the fire hall. The bus stop that the Committee on Public Works and Transportation wants to have moved takes up six parking spots that the Emergency Responders would normally use. Mr. Schofield referred to comments he had heard that the fire fighters did not need to park in those spaces and could park elsewhere. Mr. Schofield stressed that lost minutes in an emergency can be critical. He also indicated that while there might be limited parking beside the fire hall, the SVFD needed the adjacent space to fill the tanker truck. He also mentioned that since the time when the bus stops just appeared in front of the fire hall, vandalism has substantially increased. He said that bus riders and partiers now tend to gather under the eaves of the fire hall for protection from the rain.

Mayor Anderson and Councillor Palmer-Isaak were concerned that moving the bus stop might require some of the grant for accessibility to be paid back. Tim Harris, Anmore Manager of Public Works, confirmed that several key parties that he talked to were not concerned about moving the accessible bus stop around the corner. However, he did say that he had not heard back from the people

responsible for the grant. Mr. Harris estimated that the proposed move would cost under \$2,000.

Next there was considerable discussion about a request from the Standing Committee on Public Works and Transportation to send a mail drop to residents seeking their feedback on the prospect of a 3-way stop sign on the corner of East Road and Sunnyside Avenue. Mayor Anderson asked if there had been a letter from a resident expressing this concern. Councillor Piamonte explained to the Mayor that the rationale for considering such a move was precipitated by a number of conversations with residents and a number of other reasons that had been fully documented in the Minutes of the Committee. He also asked if Council normally vetted the mail drop requests of Standing Committees and if a policy exists on mail drops.

Both Councillors Sedergreen and Palmer-Isaak, reminded the Mayor that a traffic study had been done within the past two years and that this 3-way stop proposal was part of that study. Mayor Anderson said that when she first took office she read all of the Minutes and she didn't recall this study. Mayor Anderson then went on to accuse the members of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of "not doing their homework" and not providing substantiating evidence to inform Council before they made a decision on the mail drop to do a sounding of residents on the prospect of this three way stop.

Councillor Piamonte and Councillor Sedergreen, Co-chairs of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation, both reminded the Mayor that the issue was not to vote on a recommendation to put in a 3-way stop, it was simply to get a sounding of resident views on the topic. Councillor Piamonte raised the spectre of a double standard and wanted to know if other Standing Committees of Council had to endure such rigorous oversight.

Anmore resident, Mr. Schofield, raised a further interesting perspective. He said that part of the problem with summer traffic flow to Buntzen Lake, is that Port Moody is steering people away from IOCO road and into Anmore via East Road through signage. He thought that similar signage in Anmore, steering some of the traffic down Sunnyside might help with the congestion.

Council voted to receive the Minutes of the Emergency Preparedness Working Group. Councillor Palmer-Isaak offered the Committee use of recreation tents. She also expressed concern that the Working Group was asking Village staff to buy supplies. She said she always bought the supplies for Village Social events and she was already buying the chocolate bunnies for Easter. Councillor McEwen suggested that the Emergency Preparedness Working Group buy supplies on-line so as not to burden the staff.

Mayor Anderson stated that asking staff to purchase supplies was not the way Anmore does it. She said the volunteers on the Committees always do this and

get reimbursed. Anmore resident, Andrew Robertson, explained that any corporate entity has standard policies relative to such purchases.

There were no reports from either of the Committees that Councillors Palmer-Isaak and McEwen are responsible for. However, under Councillor's Reports, Councillor Palmer-Isaak praised the Anmore Elementary Green Club for being recognized by Metro Vancouver for their Christmas efforts to create awareness about the need to reduce packaging. Councillor Palmer-Isaak also asked Council to provide a \$50 contribution to a First Nations project to be held on March 11, 12, and 13th. Although such a request would normally go to the Finance Committee (all members of Council and two citizen appointees), Council approved this small donation because of the limited time.

Under the Mayor's Report, Mayor Anderson said that she attended the Advisory Planning Commission (responsible for Anmore's Official Plan). She has appointed herself as liaison to the Committee replacing Councillor Piamonte who had been serving in an unofficial capacity. She and other members of Council attended a technical meeting on the development of the Imperial Oil Company lands. She also talked about newspaper articles referencing Metro Vancouver efforts to reduce food waste and talked about a meeting to be held on May 17th.

Councillor Palmer-Isaak also reported on election costs, comparing the cost of having an independent Chief Elections Officer relative to the Anmore Manager of Corporate Services performing this function. She said that in 2008, when Anmore staff was responsible, it cost \$950. In 2010, she stated that the independent Chief Elections Officer, Sarah Morden, had billed \$5,190.

Councillor Piamonte thanked Councillor Palmer-Isaak for her efforts. Councillor Piamonte also wanted to know if these numbers reflected Village staff pay and benefits when they are working on the election instead of other tasks. He said to do a good comparison you would need to know the amount of time each staff person spent on the election and what their rate, salary, and benefits are. He also referred to lost opportunity costs because staff would be unable to perform other Village tasks when they were working on election business.

There was no Administrators Report.

Under Correspondence, Council proclaimed February 23rd as Bullying Stops Here – Pink Shirt Day. After a bit of debate about not wanting to support philosophical positions or proclamations not really appropriate to a small Village, it also proclaimed March as Community Social Services Month. A letter from a resident about the need for Anmore Green Estates to be responsible for its own septic system was received. And Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw 508-2011 and Anmore Water Rates and Regulations By-law No. 509-2011 were passed.

Under New Business, Planning Consultant Michael Rosen gave a status report on the building of the Middle School in Anmore. He reported that School District 43 had stopped further work by the architects until there was fuller clarity on some of the outstanding issues. These include Fire Protection, Sewerage, and Traffic Control. Council voted to receive Mr. Rosen's report. (A pdf file with the details will be linked below this report).

The next item for discussion under New Business was a report by Planning Consultant Michael Rosen on a proposed Sewer Connection for Anmore Green Estates. Mr. Ewen Stewart, the original developer, has offered to support the community with any costs associated with making this link to the Metro Vancouver sewer system. Council unanimously supported the following resolution:

“That the Village of Anmore continues to support the connection of Anmore Green Estates to the regional sewer system provided that all required agreements are entered into with the respective parties, including with the Village that will ensure that all capital, administrative, and operating costs associated with the connection are borne by Anmore Green Estates, and

That Metro Vancouver and the City of Port Moody be informed of Council's continued support regarding the connection of Anmore Green Estates to the regional sewer system.”

Under Item 14(c) of the Agenda – In-camera Council Meeting Rules of Order - Councillor McEwen proposed the following resolution, seconded by Councillor Palmer-Isaak:

“That Council rescind policy No. 43 regarding in-camera Council Meeting Rules of Order due to the Adoption of ‘Anmore Procedure Amendment By-law 507-2011.”

Councillor Sedergreen noted that Policy 43 had come to Public attention through matters that were laid out in Court last week. He said that he believed that it was introduced in the first place to protect the Mayor relative to a legal letter from Avion-Multiplex regarding the Daycare. He indicated he thinks it is abusive (of Mayor Anderson) to use in-camera proceedings simply to protect her own position. He said that should never have happened. Mayor Anderson disagreed and said that was simply his position.

Next Anmore resident, Andrew Robertson, began to speak from written notes which he passed to Mr. Howard Carley, Anmore CAO, for inclusion in the Minutes. He asked Mayor Anderson what her rationale was for rushing Policy 43 through Council in November 2010. He further questioned some of Mayor Anderson's actions relative to the day-care bidding process which he stated were

a matter of public record and discussed in open Court. Mayor Anderson banged down the gavel and tried to cut off further comments by Mr. Robertson.

With the resolution to rescind Policy 43 still on the table, Councillor McEwen then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councillor Palmer-Isaak seconded the motion. The Mayor adjourned the meeting without finishing the two remaining Agenda items, or allowing Public Question Period.