Report on Anmore Special Council Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor, John McEwen at 7:00 pm. Councillors Isaak, Piamonte and Sedergreen were present as was Administrator, Howard Carley. Approximately 12-residents were also in attendance.

Before the Agenda was approved, Councillor Sedergreen requested that the issue regarding the subdivision of the West property on Strong Road be added to the Agenda. As well, Councillor Isaak asked that the choosing of a new member as fire trustee be included. It was unanimously agreed to add both of these items to the Agenda.

Under Appointment of Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer, Councillor Isaak moved that Karen-Ann Cobb be appointed as Chief Election Officer for conducting a by-election on March 20, 2010. Councillor Sedergreen seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Question was called and the vote taken. Councillor Isaak and Acting Mayor McEwen voted in favour of the motion. Both Councillors Piamonte and Sedergreen voted against the motion. Thus, it was defeated.

Administrator, Howard Carley, then, stated that protocol would be that the acting Mayor in two to three weeks time approach the Minister for a resolution on this matter, if no consensus could be reached by Council before then. He also stated that Belcarra used an independent Chief Election Officer at a cost of $3000.00. This was the cost for running a full election for Mayor and Councillors - not just a by-election for Mayor.

Under Public Discussion on this matter immediately thereafter and later in the evening, resident Holly Butterfield of East Road asked Councillor Piamonte why Karen-Ann Cobb was not chosen. He responded he wished to defer the question as he was preparing a written document on the matter. Resident Holly Butterfield, then, asked Councillor Sedergreen the same question. His response was that it was unclear to Council as to whether it would be more costly to the Village to use an Independent Chief Election Officer for the by-election.

Resident Denny Arsene, then, asked Councillor Piamonte when he would have his written statement prepared. Councillor Piamonte responded that he did not have a definitive date as to when this would happen and that he would not be badgered into providing an answer.

Resident Denny Arsene, then, asked Administrator Howard Carley what Karen-Ann Cobb was paid over and above her staff salary to work as the Chief Election Officer and

whether she had done a good job running elections. He was also concerned about the cost of $3000.00 to have an independent person be appointed as Chief Election Officer and the cost to the Village. Administrator Howard Carley responded that Karen-Ann Cobb was paid $650.00 over and above her village salary and that she had run seven elections to date.

Resident Jane Atkins of East Road asked what the total cost of village staff (the whole team including the Chief Election Officer, the Deputy Chief Election Officer, counters, etc) to run an election was and how much village staff time was used to work on an election. There was no clear response to this.

Resident Larry Barron of East Road asked how the Village would be governed in the intervening period before the election of a Mayor. Administrator Howard Carley responded that the four Councillors would be responsible for doing this.

After this, the issue of the West property on 98 Strong Road was discussed. Councillor Sedergreen stated that he was uncomfortable with what had transpired in the meeting of June 2009, whereby Council decided that they would not seek to accommodate the West's needs to subdivide their property in other ways such as grandfathering their application. The West's had made this application much earlier before Anmore by-laws changed.

He noted that Council did not have sufficient information on the matter and that the vote was carried three to one. He stated that protocol enabled a Councillor that voted in favour of the motion ("That Ms. Judy West be informed that Council is not prepared to consider an application to amend Section 408 of the zoning by-law to accommodate a subdivision for a relative, pursuant to Section 946 of the Local Government Act for the property located on 98 Strong Road") to bring it back to the table.

Councillor Piamonte stated that he was not in favour of changing the by-law, but would prefer to see if the right for the West's to subdivide was grandfathered. After discussion, it was agreed that Council would take another look at the questions.

Next, the choosing of a new fire department trustee was discussed and Council agreed unanimously that Acting Mayor McEwen be appointed to this position. Immediately thereafter, it was also unanimously agreed that Acting Mayor McEwen continue to be Anmore’s representative on the Lower Mainland Treaty Advisory Committee.

Council, then, unanimously agreed to adjourn to an in-camera meeting of the Community Engagement Committee to discuss the Day Care Centre Working Group

appointments and to schedule an in-camera meeting for Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:00 pm to discuss legal matters with the Village Solicitor. Councillor Piamonte also asked Administrator Howard Carley to publish the minutes of old in-camera meetings for Council members only.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Written by: Camille Tribe
January 5, 2010