

ANMORE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 8, 2013

Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. All of the Council members, CAO Tim Harris, Manager of Public Works, Kevin Dicken, Manager of Corporate Services Christine Milloy, Planning Consultant Brent Elliott, and approximately 15 members of the public were in attendance.

The Agenda was adopted with item 11 (a) Water Quality Issues moved to the top of the agenda. Mr. Kevin Dicken, Manager of Public Works, gave an update on the current status of the Boil Water Advisory in the Village of Anmore. This advisory has been in effect for one month and will continue until the Fraser Health Authority is satisfied that the water is potable and not a risk to public health.

Mr. Dicken indicated that recent samples have been clean in four areas. Consistent clean tests are required before Fraser Health Authority will lift the Boil Water Advisory. Mr. Dicken also indicated that a second temporary chlorinator has been installed on Charlotte Crescent near East Road. He said that the permanent chlorine booster station at Hummingbird and Dogwood would be operational by October 31st of this year.

Mr. Dicken said that the October 3, 2013, letter from Opus DaytonKnight to Anmore CAO Tim Harris, which was included as an attachment to the Agenda for the October 8 Regular Council Meeting, showed several things. It advised that Public Works continue with what they are doing. It also said that the system had not been properly chlorinated for a number of years. Mr. Dicken used the metaphor for the water mains of a shower that steadily accumulates grime over a long period of time when it is not properly cleaned. CAO Harris had nothing further to contribute to this assessment.

When none of the Council members had any questions, Mayor Anderson opened the discussion to the public. Ms Kathy Roberts, the first resident to speak, had a list of questions she hoped to get answered. Her first question dealt with why the costs for building the booster station had escalated 65% from September, 2012 until the contract was awarded to Bryco Projects in May 2013. The original estimate in 2005 was \$67,000 with \$44,667 of this amount coming from the BC Ministry of Community Services. The final price in May 2013 was \$414,583.

Mayor Anderson said Anmore Council was waiting for Port Moody to decide where they were going to place their chlorine booster station when the Village received the grant from the Ministry of Community Services in 2005. She said that Council did not want to waste taxpayer money in building a chlorination booster station if it was just going to be redundant. When asked to explain the current cost of well over \$400,000, Mayor Anderson said that when the RFP responses came in that this was the least expensive bid.

Ms Roberts also asked if Council had been apprised with updates on the quality of the water and the status of the chlorination booster station during the six year period leading up to the Fraser Health Authority letter of March 30, 2012 which states, "I am writing to

clarify the action that the Village needs to do to overcome an unacceptable condition in the Village's water system. For more than six years, Fraser Health Authority officers have asked the Village to install some type of secondary disinfection (example re-chlorination) to prevent the occurrence of unacceptable bacterial levels in the water system. If the Village does not pursue this action in a timely manner, I will place it as a condition on the Village's water permit." Mayor Anderson indicated that Council had been kept informed about the water concerns and they had been working with Port Moody to find a solution.

Ms Roberts then asked about a September 13, 2013 article in the Tri-Cities Now where the Mayor said that there had never been a problem with the water in Anmore. Mayor Anderson said that she had been speaking about the Boil Water Advisory and not about the water in general, but the reporter took her statement out of context.

Ms. Roberts then asked the Mayor if she was aware that the Port Moody chlorinator booster station was built in 2007 on IOCO Road and that she had also confirmed with Port Moody officials that there were no other booster stations being considered in Port Moody. She wondered how often Anmore staff were in touch with Port Moody personnel about the water and what the nature of that contact was.

CAO Harris indicated that he was in touch each year to discuss low residual chlorine in their system, but he was not privy to their plans for building a chlorine booster station. He indicated that zone 5 on the Port Moody side of the border has low residual chlorine, just like Anmore.

Ms. Roberts then asked why Anmore would rely on another municipality to ensure the water safety for its own residents. She referenced the March 30, 2012 letter from Lloyd Struck of the Fraser Health Authority where he said, "It is my understanding that the Village has been waiting to see what another municipality can do to correct the low disinfection levels they deliver to your system. It appears that the other municipality has not seen fit to increase their levels of disinfectant at this stage and therefore it is not acceptable to wait any longer for this option. Any further delay would likely result in the further unacceptable levels of Total Coliforms."

Mayor Anderson spoke about not being willing to waste taxpayer money by putting the booster station on the Anmore side of the boundary if a Port Moody chlorination booster station was going to make the \$400,000 building redundant. She also said that when it became evident that Port Moody was not going to build a booster station in this location that Council decided to move forward and build the one in Anmore. Ms. Roberts politely disagreed with Mayor Anderson's assessment of financial risk to the Village. She indicated that the increase from \$102,000 to \$400,000 from 2007 was actually the greater risk.

Ms. Roberts again referred to the article in the Tri-cities NOW where Mayor Anderson indicated that the Village will not know if the chlorination booster system will solve the current contamination problems when it is up and running. She wondered if experts were

consulted to determine the likelihood of the booster station meeting the needs of the community before the construction was started in July.

Mayor Anderson explained that because of the way the water system was built with a lot of dead end water pipes, they will not know if the chlorination station is providing enough residual chlorine for all of the community until it is up and running. She indicated that the Village might have to build another booster station depending on the results.

Ms. Roberts then asked about the slowness in calling a Special Council meeting to deal with the Boil Water Advisory. Mayor Anderson indicated that Council actually dealt with the issue at a Regular Council Meeting on the day the Advisory was called. She said that the Special Council meeting two weeks later was for Council to decide how to proceed relative to more contaminated water in several other locations in the Village.

Mr. Dicken, the Manager of Public Works indicated that this Special Council meeting was necessary because the magnitude of the problem had increased. He said that the outcome of the Special Council Meeting was to get some outside resources from Opus DaytonKnight to help. Mayor Anderson explained that there were three outcomes of this meeting: i) outside resources, ii) installation of a second temporary booster station, and iii) a communications strategy.

Ms. Roberts then made reference to the Opus DaytonKnight report which states, "furthermore, the village has not historically maintained chlorine residual within the distribution system. As a result a biological balance has developed between the biofilm which will grow on the pipe walls and the water within the pipes. Any changes to this balance will impact the water quality." Ms. Roberts asked who made the call not to chlorinate over these years from 2005 when the grant application was made until 2013. Mayor Anderson responded that she had already talked about the Village need to consult Port Moody on their plans

Mr. Harris indicated that both Port Moody and Anmore have similar contamination problems in zone 5 and the Fraser Health Authority deals with both municipalities. Mr. Harris said that the last thing he wanted on his watch was to get a \$200, \$300, or \$400,000 facility in place and find out it's not needed. He said he knows that Port Moody is not responsible for our water in Anmore but he didn't want the taxpayers to pay for something that it didn't need.

In response to Mr. Harris' assertion that Anmore had always passed the water quality tests, Ms. Roberts indicated that she had had a conversation with Lloyd Struck of the Fraser Health Authority and he had indicated that Anmore had passed with warnings. He also indicated that the levels of coliforms in Anmore had grossly exceeded the maximum levels allowed.

Ms. Roberts went on to summarize what she had heard this evening. Council has been aware of this problem since 2005. It brought forth budget requirements this past year. And the only reason for the delay in building the necessary chlorination booster station

was waiting for another community to decide what they were going to do. CAO Harris said that this was incorrect, that Anmore had always been responsible for its own water.

Ms. Roberts then said that she did not see any longer-term solutions, or the costs of a more permanent solution in the Opus DaytonKnight October 3 report, and she wondered when the Village would be looking into that. Mayor Anderson indicated that the Village would be looking at modeling, continuing to test, and determining if the Village needs to add another station. Mr. Dicken indicated that once the effect of the new station is determined, Public Works will respond accordingly.

Councillor McEwen thought that the longer-term plan was part of an emergency allotment of money. Councillor Green explained that the \$50,000 was for the current emergency action and for consultants to develop an RFP for water modelling for the longer-term plan. Mayor Anderson explained that the purpose of the \$50,000 was to do the current October 3, 2013 Opus DaytonKnight report, provide additional help, and get the temporary chlorinators.

Ms. Roberts then asked how much money has been spent on all of the Public Works projects underway this summer and have these projects come within budget. Mr. Dicken indicated that he does not have the final tally, but he will try and put one together.

Ms. Roberts went on to talk about the need for trust, transparency and accountability. She said she was talking to her family doctor and this boil water advisory is not to be taken lightly. She also wondered about Council priorities for spending.

Another long-time resident suggested that, while water problems can be huge, it's time to put the past aside and move forward.

Another resident indicated that he understood that the arrangement for Anmore water to travel through Port Moody goes back to 1998 and that Port Moody has no responsibility for the quality of water in Anmore. He referred to Mr. Dicken's metaphor comparing a shower build-up to the build-up of grunge in the water mains. He wanted to know how the system could have gone unmaintained for so long. This resident was also concerned about the lack of transparency, candour, and communication on the issues by Council.

The concern about the lack of transparency, candour, and communications, was echoed by another resident who said that we were told at the last Council meeting that staff didn't have time to do the Council minutes. She also wanted Council members to speak up because she couldn't hear what they were saying.

A family physician in Anmore, asked the mayor if she had credentials as an epidemiologist, since she had discounted the severe symptoms of a resident at the first Boil Water Advisory meeting as "a little bug going around". Mayor Anderson indicated that students at the high school (not in Anmore) were sick and it's hard to determine the source of stomach upset and diarrhoea.

Another resident was concerned about the necessary level of chlorination at the booster station end of East Road to ensure that sufficient chlorine reaches the far parts of the Village. He was also concerned about the degradation of infrastructure, given so many heavy trucks associated with all of the development in Anmore.

Another resident complained about water leaking out all over Summerwood Lane where the hydrants are being flushed. Mr. Dicken said that he had noticed the leak and would have his crew check it out.

Another resident read the introductory paragraph and the conclusion in the March 30, 2012 letter to CAO Tim Harris from Lloyd Struck of the Fraser Health Authority which stated, "If the Village does not pursue this action in a timely manner, I will place it as a condition on the Village's Drinking Water Permit." Since this letter did not come to Council until September 11, 2012, the resident asked what actions the Council and staff had taken to respond to Mr. Struck's concerns in the 5+ months between May and September. Mr. Harris indicated that he did not understand the question and he would have to respond later in writing.

With no more questions from the public, item 11(b) under New Business, Public Feedback Strategy for Rezoning Application: Lot 8 Section 20, Township 39 New Westminster District Plan LMP49309 – 3230 was discussed. Planning consultant Brent Elliott indicated that he had received a legal opinion. He indicated that Council should openly receive any information on this project, staff should be the conduit with the applicant, and staff should bring the information back to Council. He suggested a two-pronged strategy to deal with the Hunniford application. Firstly, the issue of public advice on the maintenance or creation of new commercial zoning should be considered in the context of the OCP consultation. Secondly, after this has been completed, the applicant should lead a meeting to discuss the rezoning proposal with his neighbours.

Under item 11 (c) Contract Award for the Completion of the Parks Master Plan (Revised). Planner Brent Elliott outlined the pros and cons of the two qualified bids. The conclusion was that the submission by Lees and Associates best satisfies the requirements of the RFP document and its evaluation criteria. Council voted to award the contract of \$24,760.66 to this group.

Under item 11(d) Funding Assistance for Community Space, Councillor Isaak indicated that she had been talking to staff in MP James Moore's office. Relative to constructing a new Village Hall, the staff said that there might be some grant opportunities for multi-use facilities and preserving heritage, but not for municipal administrative functions. She requested that staff prepare a letter of intent to send to MP James Moore.

Council declared support for Metro Vancouver's Eighth Annual Homelessness Action Week from October 13 to 19, 2013.

Under item 12, Mayor's Report, Ms. Anderson talked about a Financial Sustainability Plan which will be considered by the Advisory Planning Commission. She also talked

about a discussion with Fire Chief Scott over the challenges facing the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, and in particular a problem with the Port Moody Fire Department withdrawing their help in case of a fire at Anmore Elementary School.

Under Councillors Reports, item 13, Councillor Isaak reported on a Metro Vancouver meeting. She indicated that Anmore is on Metro Vancouver's 'hit list' for not submitting its overdue Regional Context Statement and fines were possible. She also reminded Council about the Halloween fireworks. Councillor Green highlighted the need for public consultation on the draft Official Community Plan next month. Councillor Thiele reported that the operations of the West Coast Express will continue as plans for the Evergreen line progress.

Under item 14, Chief Administrative Officer's Report, there was none. Neither were there any further questions from the public. The meeting adjourned at 8:50.