



## Corporation of the Township of Esquimalt

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, May 4, 2009

Esquimalt Municipal Hall – Council Chambers

5:45 p.m.

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Mayor Barbara Desjardins (Chair), Councillor Meagan Brame, Councillor Randall Garrison, Councillor Lynda Hundleby, Councillor Don Linge, Councillor Bruce McIldoon, Councillor Alison Gaul

**STAFF:** Tom Day, Chief Administrative Officer, Laurie Hurst, Director of Financial Services, Pat Mulcahy, Human Resources Manager, Diane Knight, Executive Assistant (recorder)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Desjardins called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Gaul that the agenda be approved.

The motion **CARRIED**.

### 3. TAX RATES

#### (1) BC Assessment Factsheet – Property Classification

The Director of Financial Services presented the factsheet for information in response to a question about classifications raised at the last meeting. She reviewed the following five scenarios for tax rates for 2009:

- (1) historical practice is collecting a 5.7% increase in revenue across the board from each property class;
- (2) 5.7% revenue increase for each property class except light industry;
- (3) Equal tax break to residential and business properties equivalent to existing assessment percentage reduction;
- (4) tax break to residential and to business at .5x existing assessment % reduction;
- (5) tax break to business only at equivalent to % reduction in existing assessment.

Council expressed the following concerns:

- the perception that Esquimalt taxes appear higher than other municipalities;
- the effect of increased taxes on light industry;
- the impact of higher taxes on residents.

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor Garrison that Council direct staff to proceed with Scenario 4 for Tax Rates for 2009.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

**4. FINANCIAL PLAN OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

**(1) Revenue and Tax Policy Disclosure, Staff Report No. FIN-09-11**

The Director of Financial Services advised that she will be submitting general statements for the tax policy objective and policies to be included with the Financial Plan Bylaw. She will meet with Council in the Fall to develop more specific objectives and policies. This document is required by legislation to be submitted.

Comments from Council include:

- Would like to see a clear definition for permissive tax exemption;
- Thank you to the Director for ensuring this information is clearly presented and understood;
- Look forward to going through this exercise in the Fall.

Moved by Councillor Linge, seconded by Councillor McIlldoon that Council approve the attached revenue and tax policy objectives and policies for inclusion in the financial plan bylaw.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

**5. PUBLIC INPUT**

Emmy LaBonte thanked the Director of Financial Services for making the tax presentation clear and also thanked Council for adopting Scenario 4.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Hundleby, seconded by Councillor Brame to adjourn the Special Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:20 p.m.  
The motion **CARRIED**.

---

MAYOR OF THE CORPORATION  
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT  
THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2009

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

---

LAURIE HURST  
A/CORPORATE OFFICER