



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission
Held Monday 10 January 2011
Fulford Hall, Senior's Centre
2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC**

Present: Ron Bain (Chair), Mary Gillies
CRD Electoral Area Director: Garth Hendren
CRD: Ted Robbins, Senior Manager, Water Management, Tim Tanton, Senior Manager,
Infrastructure Engineering, Colwyn Sunderland, Local Services Engineering Coordinator
Lorrie Siemens (Recording Secretary)

Chair Bain called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Chair Bain provided written questions from the commission to CRD staff to be addressed as part of the budget discussion in Item 3. The written questions were received by CRD staff on January 3, 2011.

MOVED by Ron Bain, **SECONDED** by Mary Gillies that the agenda of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission meeting of 10 January 2011 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2. Election of Chair

Director Hendren called for nominations of Chair of the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission for a one-year term. Ron Bain was nominated and agreed to stand. Nominations were called for two more times, and hearing none, Ron Bain was elected as Chair.

3. 2011 Operating and Capital Budget

The Chair referred to Bylaw No. 3693 Item 9(b):

"Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, a Commission shall recommend policies governing the provision and operation of the service including the recommendation of levels of user charges, frontage taxes or parcel taxes to be established by bylaw of the Regional Board. The operational functions of the local service shall be performed by the staff of the CRD or by contract through the CRD".

The process of receipt of information by the commission within a timeline to provide information to the community was noted. He advised that the the commission is not satisfied with the budget process and that he would be sending the concern in a letter to the CRD.

Introductions were carried out.

Staff presented a written report and the 2011 operating and capital budget.

2.622 Cedars of Tuam Water (SSI)

Chair Bain noted that the first priority of the commission is to bring the new well into service and to complete the agreement with the school board. He advised that future planning will not be considered until the well is under their control.

MOVED by Ron Bain, **SECONDED** by Mary Gillies that the commission defer all capital projects until an agreement can be made with the school district to secure the new well.

CARRIED

A discussion took place on charging on parcel versus consumption. The commission noted their intention of requesting community input before any changes would be made to the fee structure.

The Commission recommended the following:

1. Several proposals for reducing management costs in the long term.
2. A reduction of \$2,300 in the budget deficit from 2010 based upon updated cost information.
3. Deferral of the water quality reporting system and consideration of a proposed reporting system based on a longer period of time as monthly reporting on Cedars of Tuam is unnecessary given a long track record of water quality remaining unchanged.
4. That proposed increases in labour and other operating costs be set as contingency items to be reviewed as the year progresses and not as a core budget increase.
5. A preference for using Salt Spring Island workers where possible.
6. Deferral of all other capital expenditures until after the new well site legal ownership is confirmed.

The commission advised that the budget will not be considered until the proposed changes are made to the budget document and brought back to the commission at the next meeting.

MOVED by Mary Gillies, **SECONDED** by Director Hendren that the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission support telecommunications and web based technology for communication and commission meetings.

CARRIED

MOVED by Mary Gillies, **SECONDED** by Ron Bain that the commission support retaining local labour to service all aspects of the water system and would like to see local labour used for all Salt Spring Island water systems.

CARRIED

MOVED by Mary Gillies, **SECONDED** by Ron Bain to defer Allocation – Water Quality Oversight of \$1,728 to 2012.

CARRIED

Chair Bain requested clarification on the reasons the commission bylaw was amended without prior notification or input by the commission. He advised that a letter would be sent to the CRD Board Chair for a response.

Director Hendren advised that the Chief Administrative Officer of the Capital Regional District will be meeting with representatives of each Salt Spring Island commission to discuss the CRD process. Information will be sent to the chair of each commission.

It was agreed that a meeting date will be set to review the 2011 Operating and Capital budget after the commission receives the revised budget document.

3a) Written Questions from the Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission

The questions were addressed as part of the presentation of the staff report.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

DRAFT