

**MINUTES  
DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2019  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL HALL  
7360 COLUMBIA STREET**



*We respectfully acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl People, Gilakas'la*

**PRESENT:** Mayor Dennis Dugas, Councillors Pat Corbett-Labatt, Janet Dorward, Fred Robertson, Treena Smith and Leightan Wishart

**ALSO PRESENT:** Allison McCarrick, Chief Administrative Officer; Heather Nelson-Smith, Director of Corporate Services; Lynda Sowerby, Director of Finance; Abbas Farahbakhsh, Director of Operational Services

**REGRETS:** Councillor John Tidbury

**MEDIA:** North Island Gazette      **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 1

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dugas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved/Seconded/Carried**

THAT the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 26, 2019 be accepted as presented.

**C. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

1. 6:00 PM Kristina Fedorak re: Small Business Challenges in Port Hardy  
Ms. Fedorak detailed her experience as a small business owner and her challenges including:
- Building permit requirements are unclear.
  - Utility charges are unfair.
  - High taxes.
  - Commercial charges for business including mortgages and insurance.
  - Lack of recycling options for businesses.
  - Feeling like lease rates that are low are the only incentive to keep local business in town.
  - New businesses are not starting due to costs to lease or purchase plus additional overheads imposed on commercial businesses.
  - Online shopping is driving people away from shopping locally.
  - Asking Council to look at how commercial properties are charged to ensure local businesses survive.
  - Online shopping is driving people away from shopping locally.

Discussion with Council included:

- Increased water and sewer billing per bylaw regulations.
- Some businesses are not paying for all the businesses in their buildings.
- Home based business not charged extra for water and sewer.
- Building permit regulations cannot be changed by Council.
- Taxes can be reviewed by Council and maybe there are ways to alleviate the tax

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APPROVAL OF  
COW FEB 26/19  
AGENDA AS  
PRESENTED

KRISTINA  
FEDORAK

MIKE MCCULLEY

- burden in future years.
- Online shopping cannot be regulated by Council.
- Commercial Recycling is offered by Fox's Disposal.
- Small Business is important to the District of Port Hardy.

2. 6:30 PM Mike McCulley, Research and Innovation Senior Officer, FLNRORD re: 2018 Wildfire Season.

Mr. McCulley provided Council with an overview of the Coastal Fire Centre, the fire season in the Coastal Fire Centre including the fires around Port Hardy and the fire season for the entire province including:

- The Coastal Fire Centre saw over 174,000 hectares burned in 2018.
- In 2018 (October 2018) saw a total of 293 fires in the Coastal Fire Centre, of those fires 160 were caused by lightning.
- An overview of the Larry Lake and Alice Lake fires.
- An overview of Zeballos and Vernon lake fires as well as the Quinsam response.
- Climate change has some significance to how long fires are lasting with seasons lasting well into October.
- Lightning strikes were very close to Port Hardy.
- Fires were all over BC and not concentrated to the Interior and the Okanagan as in the past.
- Sharing resources and people all over the world, primarily Australia.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED**

THAT the Committee of the Whole adjourn.

Time: 7:06 pm

**CORRECT**

*Originally signed by;*

**APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR  
OF CORPORATE SERVICES

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

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ADJOURNMENT