

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON
-SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council of the Village of Pemberton held on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers, 7400 Prospect Street. This is Meeting No. 1454.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Mike Richman
Councillor Jennie Helmer
Councillor James Linklater
Councillor Karen Ross

BY PHONE: Councillor Ted Craddock

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer
Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate & Legislative Services
Jill Brooksbank, Senior Communications and Grants Coordinator
Shelley Termuende, Legislative Assistant

Public: 27

1. CALL TO ORDER

In honour of the Lil'wat7ul, the Village of Pemberton acknowledges that we are meeting within the unceded territory of the Lil'wat Nation.

At 8:33 a.m. Mayor Richman called the June 27, 2017 Special Council Meeting to order.

2. WAIVING OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Moved/Seconded

THAT pursuant to Section 127 (4) of the Community Charter and Section 8 (a) of Council Procedure Bylaw No. 788, 2015 notice of this Special Meeting of Council, to be held Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., be waived.

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded

THAT the agenda be amended to include correspondence from Fran Cuthbert, dated June 27, 2017, re: support for IRONMAN Canada Event and a report from the Manager of Finance and Administration respecting Municipal Finance Authority Loan Restructuring.

CARRIED

4. IRONMAN Canada – Discussion

Mayor Mike Richman provided an overview of the discussions and meetings held to date regarding the IRONMAN – Canada Whistler event and Council's direction to provide conditional support for a renewal of three years. Mayor Richman spoke specifically to his disappointment and concern related to recent posts on social media with respect to actions some residents have suggested should take place to impact cyclist training and using the Pemberton Meadows Road or blockading the event itself citing his concerns for safety of all users of the road.

Council members individually expressed concern over the tone of comments and threats made toward cyclists utilizing the Pemberton Meadows Road through the social media forum Facebook and identified concerns with regard to safety, economic and marketing impacts of the IRONMAN Canada – Whistler event within the Pemberton Valley. Council also noted that not all cyclists are IRONMAN athletes and identified that there appears to be two main issues:

1. The increase in cyclists in general utilizing the Pemberton Meadows Road for training or other purposes,
2. The road closure itself on the day of the IRONMAN event.

Council acknowledged the discontentment of Village and Pemberton Meadows Road residents and further explained that the majority of the IRONMAN event occurs outside of the Village of Pemberton's jurisdiction. Clarification was provided as to the purpose of the survey the Village issued, with respect to the IRONMAN – Canada Whistler event renewal, which was to garner feedback and gain information. It was noted that there are other factors Council must consider at any given time and that decisions are not based solely on the results of a survey. Further information was provided regarding the role of the Village with respect to IRONMAN contract renewal negotiations which are between IRONMAN and the Resort Municipality of Whistler, the permitting process to close the road which lies with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the how the survey results were considered with respect to the decision to provide conditional support.

Mayor Richman invited Councillor Craddock, who was attending by phone, to provide his input; unfortunately, the connection was lost. Mayor Richman advised those in attendance that Councillor Craddock had expressed his opposition to the renewal at previous meetings and voted against the resolution to provide conditional support.

Mayor Mike Richman opened the meeting to Gallery for questions and comments.

Michelle Beks – Shaw Creek Farm, 8971 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Ms. Beks noted that the comments on Facebook come from a place of frustration as Pemberton Meadows residents feel they are not being heard and expressed concern over loss of a day for farming.

Christine Cogger, 1449 Alder Street, Race Director, IRONMAN (Village of Pemberton)

Ms. Cogger noted that she has been monitoring the Facebook comments and feels that the discussion got off course believing that there are two issues at hand – the impact of the IRONMAN event on the day and the impact and safety concerns of the increase in cyclists in general in this area.

Ms. Cogger expressed a desire to work together on cycling education, to communicate with cyclists and better understanding the impacts on residents both within the Village and Electoral Area C. Ms. Cogger advised that she wants to hear from Meadows residents regarding their concerns and can make herself available to anyone who wishes to meet and discuss.

Graham Turner, #15 - 7381 Laurel Street, Chamber President, BMX Society Volunteer and Resident (Village of Pemberton)

Mr. Turner noted that he is at this meeting wearing several hats and expressed his frustration with IRONMAN's public consultation process.

As the Chamber President, Turner spoke to the impact the road closure has on the wedding industry, festivals and businesses as many close for the day but noted that the impact of the closures has never been determined. Turner expressed concern that if the Village does pull its support, Highway 99 will still likely be closed which will still result in the some Village's businesses closing on event day. Turner noted the lack of Pemberton specific marketing related to Pemberton on IRONMAN website, brochures and publications further identified a need to leverage the IRONMAN Whistler event to better support Pemberton.

As a volunteer at an aid station, that raises money for the BMX Society, Turner commented on how inspiring it is to see the athletes ride through Pemberton and the Club benefits through a financial contribution.

Dudley Kennett – 7830 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Kennett expressed frustration over commuter difficulties for Pemberton Meadows Road residents and expressed a desire to lobby the local and provincial governments for road improvements which would include fixing the potholes and implementing bike lanes.

Mr. Kennett identified further concerns regarding the behaviours and actions of IRONMAN athletes and cyclists using Pemberton Meadows Road noting that they appear to be oblivious to the residents who live in this area. Mr. Kennett stated he suffered financial losses due to the IRONMAN event and expressed discontentment with the monetary compensation IRONMAN donates to local community groups.

Wendy Beker – 780 Green Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Ms. Beker expressed frustration regarding IRONMAN athlete behaviour including breaking the rules of the road and general safety concerns on Pemberton Meadows Road. Beker suggested that the RCMP make a greater effort to patrol and issue tickets to those not riding responsibly or safely. Ms. Beker also stated Pemberton was a ghost town while Whistler boomed following completion of last year's IRONMAN event.

Victor Samuels – 747 Green Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Samuels spoke about his experiences as an IRONMAN competitor and expressed concerns regarding road conditions, need for bike lanes on both sides of the road if this is to continue, safety concerns in general and the lack of positive impacts of IRONMAN for Pemberton specifically.

Barry Walsh – 881 Erickson Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Walsh expressed his concern over the lack of positive financial benefits for Pemberton and noted his frustration with respect to the behaviour of those training on Pemberton Meadows Road.

Chris Hellevang – 9043 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Hellevang expressed concerns regarding cycling/vehicle conflict and safety and concern over loss of income for local businesses due to the event.

Anna Helmer – 1347 Elmwood Drive/ 8353 Pemberton Meadows Road (Village of Pemberton & SLRD Electoral Area C), Pemberton Farmers Institute President

Ms. Helmer expressed a desire to have IRONMAN not use Pemberton Meadows Road for their event as it is not done properly. Ms. Helmer encouraged Council to not support the renewal of the IRONMAN event to help the residents get their road back. Ms. Helmer did acknowledge that not all the issues (speeding and bad behaviour) on the road are as a result of IRONMAN.

Erica Hurtubise – 1479 Lupin Street (Village of Pemberton)

Ms. Hurtubise spoke about her experience as an athlete training for the IRONMAN event noting that she has been run off the road and sworn at by people from her own community. Hurtubise expressed concern regarding the behaviours and actions of drivers towards cyclists on Pemberton Meadows Road and disappointment over threatening remarks made through social media against cyclists in particular.

Jody Atwater – Geese Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Atwater expressed concern over cyclist and vehicle interactions on Pemberton Meadows Road noting that the chance of an accident is high and the situation is unsafe for both cyclists and drivers.

Julie Kelly – Sea to Sky Highway (SLRD Electoral Area C), Chair, Friends of the Library

Ms. Kelly advised that for the past few years she has run the aid station located on Prospect Street in front of the RONA noting that the Library has been the recipient of \$1500 each year. Kelly encouraged residents to consider the human side of the event, the local athletes participating and the funds received by volunteer groups for their participation at aid stations.

Stephanie Moody – 8275 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Ms. Moody expressed concern regarding behaviours of IRONMAN athletes training on Pemberton Meadows Road and concern regarding the lack of sponsorship the Village of Pemberton gets given Whistler gets both the start and finish lines, hotel stays and restaurant visits. Moody noted that the level of frustration has been growing over time.

Mark Mendonca – 1478 Balsam Street (Village of Pemberton), President, Tourism Pemberton

Mr. Mendonca noted that there has been a commitment to improve tourism in the region and promote volunteerism yet at the same time the community is struggling with the challenges that come from more people visiting for all sorts of reasons. Mendonca suggested that a greater police presence is needed on Pemberton Meadows Road and expressed concern regarding business closures and lost wages during the IRONMAN event.

Dudley Kennett - 7830 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C) - Supplemental

Mr. Kennett commented that the problems stem from the provincial government's invitation to the world to visit BC yet there is no infrastructure in place to support it. Mr. Kennett comments about the impact the road closure has on his business and suggested that IRONMAN has had its turn and it is time to move on.

Michelle Beks - Shaw Creek Farm, 8971 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C) - Supplemental

Ms. Beks apologized to Ms. Hurtubise on behalf of the local residents for the treatment she has experienced while riding and training on Pemberton Meadows Road. Ms. Beks noted that last year Whistler was very busy during the weekend of IRONMAN but that the Village of Pemberton was a ghost town.

Terry Ross – 8162 Pemberton Meadows Road (SLRD Electoral Area C)

Mr. Ross thanked Mayor and Council for holding the meeting and providing an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions.

Mayor Richman called three times for further comment and hearing none closed the public input portion of the meeting.

Council discussed the comments from the gallery and identified safety as being a major concern for both cyclists and motorists as well as for IRONMAN athletes, tourists and residents alike.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the following resolutions, made at Regular Council Meeting No. 1452, held Tuesday, June 6, 2017 and at the Regular Council Meeting No. 1453, held on June 20, 2017, be rescinded:

CARRIED

Regular Council Meeting No. 1452, June 6, 2017

THAT the Village of Pemberton supports the continuation of the IRONMAN Canada – Whistler Event for a three (3) year period (2018, 2019, 2020) with the following conditions to be considered:

- *Local Pemberton community groups running volunteer stations receive at minimum \$1500;*
- *An annual post event meeting with Village of Pemberton Council be held by the end of October each year;*
- *Staff and IRONMAN review the commitment list to further identify achievable terms and conditions based on capacity and Village timelines.*

AND THAT the Village of Pemberton accepts the intent of the list of commitments to the Village for 2017 and beyond as established in the email correspondence to Nikki Gilmore, CAO, from Mr. Keats McGonigal, IRONMAN Senior Regional Director – North America, dated May 31, 2017.

Regular Council Meeting No. 1453, June 20, 2017

THAT IRONMAN Canada be requested to donate \$5,000.00 to the Pemberton Valley Utilities and Services Committee Pemberton & District Community Fund in lieu of an additional contribution to the community groups that run the aid stations.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Village of Pemberton does not support the three (3) year renewal of IRONMAN due to overwhelming safety concerns on the Pemberton Meadows Road.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT correspondence be sent advising IRONMAN Canada of Council's resolutions.
CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) For Information:

i) **Fran Cuthbert, dated June 27, 2017 Re: Support of Ironman Event**

Moved/Seconded

THAT the above correspondence be received for information.
CARRIED

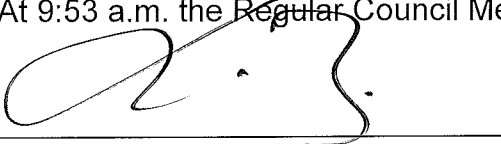
6. REPORT

a) **Municipal Finance Authority Loan Restructuring**

This item was removed from the agenda as consideration by Council was no longer required.

7. AJOURNMENT

At 9:53 a.m. the Regular Council Meeting was adjourned.



Mike Richman
Mayor



Sheena Fraser
Corporate Officer