

LASQUETI LAST RESORT SOCIETY

September 22, 2018 Tax Requisition Information Meeting

Chair: Tim Peterson

Minute taker: Marilyn Darwin

Board members: Tom Carter, Nicole Murphy, Frank Buffam, Sandy Morrison

The meeting began at 1:30 PM.

Ann Buffam: Speaking to all of the positive aspects of the health centre and its uses such as medical students from UBC. Professional practitioners putting together a spot at the centre for managing chronic pain, etc. Adult courses such as Home Care. Having a vision of where we can go and fund ourselves.

Jack Barrett: Can't see how we can come up with this money to run this health centre. Heat pump rather than using a wood boiler. He is suggestion 2 heat pumps: one for health centre and one for elder cottage. Heat coming off the services building could be used to provide a greenhouse. His problem is the tax and the cost of the yearly expenses. Wants to see if its economically viable. Thanked Melinda for the amount that of her services that she has donated to the Society.

Willy Clark: I like the proactive ideas being put forward here. I will ask again what ideas has the Board come up with to finance the JFC? What has the Operations Committee come up with?

Sandy Morrison: We are waiting for the Operations Committee to complete their report.

Tim: I have heard one criticism is that the administrative cost is too high. With some volunteer help and reworking the administrator contract those costs can be reduced. We are hoping volunteers are going to be taking over some of these tasks.

Willy: Is the board going to be able to report back to the community before the tax requisition vote.

Tim: We will try to get as much information back to the public as possible before the vote.

Frank Buffam: We will get back to the community with an operations plan. I am glad people are not suggesting that this is a double tax. In looking at budget requests from other islands we are not asking for anything more than what they have.

Tom Weinerth: How did this referendum come about?

Tim: We applied for operational funding from the qRD and they said no. They would only assist us if we were to take the referendum route. There is one alternative to a referendum vote and that is by way of a petition from 50% of the land owners. We decided not to go with that option.

Tom W: What is with a gazebo and music festival?

Sandy: The garden area, where the gazebo will be located, is maintained by volunteers.

Tom Carter: The tax will not go to the garden at all.

Tom W: I understand that the Board will ask RD for operating costs.

Tim: The Board has asked that the tax be levied for five years only. If we spend only \$35,000 one year then the tax would go down the next year. The money is allocated to us for that project.

Sue Wheeler: The Board will be working to inform the public. Can we now ask for less money from RD for tax requisition.

Melinda: The Board had to inform the RD of the amount it wanted by the end of August. With the election nomination period now ended, I would guess that the order for ballots has gone in and would not be able to change amount.

Sue W: Too bad. I'd like to see the centre thrive but I'm sorry to hear it's that or nothing.

Frank: The request is up to \$45,000. The money can only be used for the health centre. We would be taxed less if we use less.

Wendy Bartholomew: Melinda, how do you spend your time? I think it would be useful for people to know.

Melinda: The contract duties and hourly rate were determined by the Board. Before this the Board and volunteers had carried out these duties. I prepare cheques to pay invoices; prepare deposits; payroll; send invoices to users; take bookings for use of: the meeting room; respite suite; telehealth consultations; treatment room by practitioners; answer inquiries about using the health centre; organize events; fundraising; volunteer coordinator; order supplies required by maintenance; liaison with Island Health re the nursing contract; liaison with CMHC re seed funding for construction of more cottages; contact with the bank; contact with insurance agent; submit annual report; take minutes at Board meetings, membership meetings and AGM; complete monthly EFT donations; research grant opportunities.

Aigul: Who here is a Board member? {Board members raised their hands}

Nicole Murphy: Everyone thought that VIHA would fund this.

Tim: Many of the long term Board members have resigned. A number of current Board members are only on island part time and they can't do it all.

Frank: We should be entitled to ask as much as Saturna.

Aigul: Why didn't the Board ask the Community first before going to the RD. I can't ask my friends or myself to pay this tax.

Susan Morrison: Is the RD charging an administration fee? {Yes, \$1,500 per year}

Janna Vanna: I am grateful and amazed what people here have done. I thought that the vision was to have a group of elder cottages. Not the health centre we have today. Why is the water system so expensive? I am wondering what the vision is?

Tim: Clarified how the Board is continuing with progress with the building more cottages.

Janna: Thank you for the clarification. I was not clear from the Board's information how voting worked. We need to take a step back since I think we have taken on too much.

Celia King: If the referendum fails - what then.

Tim: If it fails we will still try to get money.

Nicole: It is hard to get money from VIHA. We will still have to advocate for funding. Rural health is not at the top of their list.

Peter: The operations committee hoped to have a report ready by now. It is not finished yet. Our report to the Board will have information on lowering costs. Single greatest thing to support it is for the Board to not seek \$45,000 but go for \$15,000 instead.

Jack: Maybe new cottages won't need heat. Better PR is needed. Keep public informed more. What is the selection process for cottages. Home care is an important function.

Tom W: Hornby Island has 22 Home Care workers.

Nicole: Home care is more efficient. People have the choice to stay in their homes. Elder cottages are for people who can no longer live in their homes. We want to keep our elders on island.

Tom W: Going back to the original plan for the centre. This is not what was envisioned. We have a Cadillac.

Tim: We are asking for certain grants for operations.

Tom W: It's only to operate the health centre?

Tom C: Health Centre building is separate from services building and cottage.

Nicole: The Board isn't wanting a staffed building and many cottages.

Tom W: We need time to figure out how to use it.

Aigul: Ask the community what you want. Put it in the paper. Give more information. Many people are opposed.

Sue W: There are links to minutes. Melinda, do you feel this is personally directed at you. If you are doing what you have been asked to do then well done.

Tim: Melinda has donated a lot of time.

Janna: Why didn't the job go out to public, {Tim stated it did} Can we come up with a grant for Home Care workers?

Nicole: If we don't have care here what happens to our Elders? Rent for cottage is \$650 and may be subsidized through SAFER program.

Peter: Doctor clinics are only once every three months?

Tom C: one of the drawbacks with being a doctor on island, is that you would be on call 24 hours.

Nicole: People are selected for an elder cottage based on needs, but not financial need. Need to be a Lasqueti resident for six months of the year and have lived here a minimum of three years.

Willy: Barb's cottage was plumbed for propane. Would we use this elsewhere for heating? In case the referendum fails, has the Board got a further plan?

Janna: There needs to be a handout for the community.