

Judith Fisher Centre Tax Requisition Proposal Meeting Minutes

Lasqueti Island July 28, 2018

Board Members Present: Sandy Morrison, Marylin Darwin, Nicole Murphy, Frank Buffam, Robert Wallace, Ron Abrahams, Doane Grinnell

Powerpoint Presentation by Robert Wallace re: history and financial overview of the health centre

**The following minutes are a paraphrased and abbreviated version of the dialogue at the meeting. I apologize in advance for any points that were misinterpreted or if anyone feels that this transcript does not accurately reflect the intention of the speaker. If you have further questions or issue with any of the statements below, please seek clarification from the person who was speaking.

Community members were invited to be put on a speakers list for the opportunity to directly ask questions to the Board members of the LRS. Board members then responded concisely to address these specific concerns.

Ted Salmon – Concerns and experience re: safety and layout of bathroom and bath, availability of respite care. Q: What other projects would be done if there were excess funds?

Doane – acknowledged that there are improvements to be done

Peter Johnston – differentiation between the Health Centre (nurse facility) and the Judith Fisher Centre (includes the entire property and operations) Q: Is the bathroom facility available to first responders/firefighters also?

Robert Wallace – Yes, the idea is for the health centre to be available to the fire department and first responders, as a waiting room and emergency facility.

Ray Lepofsky- Confirmed the distinction between the Health Centre and the Judith Fisher Centre

Nadine Simpson – Why doesn't Island Health cover this project? What forethought was placed on the eventuality of this financial situation?

Frank B – responded re: Canadian healthcare is not fully universal

Ray L – Island Health has been consulted and will not contribute funds

Doane G – Island Health acknowledged the JFC as a health facility

Ronaldo – Inspiration from successful healthcare model in Finland

Marty Wendt – In support of the JFC and prepared to pay the tax increase. Concerns re: the mechanism to control the tax money to ensure it is utilized for the benefit of our community.

Ron A – the regional district will not have control of the funds, their duty is to give the funding back to us

Robert and Merrick also responded

Andrew Fall – clarification of the referendum/ bylaw 531 and offer to extrapolate further on legislative process

Ron A – Andrew is welcome to come to meetings and his skills are appreciated. The community feedback is important to the Board

Willy – respectfully acknowledged that we are on Coast Salish Territory. Question regarding specifics of projected financial expenses – request for clarification of full annual operating cost of running the JFC and anticipated replacement costs. What is plan B?

Sandy – The board is in the process of presenting a more specific projection.

Robert – No, there is not money being put aside in anticipation of replacement costs, etc, because the funds for that are not currently available. Water testing is now less frequent, etc. Acknowledged the need for a reserve account. Plan B is to continue fundraising and making improvements where possible.

Ron – spoke to financial situation and the need for basic funding first

Shelley – supportive of healthcare. Concerned with the size of the tax increase and certain facets of the budget. How does the board plan to make best use of the funds that are left? Concerns that we are not further ahead than we were as a community before the Health Centre was built. Tax payers need to see that their money is making a difference. Models of cooperation with VIHA on other islands, ie Saturna.

Doane – offered encouragement to everyone to be involved

Robert – re: Texada's healthcare model and the tax increase working for them

Ron – a successful, working example must be in place before VIHA will entertain funding. Day to day fundraising is taking away from attention/energy that could be better spent making our centre operate better

Intermission

Larry Manahan – Q: During planning stage, what was the expected source of funding? How do the projected costs compare to what we are seeing now? Projections for the future?

Robert – general projection for the future re: elder cottages is that costs will not increase but revenue will

Ray responded also

Tolling – not in support of this project and considers it a failure. Why does the Last Resort society consider themselves special enough to impose this tax burden upon the community?

Ron – this centre focuses on and serves the community

Ray – for example, the Fire department does receive tax money, from people that do not necessarily benefit from this services

Tolling – how is funding through taxation going to make this project work?

Ron A – the health centre is critical if physicians are going to come here to treat the community

Richard Chesham – Gratitude towards all of the volunteers and appreciation for this project. This project has come to fruition thanks to the people who allowed Lasqueti to accept opportunities for initial funding and construction. In favor of moving forward to make it work.

Sylvain – Referendum was read weeks ago, why was there no copy of the referendum made available to the community? How does the board plan to make the building more efficient? What about the elder cottage in relation to the Health Centre in terms of efficient use of resources?

Doane – suggestions are welcome towards how to best use the building, which is now only in its fledgling stage. It would be helpful if fundraising wasn't such a priority and energy could go in a progressive direction

Ray – the elder cottage pays for itself and covers the cost of insurance

Sylvain – Is there an option to separate from VIHA and run completely independently...? Food for thought.

Chandra – Concerns re: lack of staff at the Health Centre, the space could be far more functional. Q: How is the JFC going to be staffed?

Ron – valid point. Staffing is complicated re: doctor liability. The presence of a solid, functional health centre is the key to inviting doctors to treat our community.

Chandra – concerns that it is not financially viable for doctors to work here

Ken Pickard – supportive of the tax measure and the vision of the JFC. Q: What are the prospects of making more healthcare available at the centre?

Robert – re: Vancouver Coastal Health, supporting the vision of this project, welcoming new energy and encouraging support for the JFC through the appropriate political channels

Jack Soule - Is there a committee to work through the budget and attempt to reduce it? Could we revise the model of the elder cottage?

Ron – there are plans to look at a different model of elder housing. Spoke re: volunteer boards, volunteer hours, and the importance of the administrator.

Noel Taylor – Beautiful building that is underused. Q: How can the community actually receive more services?

Doane – Anyone is welcome to form a committee to look at how to better use the space

Robert – Invitation to utilize the facility towards wellness

Noel – many wellness practitioners in the community already have a space to practice in

Gordon – gratitude towards the board. Failure of the tax initiative would be a bad sign. Perhaps the request is too high at this point. Q: Would the board consider revising the tax initiative to make it more agreeable to taxpayers?

Ron – all or nothing in terms of supporting the future of the health centre. Energy can be devoted to other things (instead of fundraising) to allow our health centre to better serve the community

Nicole – the timing of this tax increase is important related to the current election process. It is cost efficient to vote on this referendum now rather than later. To add more services, the funding is needed. Welcoming to more ideas, volunteers, and board members.

Robin – expressed admiration for this project. Interested in utilizing the space as a wellness practitioner. Liability/insurance requirements may present a problem for community members wishing to practice out of the Health Centre. Questioning how best to serve the community and possibility of revising the structure of the JFC

Renee Soule – Does this tax increase limit our possibilities for creative evolution in new or different directions?

Sandy – the tax increase will help us move forward with the center and will not be limiting, on the contrary, we as a community will have more of an opportunity to move forward
Doane and Ron responded

Vic Lacey – Spoke to our different attitudes towards insurance on Lasqueti. Concerns that the will of community members, cost, and feasibility of the JFC are being misrepresented.

Ron – most of us need healthcare. Every time we go to a hospital, our physicians have insurance. We need to decide as a community if we want to follow the same principles, or not.

Shelley – re: Texada, acknowledgement of tension around values and how to move forward, clarity needed

Ron – spoke re: salaries vs. fees for service, the future of healthcare system

Nadine – some concerns around the regional district collecting these tax funds under the label of “services”, where is the money coming from to expand, no guarantees that services will come to Lasqueti just because the facility exists.

Sandy – there is some capitol available

Peter Johnston – addressed specific financial statements

Willy Clark – Option for a moratorium on the tax? Its difficult to get doctors to come here. Who will service the elders in the elder cottages? Housing for young professionals is already scarce. Does the board have a vision for this?

Nicole – re: the availability and limitations of home care under VIHA.

Doane – re: the greater vision of expanding care facilities

Ron – Yes, there are variations on how long the tax increase is in place. It can be removed in the future.

Tolling- This corporate structure - rather than cooperative structure - is a problem. Is the board willing to give up the corporate concept and adopt a cooperative model instead?

Ron – the purpose of this meeting is to consult the community and professionally cooperate with the needs and desires of the community

Craig McFeely – doesn't mind paying tax increase for health centre, even if he doesn't use it.

Sylvain – Possibility of revising the model to better accommodate the needs of the community

Ron – advisory committees are welcome to come to the board with ideas. The board is listening.

Noel – how much money in the capital fund for building elder cottage?

Sandy – approximately \$219,000.

Noel – can the money be used more creatively and effectively?

Sandy and Doane– good ideas, welcome the input

Meeting adjourned

**TWO MORE MEETINGS TO COME
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK WELCOME**