

## Senanus plan inches forward

By Christine van Reeuyk - Peninsula News Review

Published: February 10, 2009 1:00 PM

The pipeline plan in Central Saanich continues to draw objection from some residents. Despite that, council opted to inch forward with the plan, allowing first reading of the first of four bylaws that would be necessary to create a pipeline along Mount Newton X Road and Senanus Drive. The bylaw would establish a local area service for construction of the municipal water service, the boundaries of the area, and cost recovery methods.

Other bylaws would follow dealing with construction, design and borrowing.

Staff previously presented council with a trio of scenarios. Option one — to provide basic potable water. Option two — not proceed with the project and close the file or refer it to some other process such as third party mediation or district-led dispute resolution. The third option was a “modified option one” to seek engineer consultants input to include potable water and minimum acceptable fire suppression to meet insurance standards. Council opted for a combination of options one and three, seeking the engineer consultant information as well as moving forward.

Staff recommended that council not adopt the bylaw before the Feb. 23 committee meeting when the information is expected back from engineer consultants.

Councillor Susan Mason made the motion to defer the item but council opted for Councillor Terry Siklenka’s concept — to give first reading and deferring the bylaw to the Feb. 23 committee meeting. The purpose, said Siklenka, to “find out what this is going to cost ... there is still information out there.”

The Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association opposes the plan as presented and is threatening legal action on a petition undertaken by the Central Saanich West Voters Association that moved the project forward. The Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association asserts the petition is not binding and contains errors. During the public input session of the council meeting, several residents stood and posed the questions they have previously asked about the petition. The District of Central Saanich maintains the petition is valid.

Councillor Adam Olsen renewed his motion to have the district provide mediation for the groups involved as sought by the Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association.

“I think it is irresponsible of us not to go to mediation,” agreed Councillor Susan Mason.

“If there is litigation ... then the rest of the community is affected,” Olsen said. “Their tax dollars will be paying for this.”

Councillor John Garrison felt the motion was similar to the previous one.

“Council made a decision,” he said.

“It has more information now backing it,” Olsen replied. “This is a new motion because there’s new information.” He pointed to a 2005 document where the Central Saanich West Voters Association questioned council’s decision to not pursue mediation between them and other area residents. He also referenced a 2005 letter from the province offering funds for a mediation process.

Olsen said he agrees there is an issue with the water.

“There is likely a water issue and a human issue,” he said. “I agree we need to find a water solution ... We have a situation 16 years or 30 years or 100 years in the making... I agree with councillor Kubek it’s been going on too long.”

Council stuck with its previous decision, to move forward without mediation, with Mason and Olsen in favour.

reporter@peninsulanewsreview.com

[http://www.blocalnews.com/vancouver\\_island\\_south/peninsulanewsreview/news/39376234.html](http://www.blocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/peninsulanewsreview/news/39376234.html)