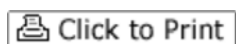


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Peninsula News Review

Water project takes another step

By Laura Lavin - Peninsula News Review

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Despite a recommendation to defer final reading of the loan authorization bylaw to fund the construction of a municipal water line, Central Saanich council okayed it in a split decision.

Councillor Susan Mason asked district administrator Gary Nason to give council a recommendation on passing the loan authorization bylaw, in the light of the Mount Newton Neighbourhood Association's application in the Supreme Court of British Columbia for a Judicial Review of the recent District of Central Saanich decision to create the service area [bylaw 1625] for the Mount Newton X Road and Senanus Drive area.

Nason told council that the request to quash the bylaw was presented in court on May 8, but no date has been set for a court hearing.

"This bylaw is a companion bylaw to the Loan Authority bylaw," said Nason. "It will authorize the district to borrow money to front-end the cost," he said. While Nason told council there was no legal restriction to final adoption of the bylaw, council could choose to defer final adoption, pending the outcome of court action.

"Were the quashing application to be successful down the road, this bylaw would effectively have no force or practical

application ... it would be prudent to defer final adoption.” Nason said.

“If we move forward, council will be putting the municipality into further liability and will bring the rest of the citizens of the municipality into this,” said councillor Adam Olsen.

“I’m concerned,” said Mason. “I hope council is not gambling with the residents of Central Saanich’s money.”

The bylaw passed final adoption, with councillors Olsen and Mason voting against. Councillor Ron Kubek was absent from the meeting and councillor Alastair Bryson stepped out due to a conflict of interest.

“Staff is very conservative — that’s their job,” said councillor John Garrison, after the vote.


“From my perspective, we go forward, do the engineering work that needs to be done.”

Garrison said if the request to quash the bylaw is successful, council will then look at alternatives, including re-petitioning. “And there are other options we would have to have staff look at,” he said.

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