



The Village of  
**PORT CLEMENTS**  
*“Gateway to the Wilderness”*

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7:00 PM, Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Committee of the Whole Minutes

Present:

Mayor Scott Cabianca  
Councillor Brigid Cumming - via conferencing  
Councillor Wayne Nicol  
Councillor Dennis Reindl

Not Present:

Councillor Kazamir Falconbridge

CAO Marjorie Dobson  
Deputy CAO Elizabeth Cumming

Members of the public: Elizabeth Stewart (via conferencing), Greg Stewart (via conferencing), Sharon Petitpas, and Marilyn Bliss

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 PM**

*Mayor Scott Cabianca: I call to order this committee of the whole meeting of the Council of the Village of Port Clements being held on the traditional territory of the Haida People.*

**1. ADOPT AGENDA**

2023-09-213—Moved by Councillor Cumming,  
THAT the Committee adopts the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Committee of the Whole Agenda as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS**

D-1-Fireworks and Similar Events/Dog Control and Issues

- *Discussion initiated with question on differences between policies (more like operational guidelines) vs. bylaws (local laws). Many of Council’s powers can only be enacted through bylaw rather than policy (ex. to regulate or to prohibit a thing has to be done by bylaw). Bylaws may also be the better avenue as they given an avenue for legal recourse (by the municipality or individuals). Issue identified that current bylaws have no teeth and have enforcement issues. If the Village wants to create a bylaw, then it needs to have teeth and a way to enforce them. Suggestions to look into ways like cao being writer of citation of offences, or an island-wide shared bylaw enforcement officer (might not need a full-time position).*
  - *Question on what RCMP role and involvement can be with enforcing local bylaws. Identified that the RCMP should be consulted, and that it should be recommended to Council to invite the RCMP to attend a regular council meeting to update and provide information to Council on how they can enforce municipal bylaws.*
  - *Suggestion that the Village look into novel cost sharing arrangements where people who report bylaw infractions can get a portion of the fine (ex. \$50 fine for dog defecation gets a \$25 reward to the person who reported [with picture/video evidence]). This approach might get more engagement from the public in reporting violations and more adherence to bylaws.*
- *Discussion on topic of dog control and issues:*

- Identified that RCMP has previously been involved in historic dog issues (enforcing after dog attacks), however, other accounts of RCMP not involving or enforcing with dog issues. Example of previous issue with puppy mill and RCMP ability to appoint a special officer with the SPCA to investigate. People often reluctant to report dog issues to RCMP, though issues should be reported to the Village and RCMP and it is important to report to both.
- Issues with compliance – people are supposed to license their dogs, and dogs should not be on the loose (should be contained or tied up). Important that the public be made aware of licensing requirements. Question on why having a bylaw about licensing or dog control if it is not being enforced.
- Question on if a dog park would be a solution? General agreement that no. Dog parks in particular have value in urban areas that do not have a green space that is not occupied by people (who may be scared of dogs, etc). The Village is in a very rural area, where there is access to green space without people so it is not a necessity. While proponents of dog parks identify it could be user-managed, likely it would fall onto Public Works to maintain upkeep, or users will come to the Village Office for management when issues arise (between users, dog issues, etc). The current dog park area, the baseball field, is not being looked after by the users who do not pick up after their dogs, leaving feces behind, which impacts the baseball players. There could be some improvement with signage and some consistency with bag supply at the baseball field (previously had bags, dispenser and collector but got vandalized/damaged – maybe investigate a hardier one).
- The Museum has experienced where visitors want access to garbage receptacles to deposit picked up dog feces (the Museum has a green space used by dog walkers).
- Discussion included consideration of whether to only permit usage of the baseball field to dogs during specific times (September – April, outside of baseball season). However, identified that compliance is unlikely to be achieved. Discussion identified that the focus should be on people picking up after their dogs, rather than limited access to facility.
- Another matter brought up was dogs being at public events, such as Canada Days. Fireworks at events set off dogs in attendance – getting loose and running off – as well as issues with dog waste, getting loose generally, getting into fights and attacking other dogs/people. General consensus that dogs should not be allowed at public events (or at least be required to be leashed). The Tlell Fall Fair for example does not permit dogs.
- In between the discussion of dog control/issues and fireworks, it was also identified that the Community Park had a lot of development opportunity and usage potential. It was brought up that some consideration should be looked at getting similar infrastructure to what Daajing Giids has in one of their community spaces (teen centre, dog water fountains, outdoor gymnasium, skate park, etc). Though this space does not have a designated dog park.
- Discussion on the topic of fireworks bylaw potential:
  - Recognition that fireworks are a contentious issue in the community, and a focus should be on finding a middle road between the two sides – maybe not an outright ban or a free for all, but potentially permitting and restrictions.
  - Pointed out that it should not be an expectation for residents (such as those with PTSD, animals, or parents of children) to accommodate extraneous activities like fireworks (lovely, but not essential) by leaving the community or their homes. There should also be consideration of wildlife, for example, maybe not permitting fireworks during nesting season.
    - Some additional suggestions that it may be beneficial for Council to get more information on there be a presentation on the impacts of fireworks on those with medical conditions (such as PTSD and autism, etc).

- *A middle ground could be a permitting system, or permitting fireworks only on certain days of the year without permits (such as Halloween or New Years, but not on Canada Days) and otherwise limiting/restricting them by requiring permits, as well as other components such as limiting location (not permitted on beaches/docks or municipal infrastructure), limiting time (banned after certain hours such as after 11 PM, for example), age of use (no minors), or types of fireworks used. There could be requirement to use "silent" fireworks or alternative fireworks rather than the noisier, normal ones ("silent" fireworks sound more like popcorn than a bang noise).*
- *Acknowledgement that fireworks should not be held during fire ban as they are not legally permitted provincially under such bans. Haida Gwaii is currently still under a ban until October 31<sup>st</sup> that prohibits fireworks, sky lanterns, etc. There should be more awareness of fire bans & provincial fines involved (ex. issue with Smoking Joe's fireworks at mudbog during a fire ban; much loved activity to open mudbug, but should not have occurred under the fire department's supervision).*
- *Question on whether fireworks have provincial regulation for certification/training. Clarification that family fireworks do not require certification, but professional displays do.*
- *Question on whether the Village does want to do anything or not? Irrespective of what the Village imposes in a bylaw to limit fireworks, it would not necessarily limit individuals and 98% of fireworks go off around Halloween/News Years. There could be regulation, but it may not stop the problem. How would it be controlled?*

2023-09-214—Moved by Councillor Cumming,

THAT the committee makes a recommendation to Council to invite the RCMP to a Council Meeting to discuss the RCMP's role and recommendations on bylaw enforcement, such as regarding dogs and fireworks issues.

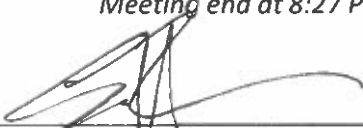
**CARRIED**

2023-09-215—Moved by Councillor Cumming,

THAT the committee recommends to Council that it not pursue a dog park at this time.

**CARRIED**

*Meeting end at 8:27 PM*




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Mayor Scott Cabianca




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CAO Marjorie Dobson