



TRANSCRIPT OF THE PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 141 WEST 14th STREET, NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C., ON MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor D.R. Mussatto
Councillor P.J. Bookham
Councillor R.C. Clark
Councillor R.J. Fearnley
Councillor R.G. Heywood
Councillor C.R. Keating
Councillor M.L. Trentadue

STAFF MEMBERS

A.K. Tollstam, City Manager
S.E. Dowey, City Clerk
R.G. Anderson, Deputy City Clerk
F. Caouette, Director, Corporate Services
R.H. White, Director, Community Development
I. Gordon, Director, Finance
B. Themens, Deputy Director, Finance
G. Penway, Deputy Director, Community Development
E. Adin, City Planner
N. Chand, Manager of Financial Planning
D. Cameron, Budget Analyst
S. Wilks, Timekeeper

Re: Local Government Elections Task Force – File: 1085-01

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor D.R. Mussatto

Ms. Dowey!

Ms. S.E. Dowey, City Clerk

Thank you Your Worship. The Public Meeting this evening is regarding the Province of BC Local Government Elections Task Force request for comments, Your Worship.

1. Staff Presentation

Ms. Sandra Dowey, City Clerk

On October 2, 2009 Premier Campbell announced a joint Task Force to make recommendations for legislative changes to improve the electoral process for Local Government Elections across BC. The six member Task Force was set up co-chaired by Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development and Harry Nyce, President of the UBCM and includes two other UBCM Executive Members and two Provincial MLA's. The other members are: Barbara Steele, Councillor, City of Surrey; First Vice-President of the UBCM, Mary Sjostrom; Mayor of Quesnel and Third Vice-President of the UBCM; Donna Barnett, MLA, Cariboo-Chilcotin; and Douglas Horne, MLA, Coquitlam-Burke Mountain.

The Task Force is reviewing specific issues related to local government elections. Topics under review are as follows:

- Campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits;
- Enforcement processes and outcomes;
- The role of the Chief Electoral Officer of BC in local government elections;
- The election cycle which is the term of office which is currently a 3 year term;
- The corporate vote which is not allowed in the present legislation; and
- Matters raised in election resolutions submitted to the 2009 UBCM Convention.

The Task Force has requested written comments from municipalities to assist in its review of local government election issues by April 15, 2010. Written comments can be made by email and the email address is on the screen, Your Worship, or by fax or by mail to Victoria.

They also have a very good website, www.localelectionstaskforce.gov.bc.ca, and the Task Force will deliver recommendations to the Province of BC and the UBCM by May 30th this year, Your Worship.

I did circulate some background papers with my original report on this from January, 2010. There were some other papers that came in for February, 2010 and today I checked the website again and some more have been added, namely Candidate Eligibility Discussion, Expense Limits, Enforcement and Elections BC Role, and that, Your Worship, concludes my presentation. Thank you.

Mayor Mussatto

Thank you very much Ms. Dowey for your presentation. Now we go to the opportunity for the members of the public to ask questions and make comments. I do not know if we are going to be able to answer them but we certainly want the comments. We had a signup sheet earlier. We did have one person sign up, Mr. Ivan Leonard and so if Mr. Leonard could make his way down, we have got the clock at five minutes and we kind of hope you can keep it to that but if you have more to ask we will go to the rest of the people first. Welcome Mr. Leonard! Good to see you again.

2. Representations from the Public

Mr. Ivan Leonard, 215 St. Andrew's Avenue, North Vancouver

Good to see you too. 215 St. Andrew's Avenue, Your Worship. First of all let me make a comment. Am I the only one who is going to speak tonight on this important issue?

Mayor Mussatto

I am going to go to the other members of the gallery later so you are the first though. You are the first.

Mr. Leonard

Your Worship, I would like to submit my comments to Council on a specific issue regarding the municipal election process. I am pleased that the Province is in the process of producing a new Local Government Election Act. I hope there will be further opportunities to review other areas before finalizing its process.

For instance, I would like to see a greater number of polling stations and changes in the voting procedures and someone to review the matters at hand concerning contributions to candidates. The concept of democracy assumes that the political equality of all individuals and to the petition of authority.

Therefore, I would like to suggest the following: a single contribution limit of \$1,000 to be the limit donated to a candidate and that for each contribution the author responsible for the decision to contribute be identified whether from an individual, a corporation, an institution or a union. That corporations, institutions and unions be considered as one contributor. That a total amount contributed from any one source to more than one candidate be limited to the amount for one candidate. That in kind contributions be limited to the allowable single contribution amount for one candidate. That a special limit be set on the amount a candidate can spend on an election. That contributions received for an election and not spent on that election be forfeited and turned over to the City Clerk and placed in a special fund to be determined by an advisory committee within a year of the election. That contributions be tax deductible to encourage participation by the electorate in the election. Personal contributions to one's own campaign be at the discretion of the candidate themselves. Regarding the three year term of office, I am very satisfied with this length of time and it affords sufficient time for the process of three annual budgets.

Now there are many item headings, one here, which I have only addressed, just the one or two and I am very disappointed that comments regarding how to stimulate the voting public into participating in the process is not required in this Provincial review. I have much to say in this regard. That is all I have to say right now. Thank you very much. I do have a copy. Can I give it to the City Clerk?

Mayor Mussatto

Thank you very much. You certainly can, yes, if you give it to the City Clerk that would be much appreciated, Mr. Leonard. Thank you for that.

It is my understanding that is going to go right to the Provincial Government, Ms. Dowey, to the Task Force?

Ms. Dowey

That is correct, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

Thank you. Are there any other members of the gallery who have any comments to make? Yes please, I am just going to go to Mr. Sostad and then George I will call on you next.

Mr. Ron Sostad, 211-312 East 1st Street, North Vancouver

I am going to make this simple. Seven people are elected by the people and these seven people pick the Mayor at large.

Mayor Mussatto

Did we get that in there Ms. Dowey?

Ms. Dowey

We did, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

I think seven electives and one gets picked by the Members of Council. Is that it Mr. Sostad?

Mr. Sostad

Seven people are elected by the people and these seven people pick the Mayor.

Mayor Mussatto

It makes my odds on the Council getting back on pretty good actually, Mr. Sostad, maybe not for Mayor but for Council for sure. Mr. Pringle welcome!

Mr. George Pringle, 125 West Keith Road, North Vancouver

George Pringle, 125 West Keith Road. I will be submitting something directly to the Provincial thing. I have been working on something for a while as it is a topic that has always interested me. Going through a couple of points here on campaign finance itself, I am totally against any tax credits in a system where you do not have formal organization to political parties. I don't think you could put tax credits to anyone who decides to run for Council on the basis of two signatures on a nomination form.

I also do not believe in any type of non-citizen donations to campaigns, in other words, union or businesses. Such a subject is the business of the citizens only. If you look at Kennedy Stewart's old submissions in 1998 to the prior Provincial Task Force like this one and again to this one, he also states that it should be citizens only. It is something I agree with, with a couple of amendments to the way he would say citizens of North Vancouver, let's say in our case, only. If I were to run let's say and my mother who lives in Ontario wanted to donate \$100 I do not think that should be prohibited by law.

I think also with individual donations, which would be enhanced in a system where one was not receiving corporate or union donations, the ability, while the system would become, candidates would be more reliant on their own personal funds. So I do not think there should be as stringent a barrier or a restriction, if one was to take Ivan's \$1,000 as an example. The candidate themselves should be able to spend, you know, something double or three times, depending on what the limit was set at because those candidates would be relying on their own money for their own run on Council.

The second one, I am really a firm supporter in that the whole thing, the administration, should be turned over to BC Elections. I was very surprised right from the start that an interior staff person was the actual campaign manager. I think that is putting the staff person in a bad position. I think it is putting the impression to people that, you know, the City is in charge of the final rules and interpretations of what is happening. I think suppression is easily removed and I am sure the extra duties at one time, would be welcomed hopefully by a lot of City Clerks in the Province of BC.

In one case, not in our City, in the District, candidates went to utilize an aspect of the Act that one would not know about and was told by the Municipal Clerk then that they were not allowed to do it and it would have been up to them to take the City, or the District in this case, to court to make them enforce the laws by the Elections Act or Local Government Act of BC.

I also think that the cycle should be increased to four years and offset to the Provincial ones so that elections do not happen around the same time, with a three year term and a four year term, eventually they are going to overlap. I do think what we will see in the future is that the Provincial one will be changed to the fall because the spring one interferes with the process. It would be better for people who are deciding to run one way or the other. It would be better to separate them as we have all experienced in elections I think in the last three years, five or six different elections; Federal, Provincial, Municipal. I do not support any type of corporate vote, the same way I do not accept donations coming from individuals.

In the matters raised, we saw the West Vancouver example of the preserved West Vancouver and such things and the whole mess of third party advertising and slates that are not real parties advertising and candidates joint advertising. In the West Vancouver case, like, you know people who are publically identified have advertising affecting elections and spending money to affect elections. You cannot restrict election spending of candidates and other third parties and then have someone decide that, you know, if I were to take, send out to the voters list something with some name and my recommendations who I would want to be on Council, there is no acceptance, there is no provision, saying that those people have to agree to it for a start.

I am a very firm believer that there should be some sort of party system but obviously not mandated. It is up to the choice, but there should be some restrictions to people doing joint advertising very clearly in the Act because people have to, you know, they have to have a clear choice available to them and in that system, in a party system, like the other places, it would be far better. That would be it.

Mayor Mussatto

Is that all you have got Mr. Pringle because?

Mr. Pringle

That is it.

Mayor Mussatto

Thank you very much for your presentation. Much appreciated.

Are there any other members of the gallery who have any comments to make with regards to this, please just raise your hand with regards to election advertising and the elections and the review and all that. I see none, so then I am going to go to members of Council. Are there members of Council who have any points to make with regards to this? Councillor Fearnley!

3. Comments From Council Members

Councillor R.J. Fearnley

Yes I will make a few points. I think one thing that has to be recognized that this has to be, there has to be balance here. That it has to be simple enough to encourage good people to run but it has to be tough enough to you know deter abuse and we have seen some examples of abuse in some neighbouring municipalities.

I think that one of the ways we could get around the abuse is if we were to put limits, not only on donations, but also limits on the amount of spending that the people could do based on a certain value per voter. I kicked around some values and spending 15 cents per voter if you are a Councillor, 30 cents if you are a Mayor, sounds pretty reasonable. In the City of North Vancouver that would be about a \$7,500 campaign. That would be enough to get out all your brochures that would be enough to do a little newspaper advertising without swamping the thing. I mean you do not want money politics. You do not want somebody in office just because they were able to outspend other people.

I think that you look at different systems; you look at the limits that we have got in Canada. I think we have got a far fairer system than say in the United States where it really comes down to who can outspend the other guy. Either you look at Senate races where they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the Senate seat. In Canada I think the limits are about \$50,000, if I remember, maybe more for, you know, but it is well under \$100,000 to run a seat, for a seat in the Federal election so I think that is an important thing.

The only other thing that I have any comment on is the term and I think that it should be increased to four years. Over time that saves a municipality a significant amount of money. Every time you have an election that is a significant expense for the municipality and I think four years is probably a better cycle. Thank you.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Clark!

Councillor R.C. Clark

Yes, Your Worship, well first of all a week ago, two weeks ago Friday, I spent a day down in Richmond at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities sponsored workshop on this subject and the one thing that I came away from it was an appreciation of how good we actually have it now. Elections, Municipal Elections in the Province seem to work well. There are problems from time to time but in general we have a system that functions well and it is one that I continue to support.

So with respect to the specific issues, I very fortunately got to make all my comments in writing at the end of the workshop. That was part of the day's work was to come up with your thoughts on the individual items. There were breakout sessions on each and for anyone who wants any further information I would strongly recommend you go to the Local Government Election Task Force website on which are a number of academic papers, which we have appended. They give both pro and con positions on each of the items before us and I think they are extremely well done, they are academic, they are a bit of a read but they are extremely well done and very germane to the topics.

So with respect to campaign spending limits, my only comment there, and I am not in favour of them, in any way. My only comment there would be there were those in the last Municipal Election in the City of North Vancouver who spent upwards of \$20,000. They are not at the table. So you know I think it is self-defeating if you get too far carried away with respect to campaign finance. I would suggest that it is exactly the same situation with how much you raise. I mean my understanding is that you can raise money for elections far down the road and it is okay. I do not see that as a giant problem. Again, if you go too crazy the public sees that and are, it kind of works against you.

The one thing that I found troubling at the workshop and in the whole process is third party advertising and I have been the subject of problems with that in the past. They were not as so horrendous as to cause litigation or anything like that but they certainly did in West Vancouver in the last election and I just do not know what kind of control mechanisms you can have for that. Certainly registering third party people is fine but on the eve of an election, if someone pops out a flyer to certain neighbourhoods or whatever, it is pretty hard to control and pretty hard to litigate against, so I am interested to see what the Province comes up with in respect to that.

As far as the term goes, the points in the academic papers which I refer to were that yes we could save some money and there tends to be a four year term in other jurisdictions across the country etc. but when I look at my participation on City Council, it is been in those, when I first started it was a two year term so, but now it is a three year segment and I sort of compartmentalize three years of my life devoted to the City of North Vancouver and being at this table, the workload that ensues etc. If I suddenly had to consider a 25% increase to that time commitment it may make me think twice. So maybe Councillor Fearnley is right, I should go for the four year term and I will be thinking twice. Anyway, I am in favour of the three year term. I think it makes sense and I would like to see us stay with it. Thank you.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Bookham!

Councillor P.J. Bookham

Thank you, Your Worship. In the last election those of us who are gathered around this table tonight spent \$76,621.00 and some odd change on our campaigns and given that there were 5,540 voters of 31,000 who were eligible to vote, that seems like an awful lot of money spent to woo a very small number of interested voters.

Obviously we want to see a greater voter interest and turnout and you know, efforts have been made, particularly by our City Clerk, in order to do that and we will be discussing at a later date if there are things that we might do to improve on that. But that money that was spent by us came from various sources from, in some cases our own pockets, fundraising through the community, union donations, donations from businesses and developers and there has been a lot of discussion about source of money. Now, I personally choose not to accept donations from businesses who might have matters that come before this Council where I have to make a decision. I do not want even the perception that I might be influenced, that a contribution to my campaign might be sufficient to win goodwill when it comes time to vote.

Now there is nothing wrong and it certainly is not illegal to do that and that is a personal choice that I make. Nor do I accept the invitation to go before our unions to answer their questions. I hope that they pay attention to what I say in Council with respect to the regard that I have for our employees and the fact that they need to be able to afford to live in our community and we need to recognize that.

I do not need their financial contribution to my campaign in order to recognize the value that they play in our community. I am very, very uncomfortable with the idea of accepting donations from developers and I hear lots of comment in the community but again it is not illegal. I hope that there will be some discussion about the source of funding and I think that if individuals were able to contribute as individuals that it would be much healthier all the way around.

We know, we have read in the paper and the after math of the last election, the amount of money that was spent in the City of Vancouver. Not just in the election campaign itself but in winning the nomination and, in that instance, that is a huge whack of money that is not even required to be reported out.

Right now, we do have the requirement, that we show where the money came from. Any donation that is over \$100 we record and we make that available after the fact. I do not know whether that is information that should come out sooner, that when we accept a donation that that should be something that is available for voters to look at beforehand. I have heard some people say that that would influence how they vote. I do not know. Certainly we can see patterns for Councillor's who are elected over a series of terms, it is pretty easy to see, you know, what their views are with respect to sources of money and what they are comfortable with.

As Councillor Clark indicated, you can spend upward of almost \$20,000 and not get elected and whether such individuals should be, I suppose, protected from that kind of folly, I do not know. You might just say that it is a hard lesson learned. But if the money is coming not from that individual's pocket but from other sources that is, you know, I suppose those contributors have to wonder whether or not it was money well spent.

I do have a question specifically with respect to the involvement of sort of third parties as it relates to our own election. You, Your Worship, and I wonder if you would be kind enough to consider answering this, raised money on the expectation that you might have to fight an election and you did not, you did not have to as it turned out but you raised almost \$25,000. And yet you campaigned and I understand that some of the money that you spent was to thank voters for their vote of confidence in not finding a candidate to run against you but I saw no accounting for the \$24,000 in terms of the benefit to other candidates and I am wondering if you could clarify for us how you view that, you know the spending of that money that you raised in order to fight in defense of your position as Mayor?

Mayor Mussatto

So, not wanting to get into a debate, but I will try to respond as best as possible. I raised the money because you have to, to run for Mayor you have to organize very early and so I did and I raised the funds and I was encouraged by almost all of them to use the funds for a campaign. Some I said thank you to and I put out much less signs, I put out less advertising and I could have raised double that easily by a second letter going out. So I used it just to support myself and say thank you to the people that I was campaigning for.

I certainly hope that there is somebody that runs against me in the next election; I really do, because I think that will do a tremendous amount to increase the voter turnout in the campaign. So there we go. So what I am going to do Councillor Bookham, I think you have more to offer, which I think is good. I am going to go around to the rest of the speakers and then come back to you so that everybody gets a chance to speak first one time. Councillor Keating!

Councillor C.R. Keating

Thank you very much Your Worship. I think with the last time we dealt with this we had the idea that we would have a Town Hall Meeting and that individual Councillor's would make their contributions as Councillor Clark has suggested he would, has done, to the Provincial Task Force and I will certainly do the same thing.

Your Worship, I think the thing that concerns me about the Task Force right now is really the process that is going on in the Task Force as was reported by Professors Kennedy Stewart and Patty Smith from the Political Science Department at Simon Fraser University. As it stands now, all submissions to the Task Force are kept secret as are the names of those people who are submitting kept secret. And, Your Worship, this strikes me as a bad precedent as we begin to consider some kind of major public policy reform of how elections are being run in the Province of British Columbia.

It deeply concerns me as well, Your Worship, that on the one hand that there is this secrecy that is going on in terms of how this Task Force is taking information, what information is being presented to the Task Force, how they are going to deal with that information and how they are going to feed it back into the system and devise some kinds of changes around this. All of this is being done in secret and the Minister has repeated many times that, in fact, these contributions are secret.

This is absolutely contrary to past practice on major policy issues, Your Worship. So I have a grave concern about that representatives of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities are continuing to participate in that format, Your Worship. I think the UBCM has functioned many years, I can never remember going to a UBCM event where any session was held in camera. We have dealt with issues publically all the time. People stand up and they pronounce what their positions are on issues and that is part of the public process and so I am quite concerned that the UBCM and its representative are continuing to participate in a process, which is about making elections in the Province of British Columbia more open and accountable but which is being held in some kind of Star Chamber and I think that is wrong, Your Worship, and I think we need to bust that open.

I certainly support a wide diversity of views and we have heard some here tonight from some regular members of the public who have participated in the civic life of our community on many, many occasions and I value those contributions, and I value the opinion of my colleagues. If I have anything to contribute myself to the Task Force I will be making that kind of contribution personally to the Task Force.

But I am a bit concerned, Your Worship, that even if I chose to do it or if any member of this Council chose to do it, those comments will remain closed to public viewing and I think the public has the right to know on a major public policy issue, what my views might be, what the views of anybody contributing to this might be and I am deeply offended that it is all being held in camera, Your Worship. And if there is the

opportunity, at a later moment, after this Public Meeting is concluded adjourned this Public Meeting I would like to make a motion as regards to that Your Worship.

So I do not have strong feelings about any of these issues that are being presented to us today, Your Worship, but I do believe that we need to keep this in some degree of openness because that is contrary to past practice in these regards, Your Worship. Thank you very much.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Trentadue!

Councillor M.L. Trentadue

Thank you Your Worship. I do not have that much to add and my comments will be pretty general as well but I guess, speaking as a newly elected Councillor, I found the process to be quite manageable and certainly I think that it is your individual choice to decide who you will accept donations from as part of that process. I would not want to see that taken away from the individual. I think overall, what is mostly important to me is that the process does not become so prescriptive that people do not want to put their name forward. Because I think, frankly, the best thing for our City is to have as much representation as possible and I think if a process becomes too rigid or there is too many rules or it is too difficult or it is too costly then I think that there would be a lot of individuals that may not decide to run, so that is probably my general concern.

As far as the length of term goes, I read the document as Councillor Clark pointed out and I understand the argument on both sides. I think it really does take a while to figure out what is happening at City Council and I certainly would not agree with shortening a term but, you know, possibly another year would give you much more opportunity to contribute and have a greater understanding of what is going on. So I can see both sides of it but probably I do not know that the four year term would deter people from wanting to run for Council and that is really all I have to say at this time. Thank you Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Heywood!

Councillor R.G. Heywood

I too will try to make my comments brief, I agree with the complaint about the secrecy of the process. I would hope that some of the submissions, I am sure Councillor Clark's would make great reading, and I wish that was available for public scrutiny. And, were I to make a submission I would certainly do so with the intent of having it available to a broader public audience, and I am considering doing that.

The point that I would like to bring up that is different than the ones that have already been brought up is on the issue of third parties, I think there are other third parties that we need to encourage their participation in the process as part of a broader strategy of increasing engagement.

And those are ones that are comprised electors and I am referring to our Community Associations, in some way of formalizing the process of Town Hall Meetings, which seems, I know I enjoyed them and I am sure all of my colleagues did, but it seemed to be a bit haphazard that we were relying on the pleasure of certain Community Associations to actually have them. The process would have benefited from a more formal approach to more of them, I think, in a scheduled approach.

I disagree with a corporate vote. Similarly, I disagree with a corporate ability to donate. I think the right to vote should be the right to contribute financially and in that, that financial contribution should have a reasonable limit. The point perhaps not brought up to date is the issue of tiered government. I do not think people are aware that when they elect a local Councillor they are electing representatives to the Regional District and I know, I do not think it is within the terms of reference of this Task Force, but the accountability of the Regional District level of government has been the subject of much dispute or analysis and deserves more. So lastly I have enjoyed the discussion and I think it bodes well for our own effort to look at Civic Engagement with the minor in voter turnout that we will attend to later. Thank you.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Bookham!

Councillor Bookham

Thank you Your Worship. I do appreciate the ability to follow up a little bit and I do appreciate your response and your explanation as to what was going on. I do realize that to run a mayoral campaign you have to start early and it is a more challenging kind of campaign.

I guess what I wanted clarification about was why, given that you chose to use that money to assist some candidates in their campaigns, why there was no record of that in their financial disclosures and is that not a requirement if, you know, if money is raised, you know. I do not think there is a problem with the fact that you chose to use the money, it is just that it does not show up on the records and I just wondered if you could clarify that for me?

Mayor Mussatto

I think it might be helpful if you were able to put that into words and send that to the Provincial Government, your concerns, because I think I understand where you are coming from. 100% I complied with the Act as did every other member that ran for Council so, if you feel that there is a problem there about that, because I used my money for me and it was advertising with me and then if I had a page I broke it up and people paid money to me. However, if you feel that that needs to be adjusted I think it is probably a good comment that you make to the Provincial Government, Electoral Reform Commission or whatever this is called so that there is better clarification in that regard. I think that is probably the best.

Councillor Bookham

Thank you. I will follow up and I agree with Councillor Keating's comments about the need for transparency through this whole process. I think anyone who makes a submission should be willing to make their submission public and there should be a mechanism that would allow for that so that we understand what sort of input this body is receiving and what decisions, you know, are based on. I have had conversations with former Councillor Stella Jo Dean who reminds me that she was able to be re-elected time after time, and she spent no money on her campaign. So electability and financial resources do not necessarily go hand in hand, but I do fear that if too much money is at stake, then it becomes a very different kind of a process and I think the City of Vancouver has every reason to be concerned about the amounts of money that are being spent. I think the City of North Vancouver, given our size, also has some reason to be concerned and we ought, if only by our own choices, to consider the disadvantage that some may have if they are not able to mount an effective campaign. Not everyone is a Stella Jo Dean. Thank you.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Keating!

Councillor Keating

Just on a question of the procedure, Your Worship, I am taking a look at the agenda for the Public Meeting and it says staff presentation, and representation for the public, comments from Council Members and then a motion to conclude the Public Meeting. Is that the only motion that would be permissible?

Mayor Mussatto

Ms. Dowey!

Ms. Dowey

That is correct, Your Worship, there is no recommendation.

Councillor Keating

So if there was any other motions relevant to the issues of process of the Task Force I would have to bring that forward as a Notice of Motion at a subsequent Council meeting?

Ms. Dowey

That is correct Councillor Keating, yes.

Councillor Keating

Thank you, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

Councillor Fearnley!

Councillor Fearnley

Just one further point and I must admit that this has been on my mind for a while, the fact that this is all secret makes me wonder and you know perhaps I am being paranoid but it makes me wonder if the Provincial Government might already have made its mind up about what it is going to do. I just have to say that because I know that that has happened before. I have seen things that have happened before, so I am just going to say that.

Mayor Mussatto

And just before we conclude I just would like to thank our staff, Ms. Dowey, and all those that have been working on this. I know this over and above that we asked you to do this so thank you for organizing the Public Meeting and for putting this together Ms. Dowey. It was very much appreciated and all the comments that were made by the public and Council, well for sure the public. Are the Council members' comments going Ms. Dowey or not?

Ms. Dowey

Yes they would be, Your Worship. I was thinking of sending off the transcript of the Public Meeting to the Task Force and then they have got everyone's comments, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

That is probably very appropriate. That is good. Now if any individual member of Council wants to make submissions on their own they are certainly encouraged to do so to submit them directly to this Task Force. Is that correct Ms. Dowey?

Ms. Dowey

That is correct, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

And the date of that for anybody on Council and anybody in the public is April 15, 2010, I believe.

Ms. Dowey

April 15, 2010, that is correct, Your Worship.

Mayor Mussatto

Okay so we just need a motion to conclude then?

Ms. Dowey

That is it, Your Worship.

4. Motion to conclude the Public Meeting.

Mayor Mussatto
Councillor Keating!

Councillor Keating
So moved.

Mayor Mussatto
Councillor Clark!

Councillor Clark
Second,

Mayor Mussatto
Any discussion? All those in favour? Opposed? Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Keating, seconded by Councillor Clark

THAT the Public Meeting conclude.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Public Meeting concluded at 7:44 p.m.