

Subject: RE: Agenda Item 6 - permissive tax exemption-West Vancouver

Date: Sun, 16 Oct 2005 11:26:53 -0700

From: "John Hunter" <hunterjohn@telus.net>

To: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "Cathy Adams" <cathyadams@canada.com>

CC: <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <corrie@kost.ca>, <bplatts@shaw.ca>, "Nicole Deveaux" <Nicole_Deveaux@dnv.org>, "Councillor Alan Nixon DNV" <anixon@dnv.org>, "Councillor Jim Cuthbert" <jcuthbert@dnv.org>, "Councillor Maureen McKeon Holmes" <mckeonholmes@telus.net>, "Councillor Richard Walton" <rwalton@dnv.org>, "Councilor Ernie Crist DNV" <ecrist@dnv.org>, "Councilor Lisa Muri DNV" <lmuri@dnv.org>, "Mayor Janice Harris DNV" <janice_harris@dnv.org>

Hi Cathy There is also the issue of grants and other handouts and I have seen little leadership from any council in tightening these rules. Some of our tests for handouts are counter intuitive. I am not aware that CBFAC or any committee has looked at ALL the ways in which we provide funding or reduced or no taxation or fees. Few councilors have the courage to say no when a club or special interest group packs council chambers.

I can recall only a few reductions in handouts the Deep Cove Yacht Club was one.

I saw in the paper a full list of grants for CNV did DNV publish a full list of all breaks and handouts? I vaguely recall the total is over a million now (no guarantee I have the right number).

It takes political courage to take away money and even to refuse to give new money.

John

From: Ernie Crist [mailto:ernie_crist@dnv.org]
Sent: October 14, 2005 1:50 PM
To: Cathy Adams
Cc: fonvca@fonvca.org; corrie@kost.ca; bplatts@shaw.ca; hunterjohn@telus.net; Nicole Deveaux
Subject: RE: Agenda Item 6 - permissive tax exemption-West Vancouver

Dear Ms Adams:

You are correct in suggesting that uses for various District lands including land leases are anything but cohesive or make any business sense. This has been pointed out by members of Council including myself and even by members of the public on more than one occasion including in regards to the properties you have mentioned. One such instance occurred when Mr David Sadler and Mr. John Hunter both businessmen residing in the District of North Vancouver investigated this matter.

It even became an issue during the last municipal election when various charges were made in this regard. You may recall that one day before the election the then Mayor Don Bell put an ad in the local newspaper stating that all these charges were false. Both before and after this, more than one attempt was made to rectify such perceived anomalies including one in the vicinity of Marine Drive and Lloyd. Others are in the Deep Cove area to mention but two.

However, any and all efforts to streamline and put such policies on a BUSINESSLIKE, and CONSISTENT BASIS HAVE FAILED in the face of what appears to be "politics" in the District. And neither is this strange behaviour restricted to land leases. Even a cursory investigation of the relationship between the City and the District when it comes to the use of both facilities and lands indicates that the District is a willing partner in subsidising other political jurisdictions.

Your recent concerns regarding the use of District land for a Bus Depot are but one example. However, when this was pointed out in the past through resolutions calling for a long term community plan in which both traffic corridors and appropriate places for bus depots would be identified and not necessarily in the District, it was ignored and no one ever came forward to support any such resolution. As for the lack of leadership on the part of District Council, I don't think I need to give any further examples at this point.

I believe that you and other residents of the District should recognise that your own local government is simply incapable or possibly unwilling to address this matter as would be done by other local governments in the Lower Mainland including West Vancouver or the City of North Vancouver for that matter. Direct questions have been stonewalled more or less.

I suggest you raise this matter with the appropriate candidates during this election. Indeed questioning such curious leases on my part resulted in allegations of impropriety against me. I'm sure you will get a satisfactory "explanation" for this District of North Vancouver phenomena from the incumbents wishing to get re-elected or even promoted including Councillors Walton, Muri and Mayor Harris as the case may be. You could also ask the erstwhile Mayor Don Bell who I see is actively involved in supporting various candidates of his choice. He is well known for his excellent memory and even better for his ability to express himself truthfully.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

From: Cathy Adams [mailto:Cathy.Adams@canada.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 1:36 AM
To: Norm McCormick
Cc: DNVCouncil; James Ridge; fonvca@fonvca.org; corrie@kost.ca; bplatts@shaw.ca; cagebc@yahoo.com; hunterjohn@telus.net; Nicole Deveaux
Subject: Agenda Item 6 - permissive tax exemption-West Vancouver

Dear Mr. McCormick

Again this year, I notice that West Vancouver, as holders of three properties in the District of North Vancouver, are being given tax exempt status on them.

This year, I went digging into what this is, and where these lands are located.

All are located on the western side of the Capilano River. Two seem to be parkland, with no uses on them, other than natural space and trails. The third is a part of the Klee Wyck property, owned and operated by West Vancouver.

I suppose the District has been forgiving the payment of taxes on these lands for some time. From reading the District's policy on permissive tax exemptions, they do not seem to meet all the criteria.

It was also interesting to review West Vancouver's policy on permissive tax exemptions. Their policy is to only grant exemptions for three situations - child care, seniors housing, and places of worship. West Vancouver themselves do not give exemptions to organizations providing recreation and cultural opportunities.

Could you confirm the above information? What is the value of these exemptions each year, and does this situation get reviewed on a regular basis?

Sincerely,
Cathy Adams