

**VILLAGE OF PEMBERTON
-REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of the Village of Pemberton held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers, 7400 Prospect Street. This is Meeting No. 1422.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Mike Richman
Councillor Jennie Helmer
Councillor James Linklater
Councillor Karen Ross

ABSENT: Councillor Ted Craddock

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer
Sheena Fraser, Manager of Corporate & Legislative Services
Tim Harris, Manager of Operations & Development Services
Robert Grossman, Fire Chief
Kim Slater, Communications Coordinator (maternity leave contract)
Jill Brooksbank, Communications Coordinator
Wendy Olsson, Executive Assistant
Lisa Pedrini, Planner

ATTENDING BY PHONE: Dr. Paul Martiquet, Public Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health
Len Clarkson, Water Specialist and Drinking Water Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

Public: 22

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:00 a.m. Mayor Richman called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented to include a Delegation from the BMX Society.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Agenda be amended to provide an update on the Water Quality Notice and provided for an opportunity for questions from the gallery following the Delegations.

CARRIED

3. RISE WITH REPORT FROM IN CAMERA

- a) Council rose with report from In Camera meeting No. 1420, Tuesday, March 1, 2016

7462 Prospect Street – Village Owned Lot Sale:

Council approved the listing of the Village owned lot at 7462 Prospect Street and selected the Whistler Real Estate Company as the listing agent and directed staff to post notice of the intention to dispose of the above noted Village property.

4. RISE WITH REPORT FROM SPECIAL IN CAMERA

- b) Council rose with report from Special In Camera meeting No. 1421, Thursday, March 10, 2016

Water Flushing Protocols:

As a result of an update on the water conditioning project, which will address the pH levels and corrosivity of the water supply and is currently underway, initial test results indicated that in some homes there are elevated levels of lead that exceed the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC). As such, Council directed staff to issue a press release and public notice on the need to implement water flushing protocols by users of the Village of Pemberton water system on the short term.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a) **Regular Council Meeting No. 1420 –Tuesday, March 1, 2016**

Moved/Seconded

THAT the minutes of Regular Council Meeting No. 1420 held Tuesday, March 1, 2016, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- b) **Special Council Meeting No. 1421 – Thursday, March 10, 2016**

Moved/Seconded

THAT the minutes of the Special Council Meeting No. 1421, held Thursday, March 10, 2016 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no Business Arising for consideration.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES – FOR INFORMATION

There were no minutes to be received.

8. DELEGATIONS

a) **Inspector Neil Cross, Corporal Chris Dodds and Staff Sergeant Steve LeClair, RCMP – 2015 Annual Report**

The RCMP representatives presented crime statistics for 2015 and provided an update on the Annual Performance Planning for 2015/2016 for the Lower Mainland District Regional Police Service will continue to focus on the following:

- Substance Abuse – reduce the use of drugs
- Youth Engagement – prevent and reduce youth involvement in crime as victims and offenders
- Property Crime – reducing vandalism/property crime/theft from vehicles
- Traffic Related Incidents – contribute to safer roads(impaired and distracted drivers)

It was noted that in some instances offences increased but that could be attributed to incidents that occurred during the Pemberton Music Festival which are part of the overall statistics for the area as the event falls within the Village boundaries. At the request of Council the RCMP will remove the music festival statistics from the crime statistics update so that the number better reflect what is happening within the Village. It was further noted that abandoned 911 calls continue to be a challenge on resources.

Inspector Cross advised that planning is well underway with the Pemberton Music Festival organizers and that resources will be adjusted accordingly to reflect ticket sales.

RCMP reminded residents to be vigilant and to not leave personal belongings in cars and lock your home.

b) **Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) President, Councillor Corisa Bell, Maple Ridge**

Councillor Bell provided an overview of the background of the LMLGA noting that the role of the LMLGA is to act as an advocate to the Province for its 33 member municipalities. This year the LMLGA has committed to connecting with

each municipality to understand their challenges in order to better facilitate open dialogue between members at the upcoming 2016 LMLGA Conference. The conference will be held in Whistler from May 11th to 13th and will present the opportunity for members to prioritize resolutions for the Association to bring forward to UBCM with an aim to increase the voice of the membership to the Province.

Topics for the upcoming conference include:

- Emergency Medical Response
- Agricultural Lands
- Medical Marijuana Grow Operations
- Technology
- Homelessness
- Tourism

Ms. Bell invited Council to share any other issues they would like to see brought forward. Council requested Community to Community relations between First Nation and non-First Nation municipalities, water infrastructure, short-term vacation rentals and climate change be brought forward for consideration as topics for discussion.

c) Graham Turner, BMX Society, Presentation on 2015 activities and plans for 2016.

Mr. Turner presented the history and background of the Pemberton BMX Society and the development of the BMX track. The track has undergone several improvements as well as maintenance since its inception in 2012 and Mr. Turner expressed thanks to volunteers, Village Staff, the Village of Pemberton Council for funding support through the Community Enhancement Fund, the Whistler Blackcomb Foundation and the Pemberton Music Festival Community Fund for support.

Events for the upcoming months are as follows: Race Night will be moved from Wednesday to Thursday; on July 1st, there is free entry for Olympic Day; the Race for Life takes place July 21st and the BMX Provincial Championships will be hosted in late September. The Provincial Championships are expected to bring approximately 750 visitors to Pemberton.

There is a fundraiser for the BMX Provincials at Mount Currie Coffee Company on March 19th at 8:00 p.m.

9. WATER QUALITY UPDATE

Mayor Richman read the following statement regarding the Water Quality Notice that was distributed by the Village on March 9th and 10th.

We want to reassure the public that the municipal water supply is safe to drink. It is tested regularly in accordance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water and meets the health regulations for lead. We have; however, discovered through a recent water condition assessment that sampled drinking water from 20 residences in Pemberton (17 in Village boundaries comprised of Village Core, the Glen, Plateau, and Airport area and 3 in Pemberton North) that there are elevated levels of lead in drinking water within some homes.

This is due to the low pH of Pemberton's water corroding pipe fittings and fixtures, which can result in lead contamination. Initial tests, which were conducted without the benefits of tap flushing, have revealed that some homes exceeded the Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) of lead ranging between 2 and 6 times. Exposure levels were not uniform- they were not neighbourhood specific and they did not correlate with the age of the homes tested. Specific addresses of those homes tested cannot be released as per the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

More tests, including pre and post flush samples of the previous residences will be conducted and may be expanded. The results will be shared with the community once received and reviewed via pemberton.ca, Facebook and our e-News.

We have heard the communities concerns, and have been responding to inquiries via email, in addition to posting updates at pemberton.ca and on Facebook. Over 2200 notices were delivered via Canada Post to affected residents on Thursday and Friday of last week. Further, the Village will be installing neighbourhood signage, and placing ads in the Question and Pique. Concurrently, the Village is assembling a history of the well/water treatment project to share with the community.

The delivery of transparent and accurate, timely information is utmost importance to Village Council and Staff. We understand the deep concern among the community –we (including staff and Council) are community members too. It is to everyone's benefit that we work together to expediently find a solution.

The immediate corrective action to take, and the one that is recommended by Vancouver Coastal Health, is to run your tap water until it runs cold, which will flush any stagnant water that may be contaminated. Water will then be safe to drink, including to make coffee, tea or formula, and for use for cooking, and teeth brushing. Bathing and showering in water is safe so long as it isn't consumed or the above tap flushing is carried out first. Boiling water without tap flushing first is not advisable as this may increase lead concentrations.

Please note, that the safety of our citizens is paramount. We are taking every measure to ensure that the community is and will continue to be informed with ALL the information.

We are working toward a universal solution- a pH conditioning system that will reduce the corrosiveness of the water. It is anticipated that the type of system as well as the timelines for installation will be known within the week. This information will be shared once it has been provided to and reviewed by the Village.

Mayor Richman advised that Dr. Paul Martiquet, Public Health Officer and Mr. Len Clarkson, Water Specialist and Drinking Water Officer for Vancouver Coastal Health will be joining the meeting by telephone to answer questions.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting be opened to questions from the Gallery regarding the Water Quality Update.

CARRIED

10. QUESTION PERIOD ON WATER QUALITY

The Meeting was then open for questions from the public. A full list of the questions and responses can be found as an appendix to these meeting minutes.

At 11:45 a.m. the question period ended.

At 11:45 a.m. the Regular Meeting was recessed.

At 11:55 p.m. the Regular Meeting was reconvened.

11. WATER QUALITY UPDATE – NEXT STEPS

After the Recess Council had further discussions with respect to the water quality review and next steps. Staff advised that all homes tested will be re-tested and once completed the results will be shared with the public. Staff also advised that testing has been expanded to include the Village's sampling sites, the Village Wells, Signal Hill Elementary School, Pemberton Secondary School, the Health Centre, Pemberton Children's Centre and Pemberton Community Centre.

Discussion also took place regarding the Village's commitment to this issue being a priority for both Council and Staff, the need to ensure continued communications to the public on this matter and the value in holding a Town Hall meeting once the test results have been received and further information has been compiled. Staff advised that a FAQ sheet will be developed as a result of the questions asked at the meeting and posted on the Village Website, Facebook Page and via eNEWS.

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Regular Council Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th at 7PM, be moved to 5PM;

AND THAT a Town Hall Meeting to update residents on the Water Quality be scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th at 7PM at 1350 Aster Street**.

CARRIED

NOTE: Later in the week it was determined that it would be appropriate to hold the Town Hall Meeting at the Pemberton Community Centre. As a result, both the Regular Council Meeting and the Town Hall Meeting will be held at the Pemberton Community Centre at the times noted above. Subsequently, the Regular Meeting scheduled for 5PM was postponed to April 19, 2016.

12. REPORTS

a) Office of the CAO

i. BC Climate Leadership Plan

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Village of Pemberton formally participate in the Provincial Government's public consultation process on the development of the BC Climate Leadership Plan;

AND THAT Staff be directed to prepare a response, before the deadline of March 25th, 2016, that includes the Village's desire to see the Climate Leadership Plan's commitments strengthened and to mention that certain current policies and projects, such as Site C, fracking and the Massey Tunnel directly contradict the Plan's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT staff prepare a separate report outlining options to be considered by the Village to strengthen its ability to pursue Climate Action to be brought forward at a future meeting.

CARRIED

At 1:00 p.m. the Regular Council Meeting was recessed.

At 1:06 p.m. the Regular Council Meeting reconvened.

ii. Strategic Communications Plan and Background Report - Adoption

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Strategic Communications Plan and Background Report be amended to remove the definition of Community Champion.

CARRIED

Moved/Seconded

THAT Council adopt the Strategic Communications Plan and Background Report as amended.

CARRIED

b) Corporate & Legislative Services

i. Lower Mainland Local Government Association – Resolution – Ambulance Assist Cost

Moved/Seconded

THAT the draft resolutions prepared for consideration by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association be tabled until after the LMLGA Conference in May;

AND THAT Council members who are attending the LMLGA Conference in May attend the working session on this issue to gather more information.

CARRIED

c) Mayor

Mayor Richman reported on the following:

- Met with RCMP to discuss security for the 2016 Pemberton Music Festival.
- Attended the Stewardship Pemberton fundraiser on March 12th; there were approximately 140 attendees and \$6,000 raised.
- Read a book to 60 Grade 1 students at Signal Hill Elementary and took questions from the children.
- Will be attending a meeting of the Women's Institute on Monday, March 21st.
- Reminded that Spring Break starts on Friday, March 18th.
- Reminded that Earth Hour is 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. on March 19th; encouraged increased participation to improve results from last year.
- BMX Fundraiser at Mount Currie Coffee Company on March 19th at 8:00 p.m.

d) Councillors

Councillor Ross

- Reported that she sat on the “Women in Leadership” panel hosted by the Library as part of International Women’s Day Celebrations.

Councillor Linklater

Councillor Linklater did not have anything to report at this time.

Councillor Helmer

Councillor Helmer did not have anything to report at this time.

13. BYLAWS

There were no bylaws for consideration for this meeting.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

a) For Information

- i) Correspondence from the Sea-to-Sky Clean Air Society, dated March 2, 2016, thanking the Village for the contribution of funding to support the 2016 Bike to Work Week initiative.**

Moved/Seconded

THAT the correspondence be received.

CARRIED

b) For Action

- i) Correspondence from Mayor Marg Lampman, District of Lillooet, requesting support in passing a resolution in support of the District’s initiative to re-establish a passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George.**

Moved/Seconded

THAT the resolution passed by the District of Lillooet Council regarding the reinstatement of passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George be supported by the Village of Pemberton.

CARRIED

15. DECISION ON LATE BUSINESS

There was no late business.

16. LATE BUSINESS

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

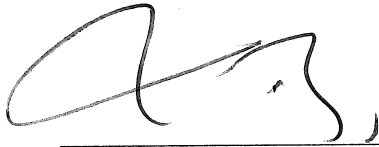
There was no notice of motion.

18. AJOURNMENT

Moved/Seconded

THAT the March 15, 2016 Regular meeting be adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

CARRIED



Mike Richman
Mayor



Sheena Fraser
Corporate Officer

WATER QUALITY QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

Niki Vankerker – 7459 Aspen Boulevard

Q: What happens to the water that is sitting in the hot water tank, and if we empty out tank completely will there still be lead sitting in the bottom, and how do we deal with it? Should the hot water tank be flushed?

Dr. Martiquet (Vancouver Coastal Health - VCH)

A: We know that hot water does increase the absorption of the lead. However, when taking a shower there is no health concern because lead cannot be inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Hot water that remains in the tank overnight and is not flushed has no impact for bathing and dishwashing. It is recommended to use cold water for cooking and drinking. The water supply is safe, it is the piping, fittings and fixtures in homes, particularly older homes, that can cause the lead absorption. If you flush your pipes, the lead will be removed.

Carolyn McBain – 1431 Willow Drive

Q: It is not all older homes that were tested, there were actually newer homes that were tested as well. Could this be clarified as to why newer homes would also have lead in the water?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: There can be exceptions; for instance if a plumber used old solder when installing new pipes, lead will be a factor in plumbing fixtures in any home whether new or old.

Len Clarkson (VCH):

Noted that another source of lead can come from brass fittings in plumbing.

Stephanie Doyon – 1482 Larch Street

Q: Do the brass fittings only cause lead due to pH levels in the water or is that normal to all water?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: The ability for water to absorb lead is due to the pH and the alkalinity and hardness. In the case of the Village the pH can trend below the aesthetic objectives set out in the national guidelines due to the low alkalinity levels. VCH supports the Village work in addressing this issue.

Cindy Filipenko – 1472 Olive Street

Q: Concerned test results showed 6 times the allowable amount which is 60 parts/per billion as compared to Flint Michigan which declared a “crisis” for 25 parts/billion. How concerned should we be?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: We are looking at a first flush sample that was 60 parts/billion. Sampling needs to be redone after 2 minutes of flushing; the results should approach zero lead concentration when the second sample is tested. Flint Michigan is a different story – we are not talking about prolonged concentration of 60 parts/billion, we are talking about a first flush sample from water that has remained standing overnight.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Q: Would VCH support the Village going back to the original surface water source until the pH levels are resolved?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: VCH would not support this. The surface water presented a bigger problem as it did not meet microbiological disinfection standards, resulting in a boil-water advisory to resolve the risk of infection to the population. The water system overall is good and VOP should be proud of their water. VCH is recommending flushing and providing centralized treatment. VOP Staff are to be commended on how they manage the water distribution system.

Veronica Woodruff – 1641 Highway 99 – (SLRD Area C)

Q: In the salmon in the Classroom project, the salmon came out with twisted spines when hatched in the school water supply. Are you concerned about water at the community centre and schools?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: The schools have been advised to flush their pipes prior to the children coming to school.

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Speaking with SD48, both Signal Hill Elementary School and Pemberton Secondary School have been flushing their pipes, due to the size of the buildings and the fact that the water sits standing overnight, on weekends and school breaks. Although not a fish biologist it is likely that fish mortality would be due to copper present in the water rather than lead.

Veronica Woodruff – 1641 Highway 99 – (SLRD Area C)

Q: Was the VOP water tested for other parameters? It is commonly understood that there are high levels of arsenic found in wells.

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Pemberton water does not have high levels of arsenic; that is found in some private wells north of Pemberton. NOTE: All other parameters are noted in the Annual Reports published on the Village's website.

Mayor Mike Richman:

Q: Have the schools been flushing for a while or is this a new protocol?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Flushing the schools has been taking place for several years, it is a long standing precautionary measure which was reaffirmed three years ago in correspondence to all School Districts within the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (included lower mainland school districts).

Niki Vankerck – 7459 Aspen Boulevard

Q: How frequently throughout the day is flushing required in homes?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Absorption of lead occurs in standing water over time, such as overnight or after residents being away for a weekend. It is recommended that you flush until the water runs cold.

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

Noted that another concern in older houses is the presence of lead in paint. As well, lead has been used in paint for toys, particularly those that come from Southeast Asia. We must work to mitigate the presence of lead from all sources.

Mark Mendonca – 1475 Balsam Street

Q: From VCH's perspective, would it be prudent to be testing schools and community centres on a regular basis?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: School District 48 was engaged three years ago when VCH did a reassessment of lead levels. It was suggested to the School District that if they want to avoid flushing that they undertake regular sampling and testing but it is costly. With regard to community centres, it is up to the owners to undertake sampling if they desire. VCH encourages testing but cannot mandate it in these areas as private service connections are beyond the scope of their authority and not regulated by VCH. Again, flushing is encouraged.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Q: Need clarification that VCH is only responsible for the source water to meet certain parameters; is that the limit of your response?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

VCH permits, inspects and regulates the Pemberton water system. VCH does not permit or regulate water once delivered to the customers' service connection. The line from the property line to the building is the responsibility of the property owner.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Q: Does VCH do testing at the property line?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: VCH does not do any testing/sampling. The Village of Pemberton is responsible for testing/sampling the water supply and they monitor the source water and distribution system. There is no obligation on the part of VOP to monitor water on private property.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street

Q: Was it VCH that directed the Village go to a subsurface well, was it a health concern to go from surface to drilled Well and can the Village go back to the surface water system and install an ultraviolet sterilization system to address the biological concerns?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: The Village looked at this a number of years ago. The Village supply was Pemberton Creek which is highly turbid due to glacial melt, which would require it to be filtered prior to treatment. The complex treatment for filtration would cost millions of dollars. At the time, it was felt that finding an economical source in town was the better direction.

Stephanie Doyon - 1482 Larch Street

Q: What are the long term effects of drinking water with low pH, particularly to children?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Low pH is not the issue and has no impact on health. The issue is what it is leached into the water due to corrosivity caused by low pH.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Q: What are the long term effects of lead ingestion for children?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Children are more vulnerable and you want to limit their exposure to lead sources.

Mayor Mike Richman

Q: At the levels being discussed, what is level of risk for children who may have consumed the water?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: The risk is negligible for young children with normal household use of water. If you had a parent who used nothing but first flush water to make baby formula it could be an issue.

Leanne Patterson - 7445 Dogwood Street:

Q: Is there a way to test for lead exposure in humans?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Yes, through blood tests. As the Medical Health Office for Pemberton for the past 25 years, I have never had any conversation remotely related to lead or toxicity with any of the family doctors in Pemberton. Nor has there been any report of exposure to lead. If there is a concern blood tests can be ordered by your family doctor.

Niki Vankerker – 7459 Aspen Boulevard

Q: Have there been any studies or information about the adverse effects of low pH in regards to PEX or plastic piping in houses?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Not to the knowledge of VCH. Plumbing materials need to meet plumbing code. With regular household use of water (flushing toilets, showering, watering plants) there should not be an issue as the water is moving as opposed to sitting. Flushing water for consumption is still recommended as a redundant measure.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: If I take my children in today for testing, as they have only drank Pemberton water at schools and since they were babies, then is it anticipated that they should have high levels of lead in their system?

Is the lead they have ingested throughout their lives still in their system and can we test for that?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Yes, blood can be tested. If you have normal household water procedures it is likely your children's' blood levels will be negative for lead.

Carolyn McBain - 1431 Willow Drive

Q: What are "normal procedures" for water; what does that mean?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Activities such as flushing toilets, showering and running water are normal household procedures. If you occasionally get a mouthful of first flush water that is above 10 parts/billion that is not a concern: the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking specify 10 part/billion based on a lifetime of exposure. The numbers you see in guidelines are based on a lifetime of exposure at that level. It is the overall challenge of determining the total amount of lead ingested including from food and other exposures.

Niki VanKerk – 7459 Aspen Boulevard

Q: Does lead get absorbed into plants and food from watering your garden, or washing food such as strawberries if you happen to use the first flush to wash them?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: Most of the lead in food is comes through cooking as the water is heated; the lead in water would be absorbed in the food through the cooking process. I am not familiar with it being absorbed into vegetables and fruit when washing.

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

Another concern in past was tinned food in which lead solder was used to seal the cans. This is no longer practiced.

Carolyn McBain -1431 Willow Drive

Q: Have you heard about taking clay to absorb lead toxicity in the body as an alternative health practice? Do you have any comments?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Chelation therapy can be done for acute lead toxicity, but is not a common practice.

Stephanie Doyon - 1482 Larch Street.

Q: What happens if we test our children and they do have high concentrations of lead in their system?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: In order to allay public concern, the houses that showed high concentrations of lead need to be re-tested to reassure that what is being said here is the truth. There should be pre and post flushing test samples. We know that the VOP water supply is not contaminated and there is not going to be lead in the water after the water has been flushed.

NOTE: If your child does test positive for lead your family Doctor would advise

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: What are the effects of lead in children? What do I look for in my children? Behavioural issues/skin conditions?

Dr. Martiquet (VCH):

A: Effects would be behavioural issues and neurological complications. However these issues are with exposures magnitudes higher than Pemberton can possibly ever get.

At 10:46 a.m. Dr. Martiquet left the meeting.

Stuart Chadsey - 7465 Frontier Street:

Q: What is the timeline for installation of a system that will correct the pH in the water?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The Village started this process in December and the hope is to have a confirmed timeline shortly. The Village is working to determine the best system to be used. Initially 60 days was an estimate provided by our engineers; the goal to have a system in place in a couple of months. .

Stuart Chadsey – 7465 Frontier Street:

Q: So in 60 days there will be a system in place?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: That is the goal but we will know the timelines better next week. However, depending on the system that is selected the timelines may be longer. Rest assured the Village has made this a top priority and will be working to have this matter resolved as quickly as is possible

Stuart Chadsey - 7465 Frontier Street:

Q: What will be added to the water? My concern is that the new system will result in another set of challenges?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The Village is working with our engineers and VCH to understand the best system that will work for the Village. The solution will address the low pH levels and as such address the corrosiveness of the water.

Len Clarkson (VCH):

Added that this is why VCH is pleased with the configuration of the new wells and reservoir as they are ideally suited for retrofit equipment to address pH levels.

NOTE: VCH subsequently confirmed that only approved food grade additives would be approved for use to address the pH.

Garth Phare – 3712 McRae Road (SLRD Area C)

Q: Was VCH aware of the 2006 report in which it is identified that the pH is low in the Village drinking water? Why did VCH not instruct the Village to address it?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: VCH has been advocating for the Village to pursue best practices. Low pH is not a regulatory infraction. The pH is an aesthetic value and can fluctuate. It was hoped that with the addition of the new well and of chlorination using sodium hypochlorite, which comes with an elevated pH, the low pH would be addressed. However, because such small doses of chlorine are being used it did not have the results expected.

Garth Phare – 3712 McRae Road (SLRD Area C)

Q: How long have you been advocating?

Mayor Mike Richman:

For clarification, in 2006 the Village considered other projects that would be coming forward such as the looping, the new well, reservoir, and it was believed that the new well and chlorine could address the pH levels.

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: This is not a regulatory requirement and as such VCH can't mandate that levels be corrected; the source of the water is not the issue. Rather than seeing a proliferation of individual systems, VCH would rather see a centralized approach and as such have been advocating for this improvement because we want qualified personnel operating the water distribution system.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Q: Why has there never been any in-home testing if you know that a low pH causes corrosiveness?

Mayor Mike Richman:

Q: And if it is known that low pH causes corrosion, why is it within acceptable levels?

Len Clarkson (VCH):

A: VCH has not been promoting testing but promoting flushing. Up until 3 years ago VCH encouraged flushing for 2 -3 minutes. As a result of variability in terms of size of plumbing systems within homes (i.e.: length of pipes/systems), VCH revised flushing protocols recommending that flushing is done until the water turns cold which means the arrival of fresh water from the water main. The goal is not to describe the problem in more detail but to fix the problem and in the long term hoping for a pH adjustment which we understand is coming.

In terms of the value of testing, it is clear that in older homes, you will have a high level of first flush depending on how long the water has been sitting. The longer it sits the higher the levels will be. Also depending on how warm the building is - that can also have an impact on the levels as the heat is a catalyst to enabling the chemical reaction between low pH and lead. If you flush for a period of time the levels will drop.

Cindy Filipenko – 1482 Olive Street

Q: Why has there been nine (9) years of inaction that has led to thousands of dollars in plumbing repairs to the people of this community and is now a potential health issue?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: Good question, Staff is reviewing reports to understand what happened and at what point direction changed. It is understood that with the installation of the new well and chlorination that this issue was believed to be addressed. Right now with limited resources, we need to focus on two most important things which is to get information out to the public, and come up with a solution. Staff will be putting a history together but the bulk of our energy is keeping the public informed and finding a system that corrects the low pH.

Garth Phare – 3712 McRae Road (SLRD Area C)

Q: Why was the one thing that everyone in this community needs to survive put down the ladder in place of other things that make us feel good? Someone needs to step up and take responsibility.

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: This issue is not unique to Pemberton and is common throughout BC. I agree it should have been dealt with sooner and can't answer to who is responsible at this time. I understand your frustration; we need to investigate further to determine where the ball may have been dropped. It is important not to turn this into a blame game rather focus on what is important now.

Anna Helmer – 7451 Aspen Street

Called for the Village of Pemberton to curtail all other business and focus on water, sewer and taxation.

At 11:08 a.m. Len Clarkson left the meeting.

Mayor Mike Richman:

Advised that the water issue is the single biggest focus for Council and Staff at this time and there is nothing more pressing.

Stephanie Doyon - 1482 Larch Street:

Q: Knows personally people in town who have been affected by heavy metal poisoning, it is pretty clear that this must have come from ingesting the Pemberton water.

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: There are many different sources of heavy metal and as noted by Dr. Martiquet the lead levels found in Pemberton are of level of magnitude too low to result in extreme illness.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: Are there lead service lines within the Village distribution system?

Tim Harris – VOP Manager of Operations and Development:

A: Public Works has investigated and not identified any lead-based lines.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: Has the VOP tested residences that have been retrofitted to plastic lines?

Tim Harris, VOP Manager of Operations & Development Services:

A: There were a variety of homes tested and we cannot account for variables in piping.

Cindy Filipenko – 1472 Olive Street:

Q: Will there be an evening Town Hall meeting to address this issue?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The Village is waiting until the results of the second set of testing have been received and our engineers and VCH have had an opportunity to review the information and make recommendations on the best system to install. The Village is considering holding a Town Hall meeting once we have additional information, but will also keep the public informed via other channels (website, Facebook).

NOTE: Subsequently later in the Regular Meeting Council determined to hold a Town Hall Meeting on April 5th at 7PM. The meeting will be held at the Pemberton Community Centre.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: Can you advise on the timeline of the next testing?

Tim Harris, VOP Manager of Operations & Development Services:

A: The Village will be retesting this week with the hope that results will come by end of next week or beginning of the week after.

Russell Mack – SLRD Electoral Area C Director – D’Arcy:

Mr. Mack commented on his time as the Village of Pemberton Public Works Manager and Fire Chief, noting that in 2006 and 2007 it was felt that the installation of the third Well and chlorination would raise the pH level. As well, the Village undertook a water looping project to address fire flows and ensure chlorine flows throughout the system. Mr. Mack also clarified that the water at the Plateau comes from the Village water mains and not from Mount Currie water sources.

Mr. Mack further clarified that at no time has the Village had to replace fire hose connections as a result of corrosion. The replacement was a result of the oxidization of an 18 year old fixture on Engine 1.

Stuart Chadsey - 7465 Frontier Street :

Q: Will this new system be installed within in 60 days as suggested or should I be buying a water filtration system?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The 60 days was a figure provided by our engineers but that timeframe could be adjusted. The goal is to have the issue resolved as quickly as possible but it is difficult to put an exact date on it as there are variables to consider depending on the system chosen. It is expected there will also be a transition process following installation in order for testing to be performed.

Carolyn McBain – 1431 Willow:

Q: Will there be a competitive process to purchase and install this new system?

Nikki Gilmore – Chief Administrative Officer:

A: The system that will be purchased is very specialized but we will undertake a full RFP process to ensure the Village gets the best value.

Niki Vanker - 7451 Aspen Street:

Q: Does the Village have emergency communications protocol in place?

Nikki Gilmore, Chief Administrative Officer:

The Village has been developing a Strategic Communications Plan which is before Council today for adoption. This will include the action to establish an emergency communications plan and protocol.

Cindy Filipenko – 1472 Olive Street

Q: To Councillor Helmer, who was on Council in 2006: Why did the commitment to the installation of a soda ash system not get addressed and the project not get completed?

Councillor Helmer:

A: Noted that she did not recall all the details but noted that the new well and chlorination system was expected to address this issue.

Garth Phare - 3712 McRae Road (SLRD Area C)

Q: Were the flushing protocols recommended before or is this the first time the Village has been aware of this process?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The Village was not aware that flushing was recommended within private homes.

Russell Mack – SLRD Electoral Area C Director – D'Arcy:

Mr. Mack reminded those in attendance that every time you use your toilet, have a shower, turn on the tap you are in effect flushing your system.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: Is there any liability exposure on the part of the Village?

Mayor Mike Richman:

A: The Village consulted its insurers, the Municipal Insurance Association and was advised that as the Village has been following the provincial guidelines and VCH direction, our exposure is limited.

Rob Szachury - 7395 Larch Street:

Q: Why did the Village start this project now, and is there provincial funding available given the challenges other communities are also seeing with this issue?

Mayor Mike Richman:

The Village started this project in 2015 as Council made it a priority based on feedback we all received during the campaign in the fall of 2014. At this time there is no provincial funding but we are always looking for grant opportunities.

At 11:45 a.m. the Question Period ended.