

**White Sands Community Hall Society**  
**And**  
**White Sands Rural Crime Watch**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held April 30, 2019**

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**Present:**

President Fraser Denton, Secretary Judy Peelar, Treasurer Mary Greene  
Geri Horne, Carl Cornelssen, Suzanne Denton, Vicky Sanchuck, Lorne Thurston, Debbie Waugh, Rick Crawford, Patty Wallace, Jim Marke, Sue Showers, Dale Kitcher, Bill Sanchuck, Bobbi Jo Lockhart, Leon Newton, Tamara Dawson, Pete Carleton, Corinne Phelan, Carol Linkert, Lois Robinson

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Denton with 21 members present, therefore a quorum.

**Changes to the Agenda:**

Fraser Denton added the following items to the agenda:

New Business:

Welcome Wagon – Judy Peelar

Community Garage Sale – Judy Peelar

The revised Agenda was accepted on the motion of Patty Wallace. Seconded by Bobbi Jo Lockhart. Carried.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the December 4, 2018 Meeting were approved as distributed on the motion of Vicky Sanchuck. Seconded by Carol Linkert. Carried.

**Rural Crime Watch Report:**

Corinne Phelan, President reported that the winter had been very quiet with no incidents at all until the Bottle Shed was broken into last week.

Fraser Denton reported that about \$100 in bottles had been taken. The door to the Bottle Shed has been repaired and reinforced.

To anyone new to the Village or for those who do not currently belong to the Crime Watch program, forms can be picked up at 10 Destini Drive.

**Unfinished Business:**

Electronic Bulletin Board:

At our October 6, 2018 meeting, we approved an expense of \$4373.25 for the purchase and installment of an LED message sign to be placed at the Water Fill Station.

Lorne Thurston confirmed that the Commission owns the building, the equipment and the water lines. The County has been contracted by the Commission to test the lines. The Village of White Sands will be responsible for the maintenance of the driveway and land.

The LED sign cannot be attached to the building but will be placed on poles along the road with power running back to the building. Life time of the sign is expected to be 10 years. Lorne has to make some decisions on ordering the sign. Fraser will put together a committee to work with Lorne and the sign company to move towards completion of this project. Someone will have to be responsible for programming the sign with various messages.

Estimation for the poles and underground power line is about \$2000. Fraser will submit a letter to the Village Council requesting a cost share on the sign and installation.

Jim Marke asked if the Village Council would receive reports on water quality. Lorne said that was not the standard. As a member of the Commission, he sees the reports. Judy Peelar asked Lorne if the standard would not be to advise us if there was a problem with the water quality and in such an event the plant would be shut down. Lorne confirmed that would be the situation.

#### GST Exemption:

At the December 2018 meeting, Jim Marke raised the question about the Hall Society applying for GST rebates. Would this be viable to recoup some of our GST money and put it back into our spending account?

Motion was made by Jim Marke that we apply for a GST number so the Hall Society could apply for rebates. Seconded by Patty Wallace.

Fraser confirmed that we had done some research on this. Geri Horne spoke to an Accounting firm in Stettler. As a Society, we do not charge out GST, therefore we would be eligible for a rebate of only 50% of GST paid. In looking at expenses for the past while, she estimated this would net \$50 per year on average.

Mary Greene provided information on her research as well. Our major expenses do not incur GST – bank fees, insurance, food for the social activities, caterer. Many of our expenses are donations to the Village to help with expenses like the benches being built and placed around the Village. So in tallying last year's GST expenses, our net refund would only be \$100. We would have to track payment and receipts and perhaps need to invest in an accounting program such as QuickBooks. That cost would be \$144. All books would have to be maintained and retained for 7 years for Government Audit purposes. With the potential of the Treasurer position changing every 2 years, there is also a learning/training curve.

It was felt that the cost versus benefit was prohibitive.

Fraser called for a vote on the motion. Motion failed.

**New Business:**

Village News:

Mayor Lorne reported that his spring newsletter will be going out within the week. They are trying to get everyone's email address and do this electronically rather than by mail to reduce costs.

Lorne also reported that they will be building a compound with cold storage for the Village equipment beside the Hall. It will be surrounded by chain link fence.

The parking lot at the Hall is also to be expanded and a new trail down to the beach will be cut out so people don't have to walk by the Hall when there are functions going on.

The Village had been putting aside money for the Water Fill Station, but much of that cost was picked up the Commission, so we now have to spend some money. When we carry too much on our books, we are not eligible for grant money.

The Land Use Bylaw will also be revamped this year. Public meetings will be held and will be announced soon.

The Village AGM will be held on the long weekend in July.

2019 Budget Forecast:

Mary Greene presented the following Proposed Budget for 2019:

**January 1, 2019 Beginning Bank Balance**                      **\$7410.67**

**Debits:**

Facilities and Equipment	\$1000	
Insurance and Bank Fees	\$ 700	
July 1 <sup>st</sup> Parade & BBQ	\$1200	
Golf Tournament	\$1500	
Fall Wind Up	\$1200	
Card & Poker Nights	\$1000	
Christmas Dinner	\$ 300	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 200</u>	
<b>Total Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$7100</b>	<b>\$ 310.67</b>

**Credits:**

Estimated Bottle Refunds                                      \$7000.00

**Estimated Bank Balance for Year Ending 2019**            **\$7310.67**

Mary Greene reported that Bottle Revenues were down \$1800 in 2018 over 2017. Fraser said we will be sending out a reminder to residents that bottle donations are what drive the functions we are able to have.

Amendments to Bylaws:

Fraser addressed an email concern from Jim Marke about the wording in the Hall Society's Mission Statement, and what the term "enhance the community" really means. Following is our current Mission Statement and Objectives:

MISSION STATEMENT:

*Through the efforts of volunteers and in consultation with the Summer Village of White Sands Council, enhance the community and offer social activities to residents and land owners of White Sands.*

OBJECTIVES:

The Objectives of the Society are:

1. To maintain accounting for all income from bottle and can donations and any other donations made to the Society.
2. To provide opportunities for social activities within the White Sands Community.
3. To provide resources to manage the Societies fund raising efforts.
4. To provide funding for equipment to carry out social activities and to enhance the community.

At a meeting of the Executive and Board earlier this week we proposed the following statements be added to our Objectives to clarify the role of the Hall Society. The above existing items would then follow as 4 to 7.

*The Objectives of the Society are:*

1. *The Hall Society is a non-profit organization registered under the Societies Act of the Alberta Corporate Registry. It was formed to manage the funds which are derived from the donation of bottles/cans left by White Sands residents. We operate separately from the Village Council but work with them in the betterment of our community.*
2. *"Enhancements" as noted in the above Mission Statement refers to social and recreational activities which fall in the mandate of the Hall Society. Village maintenance and infrastructure are responsibilities of the Village Council, separate and distinct from the Hall Society.*
3. *With respect to safety issues, when addressed to the Hall Society – they will not be ignored, but will be addressed to the Village council to jointly resolve.*

Jim Marke argued that if we are to enhance the community, for an example why are we not putting up better lighting at the garbage bins? Is that not an "enhancement"? Fraser said there is a difference between the Society's role and the Village Council role. The Society does not own the assets of the Village and therefore the Hall Society is not empowered to move lighting. That would be an issue for the Village

Council. Fraser stated that the Executive and Directors would meet to review the wording proposed for our Mission Statement and Objectives.

Bylaw Regarding Audit:

Mary Greene reported that since we rewrote our bylaws last year, the bylaw on audit has come back to us as an expensive issue. The bylaw reads:

7. AUDITING

7-a. The book accounts and records of the Treasurer shall be audited once each year by a duly qualified accountant. December 31st in each year shall be the fiscal year end of the society.

7-b. Upon 2 weeks' notice, the books and records of the society may be inspected by any member of the Society at the Annual Meeting. The Board shall have access to financial records at all times.

Using the words "audit" and "qualified accountant", represents an expense of \$2000. In speaking to a couple of accounting firms, a Society of our size would only require someone independent of the Board to review the books.

Motion was made by Mary Greene, to proceed with a change to the wording of Bylaw 7 as follows:

7. REVIEW OF FINANCES

7-a. A review of the transactions and bank statements for the Hall Society shall take place at the end of the fiscal year by a person not attached to the current Board or Executive of the Hall Society. December 31<sup>st</sup> in each year shall be the fiscal year end of the Society.

(7-b. to remain the same)

Seconded by Leon Newton. Carried.

We will begin the process to amend the bylaws of the White Sands Hall Society.

Social Activities:

Flower Beds – Heather Zyerveld has agreed to work the flower beds around the Village again this year. She needs 3 volunteers to assist her with the planting.

June 30 – Canada Day Parade & BBQ – Carly Sheridan and Jane Shepherd have volunteered to take this on.

July 20 - Golf Tournament – Deb Waugh will organize this. This year it will be at Pheasantback.

Aug 31 - Fall Wind Up – Geri Horne agreed to organize this event again.

Bobbi Jo Lockhart has ideas for a Paint Night, Rock Art and perhaps a summer time Halloween Party. Most of this will be paid by the participants. She will work with Lorne Thurston to determine dates, work out a budget if any and then communicate to Judy Peelar for announcements.

#### New Christmas Decorations:

Geri Horne asked if it would be possible to have a budget for new Christmas decorations for the Hall.

Debbie Waugh mentioned that someone had a lot of decorations to donate. They will look at this first and then determine if they need money for purchases.

#### Welcome Wagon:

Judy Peelar had the idea of starting a Welcome Wagon for new landowners to White Sands. A package of material could be provided to new residents with information on Crime Watch, the Hall Society, and Village Council with key contact information. We can explain the Bottle Donations; Take it or Leave It Shed, recycling/garbage.

Mayor Lorne advised that we do not get information on new land owners so that would be the tricky part. Suggestions were made that we could put the info on our website or a contact name and number on the new electronic sign, also post it on the bulletin boards around the community.

Jim Marke commented that our website is in need of work and we should take it over and revamp it. That it is not a lot of work. Currently the website is maintained by the Town of Stettler administration. Fraser asked if Jim was willing to take that on. Jim replied he may have time towards the end of the year.

Tamara Dawson volunteered to assist Judy with assembling a sample Welcome Wagon package.

#### Community Garage Sale:

Two years ago we held a Community Garage Sale. Judy Peelar advised that we have had the request to run one again this year. An email will be sent out to see what the interest level is. It is a lot of work to get organized and there is some expense to advertising and signage. Therefore we would have to have sufficient volume of participants to proceed.

Bobbi Jo Lockhart offered to assist with the organization if the sale is a go.

#### Community Hall Signage:

Thanks to Gerry Linkert for making and donating 2 signs for the Community Hall. Bill Sanchuck will arrange to have them hung.

#### **Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup>. This year's election of officers includes the positions of: Vice President, Secretary and 2 Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on the motion of Debbie Waugh.