

The Tuwanek Land Swap Affair

Only of concern to Sandy Hook should such a process repeat itself in our community OR is it a concern to all Sechelt residents as a political matter?

The very first the public heard of this trade was on 3 days notice prior to the July 23 council meeting. [See PDF agenda report here.](#) When the matter came up for discussion Councillors Allan and maybe Shanks objected specifically since the assessments had been made some time ago and property values have risen. The matter was to be sent back to committee to see about a new appraisal and also to reconsider other value aspects of the proposal. Someone from Tuwanek pointed out(during the period for public input) that 2 pieces of land added together are worth far more than the sum of the values of the two alone. The petitioner would be getting a substantial financial gift from the public purse - much more than he was offering. Not ONE WORD is heard of this matter again.

Wednesday September 3, the council meeting gathers and the Mayor asks for any comments from the crowd 'on matters set out in the agenda' The meeting is called to order and with the adoption of the agenda comes the addition of Item 10.7 - the Tuwanek property trade! Residents from Tuwanek have been blind sided and cannot speak to the item until after the meeting.

The item is taken through readings without any discussion. There is no background report to address the questions of July 23 - just a map. No dollar amounts - no report on the Tuwanek residents' feelings. An emotional resident of Tuwanek questioned the procedure during the public time after the adjournment and is told by the Mayor she can file something since the trade will be "advertised in the paper". [See PDF ad.](#)

Concerns for Sandy Hook should they be treated similarly:

1. How can anyone comment properly without the facts that were to be sought out after July 23rd?
2. Why couldn't the agenda contain this item so the public could review and comment upon it?

Some Perceptions:

1. Perception - It is a done deal and will now just barrel through.
2. Perception - whatever the deal is, it is now a secret one since the appraisals and monetary bits have not been revealed.
3. Perception - council are expediting a matter without any advice to the public (what is the rush?).
4. Perception - there is a favorite son in Tuwanek: Cutlan, the same person who started the entire short term rental crisis for Tuwanek, effectively reneged on a deal he made with council to cease and desist and seems to have scared off council on enforcing their bylaws where in the Mayor's own words, "Cutlan is running a resort in a residential area.". Now it appears he has been given a large gift for his "mother-in-law" on land which coincidentally is near the "resort.