

From: Joe Chau [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 11:41 PM
To: Jack Crompton
Cc: Erin Marriner; Arthur De Jong; Cathy Jewett; Duane Jackson; Jen Ford; John Grills; Ralph Forsyth; [REDACTED]
Subject: Recent White Gold underground petition and results

Dear Mayor Crompton and Honoured Members of Council.

I have been a resident of White Gold for 9 years, and a resident of Whistler for almost 20 years. Yesterday, my wife and I received notice from RMOW regarding the White Gold Undergrounding plan and the provided results. I would like to inquire with council and the project team overseeing the petition how the results from the petition was counted and how the road resurfacing in our area should fall under a White Gold specific levy when it should be under an umbrella/overall Whistler road upgrade plan.

Specifically towards the results of the petition, can you tell me how the 58.5% of the petition was in favour of proceeding? I find that hard to comprehend considering the amount of negative/no feedback from my neighbors. Was the petition counted only on the forms returned or including all absent petitions? Based on the wording of the petition, it was my (and my fellow neighbors) belief that not returning a petition was a negative vote. As an official note, I and my wife are fully opposed to the underground petition and did not return the petition as it stated in the petition that not returning it would be a negative vote (unfavourable of the petition). Further, in my walk about around White Gold, I estimate 160 houses so 58.5% in favour of the petition would require about 93 or 94 owners. Can you please provide me with the breakdown of how the petition was counted, as I can't understand how that number came to pass. I would estimate that over 2/3rds of the people I talked to were opposed to the undergrounding effort.

In addition, the original petition that we received in June/July noted that the petition was in 2 parts: the first petition to scope out the initial support for the project and then a second petition after the budget was finalized. What happened to the 2nd petition?

Moving on to the road resurfacing, 2 summers ago when the muni replaced the water main and connections in the area, it was told to the residents of White Gold that in the following year (this summer) the entire neighbourhood would be resurfaced. I assume that due to reduced tax revenue, COVID and other factors this resurfacing did not happen this summer and would be pushed into another year. With this petition, it now seems to me that you are off-loading that municipal burden of resurfacing the road that should be covered by all Whistler residents to the residents of White Gold under a special levy. How did that happen?

Finally, I would like the muni to understand that as taxpayers in Whistler, we are already under an extremely heavy burden on property taxes every year. It is nice to see that our home's assessed values as so high but you need to understand that most residents in Whistler (and White Gold) are NOT multimillionaires with unlimited financial resources. Note I am talking about residents, year round people, not 2nd property owners or AirBNB like sites. We are fortunate that we bought our house in White Gold 9 years ago when it was relatively affordable, and are not in a position to upgrade something that is only an aesthetic issue. We also prefer not to move because we love the area, the people and the "Whistler way of life". We are also fortunate to purchase a house that was already

wired/cabled underground so we do not have to worry about that cost in the future. However, forcing the residents of White Gold to dish out an estimated \$1200 per year over 30 years (pending unknown interest charges in the future) on a special levy on top of our yearly property tax of \$12,000 and then paying between \$20,000 to \$30,000 to underground wires that line through our property is just asking too much. You could say that \$100/month is really nothing overall, but on the big picture, \$100/m for 30 years is quite a lot of money. That does not include the contract work to underground the wires that would immediately trigger payment of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per household.

Again, I ask that you answer some of my simple questions above to help me and my neighbours understand how this petition was allowed to move forward.

Regards

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