

RECORD OF AN OPEN ENQUIRY, HELD AT THE CITY HALL, NORTH VANCOUVER, ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, AT 8 P.M.

PRESENT:

His Worship Mayor Morden
Alderman Anderson
Alderman Bridgman
Alderman Cartwright
Alderman Loutet
Alderman White
Alderman Wilson

The following persons were in attendance:

A. H. Reed – Harbour Master
Captain Boyce – Pilot on board S. S. “Iowa”
Captain Walker – Master of North Vancouver Ferry No. 3.
C. Scott – Deck-hand on North Vancouver Ferry No. 3.

D. Donaghy – Barrister at Law, representing City of North Vancouver
D. E. McTaggart – Barrister at Law, representing the Canadian Merchant Service Guild.

Mr. Donaghy, Solicitor, read section 49 of the Municipal Act, relative to Enquiry’s and the attendance and examination of the witnesses in Municipal affairs.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Harbour Board enclosing a copy of the Harbour Master’s report, and requesting that the circumstances of the case, and the action of the Captain of the Ferry be carefully investigated, and the results of the investigation, and the consequent action of the Council be submitted to the Commissioners.

Report of the Harbour Master

No. 16

“I have received a report from the Superintendent of Pilots, that at 06:15 on February 1st whilst the S.S. “Iowa” was heading on a southerly course approaching Ballantyne Pier, the North Vancouver Ferry, leaving North Vancouver at 06:00 came up on the port quarter of the “Iowa”, sounded two short blasts on his whistle, and then crossed ahead of the “Iowa” it was only the very prompt action of the pilot of the “Iowa” by going full speed stern that the Ferry cleared by fifty feet (50’).

I consider that a grave disaster was narrowly averted.

I would note from the report received that the North Vancouver Ferry failed to obey Article twenty-four (24) of the International Rules, and that she disobeyed Article twenty-eight (28) by taking a course in the reverse of that which she signalled.

I would observe that in my opinion there is a very lax state of navigation in Vancouver Harbour, which will result in serious disaster to the great detriment of the port and all concerned. In order to bring about better results I would request permission to prosecute the Master of the North Vancouver Ferry concerning whom complaint is made.

Report of the Master of No. 3 Ferry

While going across to Vancouver on first trip this morning a large steamer coming up the Harbour swung around and headed as if making for the C.P.R Dock, Pier D. Naturally I kept the Ferry to go astern of him. As I was drawing closer he started going astern with his head swinging to the East. I was too close by this time to go round his stern and to the west of him. There was nothing left but to keep going, so I gave two blasts on the whistle to let him know I was passing him to port. During all the manoeuvring he never once blew his whistle to indicate where or how he was going.

Report of the Lookout man on Ferry No. 3

“On our first trip from North Vancouver to Vancouver, reported vessel on starboard bow, heading apparently for C.P.R. Dock. When coming nearer to the vessel noticed he was going astern on engines and changing his course to port, which I reported. Captain T. Walker blew two blasts on our whistle and went to port, with no response from said vessel.

Moved by Alderman Loutet, seconded by Alderman Bridgman and resolved that the Clerk prepare a report for submission to the Council.

In accordance with the foregoing resolution the following report is written into the record and submitted for the approval of the Council.

“From the evidence submitted it was found that Ferry No. 3 left North Vancouver at 6 a.m. on the morning of February 1st, and followed her usual course for a point between Piers “C” and “D”, which course was held until the lights on the North end of the Vancouver Ferry leads opened up. The Captain of the Ferry then steered his course for the open leads. At this time he observed the S.S. “Iowa” apparently manoeuvring to berth at some dock west of the North Vancouver Ferry slips. Captain Walker pursued his course until he observed that the S.S. “Iowa” had reversed her engines with her bow swinging in an Easterly direction. Noting the change of course on the part of the “Iowa” Captain Walker gave the customary signal – two blasts of the whistle – intimating that he was directing his course to port, and passed the “Iowa” whilst she was veering in a North Easterly direction. It is observed that during this

manoeuvring the S.S. "Iowa" made no signal of any kind, and that the North Vancouver Ferry No. 3 docked at Vancouver at 6:08 a.m. Considering the evidence submitted we believe that the Master of the Number 3 Ferry displayed good seamanship, and followed the only course open to him under the circumstances. It is also noted that both the Lookout man (C. Scott) and Captain Walker had the S.S. "Iowa" under observation from the time the Ferry left North Vancouver.

Resolved that this Committee of enquiry do now resolve itself into an Informal meeting of the Council.

MINUTES OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPEN ENQUIRY.

PRESENT:

His Worship Mayor Morden
Alderman Anderson
Alderman Bridgman
Alderman Cartwright
Alderman Loutet
Alderman White
Alderman Wilson

His worship the Mayor stated that Alderman Bridgman was leaving on the Victoria boat later in the evening to meet the Municipal Committee at Victoria, and as a conflict of opinion had arisen at the current Court of Revision on the Assessment Roll in respect to the interpretation of sections 213 and 215 of the Municipal Act, the Solicitor had prepared the following amendment for consideration.

"Section 213 as enacted by section 10 of chapter 46 of the Statutes of 1929 is amended by adding after the word "improvements", in the twenty-first line thereof, the words "notwithstanding anything contained in section 215".

Moved by Alderman Anderson, seconded by Alderman Loutet and resolved that the proposed amendment be adopted, and Alderman Bridgman be and is hereby authorized to submit same to the Municipal Committee with a request that the requisite steps be taken to give effect to the change at the present session of the Legislature.

From His Worship the Mayor reporting that he had attended at the office of the Minister of Public Works, at Victoria to further discuss the matter of a grant for the construction of a highway through the City.

The result of the interview is contained in the following letter.

"This will confirm our interview of the 19th instant, regarding the matter of the Government participating in the cost of reconstructing a part of the Main Highway through your City, as set out in letter to me from your City Clerk, dated October 25th 1929.

Two routes A and B, were investigated by your Engineer, together with Route C, which is common to both routes and which is estimated to cost \$55,000.

The Department has gone into the matter and after having discussed the scheme I am pleased to inform you that a sum not exceeding \$25,000 is being placed in the Capital Estimates, this sum representing the amount, which the Government will contribute towards the cost of Route C. As soon as the Loan Bill passes the House, you will be advised.

As is customary in such grants, payment will be made when the work has been inspected and approved by Departmental Engineer.

In this regard I might also add that on several occasions Alderman Loutet, as well as Alderman Bridgman, have urged the necessity of this work, and I trust I have your approval in mentioning you Aldermen's efforts on behalf of this project.

Moved by Alderman Bridgman, seconded by Alderman Anderson and resolved that the correspondence be laid on the table until the next Regular meeting of the Council.

Moved by Alderman Loutet, seconded by Alderman Bridgman and resolved that this meeting adjourn.

Whereupon the meeting do now adjourn.

G. H. Morden
MAYOR