

**From:** Gerry Kristianson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 10:30 AM  
**To:** SSIInfo  
**Subject:** Re: Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Regular Business Meeting  
Aug 31

Re: Agenda for Aug 31 LTC

I note that the Regular Meeting Agenda for the August 31 meeting of the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee contains in Section 8.2 under "Water Sustainability" a Special Property Tax Requisition Business Case related to funds for the SSIWPA.

Beginning at page 94 of the documents provided for the meeting is a recommendation that the LTC endorse a special property tax requisition of \$75,000 and forward it for inclusion in the 2022/23 Islands Trust budget. It is proposed "That the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee endorse the SSIWPA special property tax requisition business case attached to the staff report of August 31, 2021 and forward it to Islands Trust Financial Planning Committee for inclusion in the draft 2022/23 Islands Trust budget."

In previous correspondence, and in meetings with Trust staff and representatives on Piers Island, we have objected to the process by which we are asked to fund by special levy expenditures specifically directed to a project for the exclusive benefit of Salt Spring Island residents.

This latest proposal is salt in the Piers Island wound. According to the documentation provided with the agenda, this request for continuing funds is being made because this and previous SSIWPA expenditures do not meet the criteria for funding under the general Islands Trust budget.

There is obvious irony in the fact that because the proposal does not meet the criteria for funding by all Trust taxpayers, it is put forward in a way that requires Piers Island taxpayers to pay for something of exclusive value to people on Salt Spring Island. The special property tax requisition says the purpose is to "support co-ordination on Salt Spring Island", but the costs are being imposed on all "taxpayers of the SSI LTA".

In past correspondence we have been told that the LTC is unable to exclude Piers Island taxpayers from a taxation measure of this sort. To quote Trustee Grams, "Unfortunately, the Trust does not have the ability to apply taxes selectively within the Local Trust Area. Had we the power to exclude Piers Island from this levy, I would be in favour of doing so. However, we do not have that power and so cannot exclude Piers Island from the tax requisition."

If this continues to be the case, then we ask that the terms of the business case and the project be revised to include expenditures related to appropriate water management activity on Piers Island.

Failure to amend the terms of this project will confirm that the LTC continues to see Piers as a cash cow to be milked for the benefit of others. If the LTC persists with a project that proposes to tax Piers Island properties for a project from which the island cannot benefit, we are left with no recourse but to request that the Ministry of Finance decline to remit the proceeds of the special assessment to the Islands Trust unless and until it has shown that the Piers Island Improvement District will receive the

appropriate share of the special levy for the purpose of “protecting the quality and quantity of water resources” on Piers Island.

Gerald and Diana Kristianson

On Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:46 AM Islands Trust <[ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)> wrote:

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## Salt Spring Island Local Trust Co Regular Business Meeting



### [Electronic Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Regular Business Meeting](#)

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