

STUART-NECHAKO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Jerry Petersen

Directors Eileen Benedict
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom
Thomas Liversidge
Bill Miller
Mark Parker
John Illes
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Corrine Swenson, Manager of Regional Economic Development
– arrived at 10:25 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Rob Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) -left at 10:09 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Liversidge

SNRHD.2017-2-1

“That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Agenda of March 2, 2017 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Stuart-Nechako Regional
Hospital District Meeting
Minutes – January 26, 2017

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

SNRHD.2017-2-2

“That the minutes of the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District meeting of January 26, 2017 be adopted.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Audit Engagement Letter

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Illes

SNRHD.2017-2-3

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the Treasurer's February 1, 2017 memo titled "Audit Engagement Letter"; and, further, that the Audit Engagement Letter for the year ended December 31, 2016 be approved for signature."

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

SNRHD.2017-2-4

"That Motion SNRHD.2017-2-3 be amended to correct the signature line to Chair Jerry Petersen in the Audit Engagement Letter for the year ended December 31, 2016."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

"That the question be called on Motion SNRHD.2017-2-3 as amended."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Northern Health Capital Spending Reports, December 31, 2016

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lindstrom

SNRHD.2017-2-5

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the Treasurer's February 20, 2017 memo titled "Northern Health Capital Spending Reports, December 31, 2016."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staff will contact Northern Health in regard to the cost of the meal cart at St. John Hospital.

Financial Statements -December 31, 2016

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Director Illes

SNRHD.2017-2-6

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the Treasurer's February 20, 2017 memo titled "Financial Statements, December 31, 2016."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Draft 2017 Final Budget

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Liversidge

SNRHD.2017-2-7

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the Treasurer's February 20, 2017 memo titled "Draft 2017 Final Budget."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Miller

SNRHD.2017-2-8

"That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the following correspondence:

-the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health – Follow Up to 2016 Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention;

-Letter to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health re: Replacement Hospital – Capital Project – Stuart Lake Hospital, Fort St. James BC:

- Harold J. Nielsen
- Stuart Lake Hospital Auxiliary Society
- Fort St. James Senior Citizens Home Society
- Ubleis Logging Ltd.
- Northern health
- Conifex Inc.
- District of Fort St. James
- Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce
- Pioneer Place/Lodge Tenants Association
- Carmen Weatley Notary Corporation
- Stuart Lake Co-op Housing
- College of New Caledonia;

-Letter from Monique Roy to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health re: Gaps in Service;

-BC Forest Safety Ombudsman – A Report on Helicopter Emergency Medical services in BC;

-Northern Health News Release: MRI Replacement Support "Mobilized" at University Hospital of Northern BC;

-Northern Health Media Releases – Person & Family-Focused Care: NH Board Meeting Highlights."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Concerns were brought forward in regard to the length of wait times to see physicians, rotational physicians not able to provide a consistent level of care and the use of emergency rooms for patients that are unable to see a physician during regular clinic hours. Wait times for an appointment are 2-3 weeks. Discussion took place regarding patients going to other communities to see a physician and the impact to those communities. Due to doctors being in a community on a rotational basis, the long term impacts of receiving results and/or referrals for patients in a timely manner is also a concern.

The need to meet with Northern Health at the North Central Local Government Association Convention May 2 to 5, 2017 in Terrace regarding the issues was discussed.

Director Thiessen commented that the Provincial Government's Select Standing Committee on Health released its Looking Forward: Improving Rural Health Care, Primary Care, and Addiction Recovery Program Report March 2, 2017. He spoke of the need to review the report and potentially use it in determining health care needs to provide a consistent level of care throughout the entire region.

Director Liversidge also brought forward concerns regarding the doctor/specialist referral system and the distances to travel to see a specialist when one may be located closer.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

Director Miller mentioned a panel on Rural Healthcare that took place at the Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention a few years ago and the direction provided at that time to move away from emergency health care.

Discussion took place in regard to determining exact wait times at all medical facilities within the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District. Inviting Dr. Dave Snadden, UBC Chair in Rural Health to attend a future SNRHD Meeting was discussed.

BC Forest Safety Ombudsman
– A Report on Helicopter
Emergency Medical services
in BC Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Miller

SNRHD.2017-2-9 “That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District write a letter to the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health endorsing recommendations 1 through 3 outlined in the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman, Roger Harris’ February 1, 2017 Report titled “Will it Be There? A Report on Helicopter Emergency Medical Services in BC.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BYLAW

BYLAW FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING

No. 61 – SNRHD Annual
Budget Bylaw Moved by Director Thiessen
Seconded by Director Greenaway

SNRHD.2017-2-10 “That “Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Annual Budget Bylaw No. 61, 2017” be given first and second reading this 2nd day of March, 2017.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS

Fort St. James Primary Care Facility Chair Petersen mentioned that along with Directors Greenaway and MacDougall, Melany de Weerd, CAO, and Roxanne Shepherd, Treasurer met with Northern Health on February 17, 2017 to discuss the replacement of the Stuart Lake Hospital and the immediate needs for a primary care clinic. Northern Health had presented the option to rent a building in Fort St James and renovate the building to meet primary care facility requirements. The agreement would be for five years with the option to renew if a permanent facility was not built at that time. The cost to renovate the building would be approximately \$2 million. Due to the substantial cost further discussions with Northern Health was requested.

Northern Health developed a three phase plan to bring forward to the Provincial Government with the intent to replace the aging facilities in Fort St. James in a phased approach.

Phase 1: Health Care Clinic

Phase 2: Primary Care Facility

Phase 3: Hospital Replacement (Acute Care Facility).

VERBAL REPORTS (CONT'D)

The phased approach however does not address the critical need to replace the health care clinic. The desire is to invest the funds into a permanent facility that will address the short and long term needs of the community and its physicians. Director Greenaway mentioned that in discussions throughout 2016 capital funding from Northern Health was not available for a primary care facility.

A meeting has been scheduled for March 7, 2017 in Fort St. James with the Fort St. James Primary Care Society, Northern Health, Physicians and Chair Petersen, Directors Greenaway and MacDougall, Ms. de Weerd and Ms. Shepherd.

Mental Health Care

Director Benedict voiced concerns in regard to the issues of mental health care in the region. She spoke of requesting information from Northern Health in regard to available mental health resources in the region. Director Petersen noted that in 2016 he attended a meeting in Vanderhoof regarding mental health care but an update would be beneficial.

Meeting with Northern Health at the North Central Local Government Convention May 3-5, 2017 – Terrace B.C.

Director Lindstrom mentioned the importance of meeting with Northern Health at the North Central Local Government Convention May 3-5, 2017 in Terrace, B.C. as a unified group to voice concerns regarding health care in the region.

Lack of Long Term Care beds Putting a strain on Acute Care Facilities (Hospitals)

Director Thiessen spoke of concerns regarding long term care patients being placed in acute care facilities (hospitals) due to the lack of beds available in long term care facilities. He noted the strain this has on the patient and the entire medical system. Discussion took place regarding the need for more long term care beds in the region.

Director Parker commented that the Paramedicine Pilot Project currently being conducted in Fraser Lake has assisted in keeping some patients from being admitted to an acute care facility. Patients admitted to hospital are often further advanced in their need for care than what can be provided from the Paramedicine Project.

Director Liversidge noted that the Village of Granisle residents, along with having the Paramedicine Program, have the option to access the United Ways Better at Home Program that assists with pickup of groceries, prescriptions etc. He mentioned the program is quite successful.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Illes

SNRHD.2017-2-11

“That the verbal reports of the various Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Board of Directors be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Parker

SNRHD.2017-2-12

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:44 a.m.”

Jerry Petersen, Chairperson

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant