

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 2016

PRESENT: Chair Eileen Benedict

Directors Mark Fisher
Bill Miller
Rob Newell – left at 3:57 p.m.
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen

Director Absent Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area “C” Fort St. James Rural)

Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Gail Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Protective Services Manager – left at 4:06 p.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Benedict called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Alternate Director Hughes
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2016-2-1

“That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for February 11, 2016 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -January 21, 2016

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2016-2-2

“That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of January 21, 2016 be received as amended.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Allocation of Costs

Director Petersen expressed his concerns in regard to the costs and taxation increases to implement regulations imposed by the provincial government for small rural fire departments. He is not in support of cost increases in regard to the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

Chair Benedict mentioned the possibility of bringing the issue forward at the North Central Local Government Association Conference in Dawson Creek on May 4-6, 2016. Director Miller spoke of the past lobbying of the RDBN regarding the impacts to small rural fire departments in regard to the provincial process and new regulations in the "British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook".

Discussion took place in regard to the funding allocations for the rural fire departments. The differences between the Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the other rural fire departments was discussed. Cluculz Lake Volunteer Fire Department is operated by a society and the society is responsible for training thus the contribution service does not allocate funding for training.

The RDBN hosted a meeting attended by the rural fire departments in regard to the allocation of administration costs and changes to the training regulations required by provincial regulations. Director Miller noted that in discussions with Regional District of Fraser-Fort George they are experiencing the same challenges with the small rural fire departments within their region.

The future of rural fire departments and the consequences associated with a rural fire department not being able to collect sufficient funds to provide a service was discussed.

Discussion took place regarding current costs associated with managing fire departments being allocated to Protective Services. Costs associated with a fire protection service need to be funded by that service under the *Local Government Act*.

Discussion took place in regard to volunteer fire department member's commitments and scheduling issues to fulfill regulatory training requirements. Alternate Director Hughes spoke of the recruitment drives that have occurred in his area and the commitment of the volunteer fire department members to be continually recruiting volunteers.

Alternate Director Hughes noted that a resident within a fire protection boundary's overall costs, including both home insurance and the rural fire protection service, would be less than a resident outside a fire protection boundary.

Allocation of Costs

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2016-2-3

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve Schedule 1 "Rural Fire Protection Services Taxation Capacity Estimated Cost Allocation based on Converted Assessments."

(All/Directors/Majority)

DEFEATED

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Allocation of Costs

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Newell

RDC.2016-2-4

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors approve Schedule 3 "Rural Fire Protection Taxation Capacity Estimated Cost Allocation based on Staff Workload – Telkwa and Round Lake Shared Equally" as amended that Telkwa be the full contributor in the amount of \$1,091 and Round Lake be removed from the allocation of costs."

Opposed: Director Petersen

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED

Discussion took place in regard to legislation regarding Director consent for bylaw approval.

Fort St. James Sled Dog Association -Request for Grant in Aid -Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Alternate Director Hughes
Seconded by Director Miller

RDC.2016-2-4

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Sled Dog Association be given \$2,000 from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for costs associated with the Caledonia Classic Dog Sled Races."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fort St. James Secondary School -Request for Grant in Aid -Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Moved by Director Hughes
Seconded by Director Parker

RDC.2016-2-5

"That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Fort St. James Secondary School be given \$1,000 from Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural) for a Grade 12 Scholarship."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

BC Broadband Conference

Director Miller spoke of the request for input from the CRTC (Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission) in regard to telecommunications services, including internet services, which are offered in Canada. He noted the download speed is very slow and that residents require adequate high speed internet download and upload speeds. Discussion took place regarding the issue being brought forward at the BC Broadband Conference on May 3-4, 2016 in Vancouver, B.C.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

BC Broadband Conference
-May 3-4, 2016
-Vancouver, B.C.

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Petersen

RDC.2016-2-7

“That the Rural Directors Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Director Newell’s attendance at the BC Broadband Conference on May 3-4, 2016 in Vancouver, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Fisher

RDC.2016-2-8

“That the meeting be adjourned 4:10 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eileen Benedict, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant