

STUART-NECHAKO REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Jerry Petersen

Directors Eileen Benedict
Tom Greenaway
Dwayne Lindstrom – arrived at 10:04 a.m.
Rob MacDougall
Bill Miller
Mark Parker
John Illes
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 10:18 a.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Chris Beach, Mayor, Village of Burns Lake
Rob Newell, Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) – arrived at 10:05 a.m.,
left at 10:09 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News – arrived at 10:39 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director MacDougall

SNRHD.2017-3-1 “That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District Agenda of March 9, 2017 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSSION ITEM

Options for Primary Care Facility

Director Greenaway provided a history of the doctor situation in Fort St. James five years ago and the formation of the Fort St. James Primary Care Society. With the assistance from the Fort St. James Primary Care Society Fort St. James went from one doctor to five to six doctors in the community. The current medical clinic being utilized by the doctors and staff is in immediate need of replacement. On March 7, 2017 he attended a meeting in Fort St. James along with Chair Petersen, Director MacDougall, Alternate Director Bob Hughes, Melany de Weerd, CAO, Roxanne Shepherd, Treasurer and representation from District of Fort St. James Council, the doctors, Medical Clinic, Northern Health, and Fort St. James Primary Care Society to discuss and determine a solution to move forward with a Primary Care facility in Fort St. James. Director Greenaway reported that a unanimous decision was made to pursue procurement for a lease to accommodate the primary care facility. The estimated cost to convert a lease space to a primary care facility to meet the provincial health requirements is approximately \$2 million with the SNRHD contribution being approximately \$800,000.

DISCUSSION ITEM (CONT'D)

Alternate Director McGuire asked if assistance has been requested from Thompson Creek Metals Company Inc. (Mt. Milligan Mine) for the costs associated with construction of the primary care facility. Thompson Creek Metals Company Inc. has not been a participant in the discussions.

Chair Petersen explained that the lease will be for a five year term with an option for a five year renewal option. Northern Health has indicated that the \$2 million investment to the building to meet standards along with the lease costs for the building over a ten year period will be less or equal to the costs to build.

Consideration was given to what would be involved in seeking approval from the Province to commence the hospital replacement with the Primary Care facility as phase 1. Roxanne Shepherd, Treasurer spoke to the long range planning in regard to the proposed three phases of the replacement of the Stuart Lake Hospital and permanent primary care facility. Director MacDougall spoke to the pressing needs of the Medical Clinic and the need to move forward as quickly as possible in order to retain the doctors and staff that are currently in Fort St. James. Director MacDougall mentioned that Fort St. James will continue to lobby the government for permanent facilities. Discussion has also taken place regarding the use of modular units in the construction of a permanent primary and acute care facility.

Director Thiessen spoke of issues with the size of the Vanderhoof Medical Clinic not being able to accommodate the doctors in the community and consideration may also need to be given for concerns in Vanderhoof. The Vanderhoof Medical Clinic is a private clinic wherein the medical clinic in Fort St. James is now being operated by Northern Health. Director Lindstrom also indicated that Fraser Lake will need a new facility in the future.

Concerns were brought in regard to the building being privately owned and the format of the lease. Over the term of the lease the property will continue to require maintenance and repairs by Northern Health. Discussion regarding the potential long term cost of leasing a property was also a concern. Currently the lease option appears to be the most cost effective and the most efficient choice in order to have a new facility as soon as possible.

The SNRHD's long term planning throughout the region for facilities and improvements has been based on priority need. The SNRHD Board of Directors brought forward the need for further cost analysis and information to determine the best possible health care and address the immediate need in Fort St. James. Northern Health has not provided a cost analysis at this time.

Director Benedict noted that without Provincial support to build a hospital that would include a primary care facility the SNRHD is now having to address the critical need in Fort St. James. Frustrations were brought forward regarding the lack of a new facility for Fort St. James in the immediate future.

Various options were brought forward for discussion.

- Buy the modular now at an approximate cost of \$6 million and transfer to the hospital site at a later date;
 - o Province not supportive of purchasing the modular at this time;
 - o Funding would need to come from other sources;
 - Fort St. James attempted to raise the funds;
 - Would be a longer time line.
- The SNRHD purchase the modular building to be located on Northern Health property where the current hospital location is;
 - o SNRHD lease the modular building to Northern Health;
 - o Northern Health Capital Planning Manager would require 6-9 months to prepare planning documentation that would incorporate the facility into future building of a new acute care facility on the current hospital site;
 - o Requires Provincial approvals – indefinite time frame;
- Process for lease hold improvements has different provincial requirements and consideration for Northern Health Capital Planning vs. purchasing buildings;
- Other property options to locate a primary care facility;

DISCUSSION ITEM (CONT'D)

- Fort St. James Primary Care Society investigated property options for a facility;
 - No available options for a primary, complex and acute care facility in one location.
 - Northern Health and the community of Fort St. James have indicated they would like the new facility located in the same location of the current Stuart Lake Hospital.

Director MacDougall emphasized the need to have a working facility as soon as possible in order to keep the doctors in the community. Ms. de Weerdts noted that Northern Health and the SNRHD have the authority to proceed with leasehold improvements without having to seek provincial approvals. Options brought forward to the Province have not received a positive response to this date and in terms of time lines and addressing the immediate needs the procurement for a lease has been the chosen option.

Chair Petersen outlined the steps moving forward in Northern Health's procurement process in regard to the lease and Northern Health providing a cost analysis. The 2017 SNRHD Budget process was also discussed.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

REPORT

Replacement of Primary Care Facility in Fort St. James Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Illes

SNRHD.2017-3-2 "That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the Chief Administrative Officer's March 9, 2017 memo titled "Replacement of Primary Care Facility in Fort St. James."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Moved by Director MacDougall
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

SNRHD.2017-3-3 "That the Stuart-Nechako Regional Hospital District receive the following correspondence:

- Ministry of Health – Replacement of the Stuart Lake Hospital;
- Ministry of Health – Physician Staffing and Nursing Specialties at the Fraser Lake Community Health Centre;
- Northern Health - Media Bulletin – Northern Health to Notify Radiological Patients;
- Northern Health Preparations for Palliative Care in Vanderhoof."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Miller
Seconded by Director Greenaway

SNRHD.2017-3-4

“That the meeting be adjourned at 10:51 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jerry Petersen, Chairperson

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant