

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, April 6, 2017

PRESENT: Chairperson Bill Miller

Directors Taylor Bachrach
Eileen Benedict
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
John Illes
Rob Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Darcy Repen
Gerry Thiessen

Directors Shane Brienen, District of Houston
Absent Dwayne Lindstrom, Village of Fraser Lake
Thomas Liversidge, Village of Granisle
Rob MacDougall, District of Fort St. James

Alternate Director Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer
Janette Derksen, Environmental Services Coordinator – arrived at 11:03 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Rory McKenzie, Environmental Services Operations Manager – arrived at 11:03 a.m.
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Cale, Vanderhoof – left at 10:57 a.m.
Nikles, Vanderhoof – left at 10:57 a.m.

Media Flavio Nienow, LD News –arrived at 11:21 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

**AGENDA &
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director McGuire

C.W.2017-4-1

“That the Agenda of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Committee of the Whole meeting of April 6, 2017 be approved as amended to include a verbal report from the Chair; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole
Minutes – March 9, 2017

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Illes

C.W.2017-4-2

“That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 9, 2017 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Vancouver Outdoor Adventure
Show

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Benedict

C.W.2017-4-3

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Manager of Regional Economic Development’s March 29, 2017 memo titled “Vancouver Outdoor Adventure Show.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR’S REPORT

UBCM Chairs/CAO Forum and Municipal Finance Authority Annual General Meeting – March 28-30, 2017 – Victoria, B.C.

- Introduction speech – the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development;
 - Recognized the infrastructure and social deficit in communities;
 - Spoke of the speed of the changes/climate change coming forward – how fast its occurring;
 - Need to be prepared for the future;
 - The status quo is not acceptable.
- Chair Miller and Phil Germuth, Chair, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine and asked questions of Minister Fassbender;
 - Emphasized the need for the RBA moving forward;
 - Negotiations needed to open.

Topics at UBCM Chairs/CAO Forum

Integrity Commission – Do B.C. Local Governments Need an Integrity Commissioner?

- The Province and UBCM completed a report;
 - Options local governments have to manage behavior at board and council tables;
 - Censor motions – verbal reprimand;
 - Codes of conduct – sense of protocol for meetings;
 - Integrity Commissioner – third party to review and give recommendation potentially with legislative backing and have enforceable penalties/reprimands;
 - Ministry oversight (no interest from the forum participants);
- Opportunity currently to build the policy – don’t want it to become a provincial mandate;
- Want autonomy within own organization;
- Possibility for UBCM to have a group or contract.

Director Repen mentioned that a 2015 UBCM resolution for a municipal recall mechanism was endorsed. Chair Miller noted that it was briefly discussed in regard to a method for penalties or consequence to the issue. Chair Miller mentioned the issues that Regional Districts are experiencing in regard to Alternate Directors attending a number of meetings due to Director illness or some form of incapacitation. The electorate has voiced concerns in regard to the Alternate Director not being an elected official. Melany de Weerd, CAO recently provided the document titled “Responsible Conduct of Local Government Officials.” It was recommended that local governments keep their autonomy. Chair Miller mentioned that discussion took place

CHAIR'S REPORT (CONT'D)

regarding the number of By-Elections occurring in this term of office. He indicated that some Regional Districts are moving towards supporting policy changes to remove from the *Local Government Act* the requirement to have Alternate Directors. Discussion took place regarding potential options for the electorate to choose an Alternate Director and the challenges associated with finding Alternate Directors and their involvement during meetings. The RDBN Board of Directors has been a functional Board and has had good participation from its Directors.

Staff will provide the Survey of Local Government Elected Officials on Responsible Conduct at the May 11, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Emergency Preparedness Exercise

- Vancouver Island – Complete disaster exercise that included an earthquake with tidal wave;
 - Key findings – not enough people for a sustained process –including the use of provincial backing - didn't have human resources;
 - Need for a resource pool to build capacity.

Building Inspection Issues

- Building inspectors recommending that inspectors need practical experience;
 - Impact - cost of construction;
 - Lack of certified people;
 - Market value not there at the end of a new home build;
 - Cost to local government for provincial regulation:
 - Building code - provincial regulation;
 - All local governments across BC are opposed;
 - Metro Vancouver and other urban centres are not the drivers;
 - Drivers -building associations and developers;
 - Strong backing to not support the new building code;
 - Meeting with Building Safety Standard Branch.

Transit Advice

- Key to success:
 - Ride the bus;
 - Once the transit system is in operations ride the bus to understand and relate to those using the transit system;
 - Keep dynamic – process that grows.

Gas Tax – Operational Funding

- No response from forum participants.

Presentation - 9-1-1 Levy

- Level of support was good;
- Some opposition from Metro Vancouver – open to options;
- Retaining autonomy of local governments to set up levy according to the level of service provided;
- Cost allocation - property tax vs. levy – political concerns;
- Province moving towards collecting the levy and administer;
- Continue to monitor what will happen moving forward.

Municipal Finance Authority Presentation – Peter Urbanc, CAO

- Engaging, personable and understandable;
- Presentation will be included in the April 20th Regional Board Meeting;
- Indicated he would attend a Regional Board Meeting in 2018;
- Participants have been asking for green investment opportunities;
- Session on how to structure and set up the funds;
- Discussed pitfalls – looking at options;

CHAIR'S REPORT (CONT'D)

- As financial investors – legal responsibility to do due diligence on investment returns;
- Will send a survey to Municipalities, Regional Districts, Mayors, Chairs and CAO's regarding green investment funds – level of interest;
- Requires a minimum of \$100 million for investment purposes.

Infrastructure funding – Three Presentations

- Partnerships BC:
 - Provincial organization can help facilitate P3's (Public, Private, Partnerships);
 - Assist with Procurement;
 - Assist with setting up financing;
- Canadian Infrastructure Bank
 - Not fully developed as of yet;
 - Ensure that gaps in funding;
 - Help facilitate Public, Private, Partnerships;
 - Facilitate funding partnership.

NWBC Resource Benefits Alliance

- Chairs and CAO's met;
- Engaged Communication Consultants:
 - Draft communication strategies and briefing notes being developed;
 - Moving forward at a quick pace.
- Sent letters:
 - Provincial Government and Ministries;
 - Members of the Legislative Assembly;
- Engaged Industry and Provincial Election Candidates;
- Asking representatives to attend Chamber of Commerce meeting within the region:
 - Smithers Chamber of Commerce April 11, 2017 – Director's Bachrach and Fisher;
 - Burns Lake Chamber of Commerce April 19, 2017 – Chair Miller, Directors Benedict and Illes;
 - Houston Chamber of Commerce – April 18, 2017 – Director Newell (Chair Miller will contact Director Brienen);
 - Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce – Director Thiessen and Petersen will contact;
 - Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce – April 12, 2017 – Director Greenaway (Chair Miller will contact Director MacDougall);
 - Fraser Lake Chamber of Commerce – April 19, 2017 – Director Parker (will contact Director Lindstrom);

Discussion took place regarding the function of the Vanderhoof Chamber of Commerce and the Fort St. James Chamber of Commerce. Concerns were discussed regarding capacity of Chamber of Commerce. Chair Miller noted that the RBA wants to speak to small local business to promote the RBA initiative.

Meeting with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) – March 27, 2018 in Prince George, B.C.

- Current issue – interface with frozen culverts and backup ice flows and potential flooding to home owners;
- Outline responsibility levels and messaging;
- MoTI – very good communication;
- EMBC – Northwest Provincial Emergency Operations Centre;
 - Wanted to move responsibility to local government;
- Manning roads and road closures during events:
 - MoTI – responsible for MoTI roads;
 - Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – responsible for Forest Service Roads.

CHAIR'S REPORT (CONT'D)

Federation of Canadian
Municipalities Convention
June 1-4, 2017 – Ottawa, ON

Moved by Director Benedict
Seconded by Alternate Director McGuire

C.W.2017-4-3

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors authorize Chair Miller and Director Greenaway’s attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Convention June 1-4, 2017 in Ottawa, ON.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Receipt of Chair's Verbal
Reports

Moved by Director Bachrach
Seconded by Director Illes

2017-4-26

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the Chair’s verbal report.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board discussed the letter from BC Housing dated March 27, 2017 regarding Owner / Builder regulations. There were questions regarding the statistics provided in the letter, and staff indicated that they would like to work with the Province to analyze the data.

Director Thiessen commented that the District of Vanderhoof is currently hiring a Building Inspector and spoke to the impacts of the Building Officials’ (BO) Qualifications. Chair Miller spoke to the Regional District continuing to voice its concerns in regard to the BO Qualifications.

Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning noted that the provincial regulations that were passed did not include any of the measures that were proposed to reduce the impacts on local governments. All of these measures are proposed to be considered in the future as part of future regulation changes. Therefore, local governments need to ensure that the Province follows through on the needed changes regulations.

Meeting with Building and
Safety Standards Branch
-Request for Meeting Date

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Fisher

C.W.2017-4-4

“That the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako direct staff to follow-up with the Building and Safety Standards Branch in regard to data numbers in relation to Owner Builder Authorizations in the region; and further that the next conference call meeting with the Building Safety Standards Branch occur at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA (CONT'D)

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT'D)

NewGold Blackwater Project
-Proposed Change to the
Transmission Line Routing
– Open House and Invitation
to Comment – April 10, 2017,
Vanderhoof, BC

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Petersen

C.W.2017-4-5

“That the Committee of the Whole receive the invitation titled
“NewGold Blackwater Project – Proposed Change to the
Transmission Line Routing – Open House and Invitation to
Comment – April 10, 2017, Vanderhoof, B.C.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Additional wind turbine development in the region was discussed. Chair Miller indicated that New Gold’s proposed changes to the transmission line alignment proposed in New Gold’s Application for an Environmental Assessment (EA) Certificate was due to conversation with First Nations Communities.

Director Thiessen spoke of supporting New Gold Blackwater Gold Project by attending the meeting and in the future providing letters of support.

Discussion took place regarding New Gold Blackwater Gold Project’s EA process and the benefits to the region from the project. New Gold has been a good corporate citizen in the region. The company is moving forward but construction may be delayed if the Environmental Assessment Process is not completed in a timely manner.

The link to the Resource Benefits Alliance in regard to industry that has completed its due diligence, fully engaged and is a benefit was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Podiatrist in the Region is
Leaving

Alternate Director McGuire commented that the Podiatrist that has been practicing in the area is leaving in August, 2017. They have been attempting to recruit a replacement for the past two years with little success. She indicated that this may be a concern for area residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Illes
Seconded by Director Bachrach

C.W.2017-4-6

“That the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bill Miller, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant