

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 16, 2020

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Gerry Thiessen

Director Absent Mark Fisher, Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Tyler Mooi, Marketing Manager, Telus – Via Zoom
Roberta Squire, MBA, General Manager, CSD Northern BC, Telus – via Zoom
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

BBC.2020-3-1

"That the Broadband Committee Agenda for May 7, 2020 be approved as amended to include in New Business – Briefing info from Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley."

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

MINUTES

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes –May 7, 2020

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2020-3-2

"That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020 be approved."

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

REPORT

Funding and Partnership Agreements

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2020-3-3

"That the Broadband Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's July 16, 2020 memo titled Funding and Partnership Agreements."

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

REPORT (CONT'D)

Discussion took place regarding:

- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George entered into an agreement with Tannex
 - Potential Partnering Agreements with TELCOM's and local governments
- Partnering Agreement/Funding Agreement definition
 - Local government can request system utilized eg. wireless/hardwire
- Developing a Bylaw for Broadband Service
 - Economic Development Function
 - Referendum process
 - Including all Electoral Areas
 - Including portion of Electoral Areas
 - Timeline
- Coastal GasLink contractor for connectivity is applying for funding under currently available connectivity funding programs
- Partnering with TELCOM companies to provide connectivity to underserved areas
- Viability of partnerships
 - Backhaul capabilities/permissions
 - Currently some TELCOM's can't meet speeds due to backhaul issues.
 - Potential issues in the future with backhaul capabilities.

CORRESPONDENCE

Todd Doherty – MP Cariboo-Prince George – Broadband/Rural Connectivity Letter to the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Rural Economic Development

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

BBC.2020-3-4

“That the Broadband Committee receive the correspondence from Todd Doherty, MP Cariboo-Prince George regarding Broadband Rural Connectivity Letter to the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of Rural Economic Development.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Briefing Information
Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena
Bulkley Valley

Chair Riis-Christianson noted Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley's Constituency office responded to the RDBN's request for letter of support and has requested an update be provided to MP Bachrach. Staff will schedule a Zoom meeting with MP Bachrach and provide a briefing note for the meeting. Director Newell requested the information be provided prior to the meeting.

Coastal GasLink Legacy
Funding

Chair Riis-Christianson mentioned that the information in regard to the meeting with Coastal GasLink regarding legacy infrastructure for fibre is encouraging.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

BBC.2020-3-5

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Connectivity), must/may be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2020-3-6

“That the meeting be adjourned 9:20 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant