

# **TOWN OF SMITHERS**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held in Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C., on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at Noon.

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**Council Present:**

Cress Farrow, Mayor  
Norm Adomeit, Councillor  
Mark Bandstra, Councillor  
Lorne Benson, Councillor  
Charlie Northrup, Councillor.

**Council Excused:**

Jo Ann Groves, Councillor  
Frank Wray, Councillor.

**Invited Guests:**

**Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako**  
Hans Berndorff, Financial Administrator  
Stoney Stoltenberg, Area 'A' Director.

**Village of Telkwa**

Rimas Zitkauskas, Councillor.

**BV Regional Pool and Recreation Centre**

Ryan Coltura, Facility Manager  
Coranne Dohler, Financial Supervisor  
Joe Nessman, Board Member  
Joanne Berarducci, Board Member  
Kimberly McMillan, Board Member.

**Media Present:** R. Schierer, The Interior News.

**Staff Present:**

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer  
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance  
Janice McKay, Recording Secretary.

**Staff Excused:**

Susan Bassett, Director of Corporate Services  
Mark Allen, Director of Development Services  
Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture  
Keith Stecko, Fire Chief  
Patricia Berg, Airport Manager  
Wilf Taekema, Director of Works and Operations.

1. **CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS**

Mayor Farrow called the meeting to order (12:07 p.m.) and asked Councillor Benson to chair the meeting. Introductions were made.

2. **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

2-1 **Bulkley Valley Regional Pool and Recreation Centre (BVRPRC)**

C. Dohler, Financial Supervisor, and R. Coltura, Facility Manager, reviewed the BVRPRC 2010 draft budget, as presented in the agenda package. The budget included 2008 actual and 2009 budgeted and projected figures.

The topics discussed included:

- higher than projected program revenue
- contract with the School District
- status of grant applications
- acquisition of new CLASS registration software system
- increase in memberships purchased, member visits, and drop-in visits during the month of January 2010
- increased admission fees and membership fees
- debt repayment for the courts/climbing wall addition by December 2012

- payment of hydro and natural gas
- fitness equipment lease with the Regional District expiring May 2010
- “Wages and Benefits Expenses” increase, due to moving costs for two aquatic leaders, a cost of living adjustment, and the addition of two full-time positions to the benefits package
- comparison of wages with other facilities
- a benefits package that attracts more mature staff
- a possible wage review in 2011
- the increased skill level of staff resulting in increased programming revenue
- the Capital Projects surplus for 2009, also reflected in the 2010 Budget, for projects not completed in 2009, i.e. door and window upgrades
- consideration to retrofitting plumbing, so that generic parts can be used and to acquiring pumps, prior to breakdown, to avoid delivery wait times
- the limited, current reserve fund is required for future retrofit projects
- “Budgeted 2010 Capital Projects” items stemming from recommendations made in the past PERC Report
- the importance of planning for costs of large repair projects and unforeseen problems
- the BVRPRC’s request for additional funds (taxation) in 2010, in order to put \$50,000 into a Pool Capital Reserve.

The Board Members present acknowledged R. Coltura’s performance as Manager in bringing about many good changes, including the BVRPRC no longer operating at a deficit.

H. Berndorff, Financial Administrator for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, confirmed that setting aside \$183,000 per year, beginning in 2010, would provide the required capital reserve, taking into consideration the facility’s cost to build, the replacement cost, the 60-year life span (to 2060), inflation, and the assumption that no money is taken out for a new roof or other major repairs. He recommended phasing in over a 5-year period to ease the tax burden. Mr. Berndorff advised that: a) the numbers do not reflect future grant possibilities; b) most agencies are inclined to fund new facilities only; and c) borrowing is an option.

Councillor Benson thanked C. Dohler and R. Coltura for their summaries and invited questions and comments, which included the following topics:

- status of the roof

Councillor Adomeit left for the duration of the meeting (1:05 p.m.).

- whether to establish a building capital reserve fund
- the possibility of having to reconsider hours of service
- Council’s fiscal responsibility to taxpayers
- private sector wages and reality
- the practice of donating passes, or providing discounts, to elite athletes; people with disabilities, and to fundraising organizations, i.e. Band Boosters
- a financial breakdown into “Pool”, “Climbing Wall”, and “Courts” would be

beneficial

- recognition of positive changes and improved efficiencies.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned (1:25 p.m.).

Certified Correct:

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Councillor Benson  
Chair

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator/CAO

SB/jm

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**Certified a True and Correct Copy** of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at 12:07 p.m. in Council Chambers at 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator/CAO