

TOWN OF SMITHERS

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held in Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C., on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Council Present:

Cress Farrow, Mayor
Norm Adomeit, Councillor
Mark Bandstra, Councillor
Lorne Benson, Councillor
Jo Ann Groves, Councillor
Frank Wray, Councillor (6:04 p.m.).

Council Excused:

Charlie Northrup, Councillor.

Invited Guests:

RCMP:

Staff Sgt. Sheila White
Sgt. Kristen Marshall
Cpl. Jill Wrigglesworth
Cpl. Andrew Hunter.

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation:

Dean Daly, Board Member Smithers Rep.
David deWit, Board Member.
Colin MacLeod, Board Member Telkwa Rep.

Ministry of Forests and Range:

Ron Donnelly, Tenures Officer
Bruce Hutchinson, Operations Manager
Jane Lloyd-Smith, District Manager.

Media Present: None.

Staff Present:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance
Penny Goodacre, 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**

Mayor Farrow called the meeting to order (6:00 p.m.).

2. **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

2-1 Smithers RCMP Detachment Update:

Staff Sgt. White provided an overview of the staffing levels at the Smithers RCMP Detachment (Detachment), stated that the funding for the Detachment is split 70/30 Municipal/Provincial, and that 80% to 85% of the calls received by the Detachment are within the municipal boundaries. The Detachment will soon be installing new video surveillance equipment. The Detachment focuses on the following areas: substance abuse, traffic safety, and community safety.

The number of calls for service (Crime Rate) processed by the Detachment remains at the same level of "criminal case load per member" as Quesnel and Williams Lake.

Over the past few months, the number of calls from the Broadway Emergency

Shelter has decreased. There is a high number of people who are drunk in public places and a high number of impaired drivers within the municipality. Targeting impaired drivers is a strategic priority for the General Patrol and Traffic Patrol of the Detachment. Each impaired charge takes approximately three hours to process and a 24-hour suspension takes approximately thirty minutes to process. There has been an increase in drug related impaired charges.

The types of calls received by the Detachment range from security issues, barking dog complaints, noise complaints, persons crime, common assault, and alcohol/drug based complaints.

Staff Sgt. White emphasized the importance of the municipal positions "Court Liaison" and "Prevention and Community Safety Officer" (PCSO) to the Detachment. The PCSO provides programs such as: Crime Stoppers, Block Watch, Court Watch, Speed Watch, DARE, BRAVE, and anti-graffiti program. The Court Liaison inputs data into the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) system, processes exhibits, processes reports to Crown Counsel, provides verification of firearms and registration, maintains a wandering registry, and is a direct liaison with the RCMP, Crown Counsel, Probation, and Registry.

2-2

Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Expansion (7:00 p.m.)

J. Lloyd-Smith explored different options available to expand the current Wetzin'kwa Community Forest's annual allowable cut (AAC) to a sustainable and manageable size. Currently the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest's AAC is 30,000m³ and Council would like a larger AAC to be more profitable.

A community forest tenure works under the following parameters: local control, area based, local benefits, exclusive right to cut, long-term and replaceable, fixed stumpage, may manage for non timber forest products, and a five year periodic cut control.

Community forest agreement responsibilities include: management plan, forest stewardship plan, harvesting, road building, silviculture, payment of stumpage, and payment of annual rent.

The Wetzin'kwa Community Forest is part of the Bulkley Timber Supply Area (BTSA), which currently has a total of 882,000m³ AAC; the long term harvest level is set at 554,945m³ AAC. The MoFR is conducting a re-inventory of the forest in the BTSA; the results could affect the harvest flows and AAC determinations.

The current apportionment and commitments of volumes for various tenures in the BTSA was reviewed, including: replaceable forest licences, non-replaceable forest licences, First Nations volume, British Columbia Timber Supply (BCTS), community forest, woodlot licences, and forest service reserve.

The Minister of Forests and Range has the authority to remove 5% of the AAC from tenures and reassign them. The quickest way to take advantage of timber volume is to partner with other tenure holders. Areas that could be used to

expand the BTSA include: Telkwa, Reisetser, and Moricetown, keeping in mind, that costs increase when you are further away from the point of delivery.

The feasibility for the future of the bio-energy industry with forest fibre (twigs, bark, and branches) was discussed.

Some options to consider for expansion of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest include: 1) vegetation reserve inventory: request a determination of the new allowable cut to find more wood, 2) woodlot licence volume: request woodlot volume be transferred into the community forest, 3) partner with the First Nations, 4) partner with the BCTS, and 5) partner with Pacific Inland Resources.

Council may want to consider requesting small incremental increases in the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest's AAC.

Mayor Farrow requested the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Board work on these suggestions and report back to Council with recommendations for next steps.

J. Lloyd-Smith requested that Council keep her office informed when corresponding with the Minister of Forests and Range. B. Hutchinson invited Council to contact him or R. Donnelly for more information.

- 2-2.a) Bandstra /
THAT the letter dated February 4, 2010, to P. Bell, Minister of Forests and Range, requesting an expansion to the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest tenure, be received (0360-20).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

3-1 **Bulkley Valley Economic Development Initiative (BVEDI)**

D. Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer, provided three options for financing and governance from Lions Gate Consulting regarding the Economic Development Office.

Option 1

Finance: Based on the ability to pay: the Town of Smithers contributes \$35,000 from the Northern Development Initiative funds and \$45,000 from General Revenue; the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako contributes \$35,000; the Village of Telkwa contributes \$30,000; and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en contributes \$5,000; for a grand total of \$150,000 for the Bulkley Valley Economic Development Office for one year.

Governance: Each partner to have two members on the Board of Directors with the Town of Smithers having an extra member for a nine member Board.

Option 2

Finance: Based on the Village of Telkwa not participating: Town of Smithers contributes \$35,000 from the Northern Development Initiative funds and \$60,000 from General Revenue; the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako contributes \$40,000; and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en contributes \$5,000.

Governance: Each partner to have two members on the Board of Directors with the Town of Smithers having an extra member for a seven member Board.

Option 3

Finance: The Office of the Wet'suwet'en contributes \$5,000; and each community pays a percentage of the total assessed values.

Governance: For every \$25,000 contribution based on a percentage of the total assessed values equals one seat on the Board.

Council agreed on the importance of getting the Economic Development Office operating and that they were willing to consider all three options but would need to see more detail for each option in the Consultant's final report before making a final decision.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Groves/
THAT the meeting be adjourned (8:45 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Certified Correct:

Cress Farrow
Mayor

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO

Certified a True and Correct Copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO