

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, April 7, 2010, at Noon.

Council Present:

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

Staff Present:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bassett, Director of Corporate Services
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance
Mark Allen, Director of Development Services
Wilf Taekema, Director of Works and Operations
Penny Goodacre, Recording Secretary.

Council Excused:

Frank Wray, Councillor.

Staff Excused:

Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Keith Stecko, Fire Chief
Patricia Berg, Airport Manager.

Invited Guests:

Russ Haycock, Hyla
Environmental Services Ltd.

Media Present: R. Schierer, Interior News.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Farrow called the meeting to order (12:10 p.m.).

2. **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

2-1.a) **Carbon Action Planning:**

Russ Haycock, Hyla Environmental Services, presented Council with information regarding developing a Corporate and Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan.

Reasons to develop a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan include: 1) Energy Management: fiscal responsibility, reduce energy consumption and prepare for increased energy costs; and 2) Social Responsibility: reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Bill 27 – Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act” is a statutory obligation that requires local governments to contain targets to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in their Official Community Plans by May 31, 2010.

The “Climate Action Charter” is a non-binding agreement that requires local governments to: 1) become carbon neutral by conventional reductions and purchase offsetting carbon credits; 2) report corporate greenhouse gas emissions; 3) report intentions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and 4) create compact communities.

The “Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Partners for Climate Protection” is a

voluntary commitment, which requires local governments to achieve specific goals.

There is a direct correlation with local government's green rating system and the amount of funds received for infrastructure through grant funding.

The Corporate Plan calculates the energy and greenhouse gas emissions from the Town of Smithers' assets, including: buildings, outdoor lighting, water and wastewater, vehicle fleet, and solid waste from the corporate buildings.

The Community Plan calculates the energy and greenhouse gas emissions from the community, including: residential buildings, commercial buildings, industrial buildings, community transportation, and community solid waste.

There are two different approaches to consider for implementing the plan: 1) Top Down: select a target and propose how to meet the target; and 2) Bottom Up: propose practical reduction initiatives, summarize greenhouse gas reduction estimates; and 3) calculate reduction target.

Council raised the following comments and concerns: a) the calculation of the "tailpipe standard" for the community; b) the environmental and industrial factors outside the Town boundary that influence our emission rating; c) the costs associated with implementing the plan; d) the possibility of penalties if the goals are not reached by 2013; e) the return on investment; f) identify the value of the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest in the Community Plan; g) estimate the percentage of lower emissions by reducing the amount of solid waste entering the landfill site; h) identify opportunities within the corporate buildings on how to reduce energy consumption; i) identify goals that are reachable, realistic, obtainable, and their associated costs; j) identify a community target; and k) compare Smithers to other similar sized communities in the north.

(Councillor Adomeit left for the duration of the meeting at 12:57 p.m.).

Council agreed that the best option is to proceed with the "Bottom Up" approach for developing the Corporate and Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan.

Once the draft Corporate and Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan is complete, it will proceed to Public Consultation. Council would then endorse the final plan.

The Consultant will prepare a direct mailer to survey the public in regards to the Corporate and Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan perhaps with the 2010 property tax notices that are being mailed in May 2010.

- 2-1.b) Report DEV 10-030 dated March 30, 2010, from A. Walker, Planner, providing an update on the Corporate and Community Sustainability Plan, was referred to as information during the discussion.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Northrup/
THAT the meeting be adjourned (1:24 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Certified Correct:

Cress Farrow
Mayor

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO

SB/jm/plg

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Certified a True and Correct Copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, at 12:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO