

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, DECEMBER 7, 2010, AT 6:00 PM.

Council Present:

Cress Farrow, Mayor
Norm Adomeit, Councillor
Mark Bandstra, Councillor
Lorne Benson, Councillor
Charlie Northrup, Councillor
Frank Wray, Councillor (6:08 p.m.).

Council Excused:

Jo Ann Groves, Councillor.

Invited Guest:

Stoney Stoltenberg, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Rural "A" Director.

Staff Present:

Leslie Ford, Director of Finance
Penny Goodacre, Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bassett, Director of Corporate Services
Mark Allen, Director of Development Services
Andrew Hillaby, Directory of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Keith Stecko, Fire Chief
Wilf Taekema, Director of Work and Operations.

Media Present: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Farrow called the meeting to order (6:06 p.m.).

Mayor Farrow thanked Stoney Stoltenberg, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Rural "A" Director, for participating in the meeting tonight.

Mayor Farrow explained that Council would not be making any decisions tonight, as all the requests received will be deliberated at the December 9, 2010, Committee of the Whole meeting and that applicants would be informed of Council's decisions after the minutes are ratified by Council.

5. SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5.1 Adomeit/Benson

THAT the memo dated December 7, 2010, from M. Allen, Director of Development Services, regarding Watson's Landing Bare Land Strata Subdivision, be tabled to the December 14, 2010, Regular Meeting of Council (3320-20/S07-12).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. STAFF (A) REPORTS

- 2.1 Northrup/Benson
THAT Report FIN 10-52 dated November 26, 2010, from L. Ford, Director of Finance, regarding 2011 Grant Funding Requests, be received (1610-01).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. GRANT-IN-AID REQUESTS

- 3.1 BV Community Arts Council (T. Jones):

The BV Community Arts Council requested 2011 operating funding in the amount of \$4,000 from the Town. If approved, the Town grant would be used to apply for matching grant funding from the BC Arts Council, up to a maximum of \$4,000.

The BV Community Arts Council provides the arts community with various bursaries, scholarships, awards and grant programs. In 2010, some of the activities the BV Community Arts Council participated in, include: a) Handel's Messiah; b) Della Herman Theatre Upgrades; c) Celebrated the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics; and d) Circles: Arts Based Community Development Workshops.

The BV Community Arts Council has 140 members. Council suggested that the BV Community Arts Council may want to consider increasing their \$50 membership fee to generate more revenue.

- 3.2 Bulkley Valley Historical and Museum Society (J. Pearce and J. Emerton):

Bulkley Valley Historical and Museum Society requested 2011 operating funding in the amount of \$71,750.

Highlights from 2010 for the Bulkley Valley Historical and Museum Society include: a) Cultural Crawl; b) "The Bulkley Valley Remembers"; c) negotiated the return of Wet'suwet'en artifacts from California; and d) joined the Downtown Merchants Association.

Council suggested another avenue to apply for grant funding would be through the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Grant Program.

3.3 Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program (D. Chatfield, and A. Junkin):

Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program requested 2011 operating funding in the amount of \$27,040.

The Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program plays a vital role in our community by addressing issues of crimes against individuals, properties, and businesses, coordinating safety and prevention strategies and providing support for other incidents that critically impact the health and vitality of the Bulkley Valley. The Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program is involved with the Court Watch Program and is hoping to purchase testimonial aides.

3.4 Smithers RCMP Auxiliary (D. Ford and E. Dewijn):

Smithers RCMP Auxiliary requested 2011 operating funding in the amount of \$5,500.

The Smithers RCMP Auxiliary work closely with the Smithers Community Police Office, teach the DARE program at local elementary schools, work beside regular RCMP members, and provide assistance as various community events.

3.5 Smithers Art Gallery (A. Cormier and M. Slipp):

Smithers Art Gallery Association requested 2011 operating funding in the amount of \$14,000.

The funding is used towards the Smithers Art Gallery rent and part of the Manager's salary. The Gallery is actively seeking other avenues of grant funding (working with the Northern Development Initiative's Grant Writer), but for most criteria, operating funding is not eligible. In order to generate revenue and expand their dollar value, the Gallery has cut back the hours and salary of their manager, hosted various workshops, and introduced the Corporate Membership plan.

Council suggested that the Smithers Art Gallery Association increase their \$25 membership fee.

3.6 Smithers District Chamber of Commerce (G. Whitehead):

Smithers District Chamber of Commerce requested 2011 fee waiver in the amount of \$1,689, to use the Civic Centre for the 2011 Trade Expo.

It is part of the Smithers District Chamber of Commerce's agreement with the Town of Smithers that they host an annual Trade Expo. In the past, the Town has waived the rental fee for the Civic Centre in exchange for booth space.

It was suggested that perhaps the Town could grant a conditional fee waiver to the Chamber under the condition that if the Trade Expo generates a surplus, the fees to rent the Civic Centre would be paid back and if the Trade Expo ran at a deficit, the Town would waive the rental fee.

Council was reminded that during the 2010 Budget deliberations, they passed a motion that 2010 would be the final year that Council would be approving a Grant-In-Aid for the fee waiver and a letter was sent to the Chamber informing them of Council's decision.

4. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

4.1 School District No. 54:

Adomeit/Benson

THAT the letter dated October 19, 2010, from S. Richards, Treasurer, School District No. 54, requesting funds for the Joint Use Agreement between the Town of Smithers and the School District No. 54 in the amount of \$2,000, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

5.1 See above.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Northrup/Bandstra

THAT the Committee of the Whole Grant-in-Aid meeting be adjourned (7:57 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cress Farrow
Mayor

Leslie Ford
Director of Finance

Certified a True and Correct Copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council held Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CA