

# 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, MARCH 29, 2011, AT 12:00 PM.

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Council Present:

Cress Farrow, Mayor  
Mark Bandstra, Councillor  
(until 1:18 p.m.)  
Lorne Benson, Councillor  
Jo Ann Groves, Councillor  
Charlie Northrup, Councillor  
Frank Wray, Councillor.

Council Excused:

Norm Adomeit, 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  
Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture  
Rob Blackburn, Airport Manager  
Wilf Taekema, Director of Works and Operations  
Alison Walker, Planner  
Janice McKay, Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused:

Keith Stecko, Fire Chief.

Media Present: M. Dekkema, The Peak, and R. Schierer, The Interior News.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**2. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

2.1 CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY ENERGY AND GHG EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT PLANS

Russ Haycock, Hyla Environmental, made a presentation regarding the Town's Corporate and Community Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management Plans.

In the Corporate Plan portion of the presentation, Mr. Haycock addressed: a) preliminary inventory; b) trends; c) forecasts; and c) reduction targets and initiatives.

Presentation and discussion included the following points:

- Smithers is in an enviable position, having historical data back to 2004.
- Council's preference remains to be the "bottom up approach".
- R. Haycock suggested a potential reduction target of 12 percent, based on the initiatives that he feels the Town can champion.
- The Town is expected to pay for carbon offsets.
- Reduction targets may include projects involving buildings, outdoor lighting, water/wastewater, vehicle fleet, and corporate solid waste.
- Current funding partners for this project are the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Province of British Columbia.

- There are 2 styles of consumption inventory: Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) and Climate Action Charter (CAC).
- Smithers has adopted the operational control model.
- The Province excludes airports, police, solid waste and landfills.
- Inventory trends show a weather-related spike in 2008 and a decrease when the Town discontinued heating the old Municipal Hall in 2004.
- A 2015 forecast should include the second sheet of ice.
- An arena is the biggest risk to emissions inventory, therefore it is important to build the most efficient one possible.
- An engineer is currently looking at the existing arena in terms of the feasibility of co-gen backup.
- There may be a future opportunity for a geo-exchange field at the airport.
- Some municipalities purchase street lighting from BC Hydro in order to maintain control of emissions.
- Vehicle fleet represents the biggest cost for consumption.
- It is better to undertake reduction initiatives than to pay the Province for offsets. There are not enough offsets in B.C. to purchase.
- Fleets cost the municipality money, whereas building initiatives have a pay-back over a period of time.
- The Province does not currently have a mechanism in place for imposing penalties if a target is not met.
- A solid business plan for a project could translate into future infrastructure grants, such as Green Municipal Investing Funds.
- All BC municipalities have signed the Climate Action Charter.
- The Province has work to do in providing clear direction to municipalities in terms of becoming carbon neutral.
- Emissions from building construction are not factored into the overall carbon footprint.
- The residents' survey did not include a question regarding how much money the taxpayer is willing to pay for corporate/community reduction initiatives.
- It is unwise to put pressure on any one type of energy, as costs fluctuate.

Mr. Haycock advised that the first draft of the Corporate Plan will be provided in April.

The objective of the Community Plan presentation was to address: a) why the Town must develop a Community Plan; b) results of the survey sent to residents last year; c) the plan development process; and d) public engagement strategy.

Presentation and discussion included the following points:

- The Town's role is to be leaders and to show the community how to reduce GHG emissions.
- This is an outreach program.
- Mr. Haycock recommended: a) an aspirational target for Smithers, rather than the provincial target of 33%; b) keeping the plan simple; and

- c) reviewing residents' surveys every two years.
- No offsets are paid on community emissions, there are no penalties, and aspirational targets are not calculated.
- Baseline initiatives would be included in the draft plan.
- Mr. Haycock recommended that future housing growth can be factored in when forecasting, with an annual analysis and associated OCP wording amendment every two to three years.
- A mandated reduction target would be embedded in the OCP.
- The scope of the plan does not include air, water, and rail transportation.
- Emissions data for the community is 45,000 tonnes.
- The residents' survey determines current context and culture, from which opportunities can be explored.
- Examples of initiatives could be tax breaks, a solar hot water program, low flow toilet subsidies, and anti-idling bylaws.
- A Town-owned energy source could be prohibited due to Smithers' small population.
- The goal is to achieve low cost initiatives that produce a high level of effectiveness.

Next steps include: a) Community Plan Open House on May 4, 2011, 4:30 p.m.; b) endorsement of draft Corporate plan by Council; c) a second Open House; and d) OCP language amendment to embed GHG reduction targets (as per *Bill 27*).

**3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Northrup/

THAT the meeting be adjourned (1:46 pm.).

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Cress Farrow  
Mayor

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator/CAO

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting  
held on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at noon.

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**Certified a True and Correct Copy** of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at noon in the Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator/CAO