

TOWN OF SMITHERS

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1027 ALDOUS STREET, SMITHERS, B.C. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011, AT NOON.

Council Present:

Cress Farrow, Mayor
Mark Bandstra, Councillor
Jo Ann Groves, Councillor
Charlie Northrup, Councillor
Frank Wray, Councillor.

Staff Present:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance
Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Janice McKay, Recording Secretary.

Council Excused

Norm Adomeit, Councillor
Lorne Benson, Councillor

Staff Excused:

Susan Bassett, Director of Corporate Services
Mark Allen, Director of Development Services
Keith Stecko, Fire Chief
Rob Blackburn, Airport Manager
Wilf Taekema, Director of Works and Operations

Second Sheet of Ice and Hotel

Association:
Al McCreary

Media Present: Jon Muldoon, The Interior News.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Farrow called the meeting to order (12:11 p.m.).

2. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

2.1 ENABLING ACCESSIBILITY GRANT/SECOND SHEET OF ICE

Letter dated August 5, 2011, from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Enabling Accessibility Fund Support Team/Office for Disability Issues, regarding our request for funding for the Smithers Multi-Use Arena through the Call for Proposals for the Enabling Accessibility Fund, and the following background documentation:

- Report PR 11-03 dated February 2, 2011, from A. Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture regarding the Second Sheet of Ice – Historical Review;
- Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 9, 2011 regarding the Second Sheet of Ice;
- Motion from the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council, dated February 22, 2011 (Item 3.2, Motion #11.0112);
- Report PR 11-10 dated April 5, 2011, from A. Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture, regarding Second Sheet of Ice Enabling Accessibility Fund Application Update; and,
- Motion from the Regular Meeting of Council held April 12, 2011, (Item 7.1.5, Motion #11.0245) (1855-20).

Discussion:

Mayor Farrow advised that E. Zweck is pursuing a contribution from Alcan. He explained that the purpose of this meeting is to determine if the Second Sheet of Ice Committee (SSIC) is agreeable to staff moving forward with the project. A. McCreary confirmed that the Committee is agreeable.

A. Hillaby advised that he has contacted local governments regarding components listed for sale, including an arena in Strathcona. A. McCreary advised that used components that sit idle for a long period of time, must be inspected and that the reason they are for sale is because they are being replaced with more efficient systems. He reported that P. Wellington of Opus Dayton Knight may have staff to assist the Town.

D. Sargent and A. Hillaby presented the following timeline for Requests for Proposal (RFP's): a) advertising for RFP's would take place at the end of September; b) the deadline for receipt of RFP's would be November 30; and c) Council would make a decision at the first Regular Meeting in January 2012. The process could be structured for alternative pricing, allowing companies to submit information on what modules they can accomplish and in what order, should funds (in addition to the \$2.05 million) become available.

Concerns raised included: a) should the exterior be started with only 30% of total costs raised?; b) the previous estimate of \$4.2 million is two years old and the price of steel is going up more than the interest being earned; c) will having the exterior work underway create more fundraising interest?; d) the Town and SSIC cannot count on provincial and federal grants and residents in the Regional District, Telkwa, and Smithers do not want taxes increased; e) the current arena needs to be upgraded and there is no funding for that; f) Gas Tax funds cannot be utilized for the structure alone, but perhaps if it is tied in with the pool, with the Regional District benefitting the most; and g) the Rural Area 'A" Director may have uncommitted dollars to go towards the project.

Council directed staff to proceed with soliciting RFP's and suggested the Committee focus on fundraising.

3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

3.1 BC FERRIES

Discussion:

A. McCreary advised that he will be attending meetings in Prince Rupert in early September. He asked if Council's position regarding the relocation of the Northern Expedition from Port Hardy to Tsawwassen has changed since November 5, 2009, when Council wrote to the British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. Council confirmed that it remains opposed.

3.2 CULLEN/DONALDSON

Council directed Administration to set up a Committee of the Whole meeting with Nathan Cullen, Member of Parliament, and another with Doug Donaldson, Member of the Legislative Assembly, to request more proactive representation.

3.3 UBCM STRATEGY DINNER MEETING

D. Sargent advised that there will be a pre-UBCM strategy dinner meeting for Council in Vancouver on Monday, September 26, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., with location to be determined.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Bandstra/

THAT the meeting be adjourned (12:53 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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 Friday, August 26, 2011, at Noon in the Town Office, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO