

# 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 13, 2011, AT 6:00 P.M.

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## Council Present:

Taylor Bachrach, Mayor  
Norm Adomeit, Councillor  
Mark Bandstra, Councillor  
Phil Briennesse, Councillor  
Bill Goodacre, Councillor  
Charlie Northrup, Councillor  
Frank Wray, Councillor.

## Guests:

Stoney Stoltenberg, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Rural 'A' Director  
Al McCreary, Smithers Arena Committee.

## Staff Present:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer  
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance  
Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture (7:48 p.m.)  
Janice McKay, Recording Secretary.

## 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.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Bachrach called the meeting to order (6:04 p.m.) and welcomed everyone. He advised that the purpose of the meeting is to hear presentations from groups requesting 2012 grants-in-aid, followed by a presentation by A. McCreary on behalf of the Smithers Arena Committee. Attendees were advised that grant-in-aid decisions will be made by Council at a noon Committee of the Whole Meeting being held on January 10, 2012.

Councillor Northrup introduced Stoney Stoltenberg, Area 'A' Director, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako.

## **2. STAFF (A) REPORTS**

### **2.1 REPORT - 2012 GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS**

Bandstra/

THAT Report FIN 11-43 dated December 6, 2011, from L. Ford, Director of Finance, regarding 2012 Grant Funding Requests, be received (1610-01).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. GRANT-IN-AID REQUESTS**

#### **3.1 RCMP AUXILIARY (Cst. Kevin Ried and Auxiliary Hank Doornbos)**

Smithers RCMP Auxiliary requested 2012 operating funding in the amount of \$11,350.

Smithers RCMP Auxiliary members work closely with the Smithers Community Police Office, teach the D.A.R.E. program at elementary schools, work beside regular RCMP members, perform bike patrols in the downtown core, and provide assistance at various community events. There are currently four trained Auxiliary members and two others in the process of being trained in-house. The RCMP Auxiliary received \$2,500 from the Regional District in 2011.

#### **3.2 RCMP VICTIM SERVICES (Deborah Chatfield and Dina Hanson)**

The Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program requested 2012 operating funding in the amount of \$26,000.

The Smithers RCMP Based Victim Assistance Program plays a vital role in our community by addressing issues of crimes against individuals, properties, and businesses. The work is done by one full-time staff and two long-term volunteers. The area covered is the Detachment area which spans from Deep Creek to Moricetown. Clients are referred through the Criminal Justice system and emergency agencies. The Program is funded by Smithers, Telkwa, and the Province. Fundraising consists of seeking funding from other sources and partners. In 2011 fundraising paid for testimonial aids in the Courthouse and costs to attend Provincial Police Victim Service Conference.

Council noted a \$1600 shortfall, which D. Chatfield advised would be made up through cutbacks and fundraising. Council noted the omission of the Northwest Regional Multi-disciplinary Collaboration for First Responders from the budget. D. Chatfield advised that proposals have been submitted to other funding sources to cover the cost of the two-day conference. Council suggested that local government contributions be requested on a per capita basis from Smithers, Telkwa, and the Regional District, and noted that Moricetown is not in the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. D. Chatfield advised that she will bring the idea forward to the Executive Director. Council asked how the Town's grant-in-aid amount compares to others. D. Chatfield advised that the Province likes to see 50% of program costs contributed by local governments, although some may receive up to 150%, while others receive very little and therefore operate a part-time program.

S. Stoltenberg explained that the Regional District does not give grants-in-aid for operating funds, but does contribute towards items such as Critical Incident Stress training and the Multi-disciplinary Collaboration, based on applications received.

3.3 ARTS COUNCIL (Tristan Jones)

The B.V. Community Arts Council requested 2012 operating funding in the amount of \$4,000. If approved, the Town grant would be used to apply for matching grant funding from the BC Arts Council.

The Arts Council seeks to increase awareness of, and access to, the arts for Bulkley Valley residents. Activities include allocating monies through bursaries, scholarships, awards and grant programs and providing interest-free loans. The Arts Council produces at least one fundraising event per year. Membership remains constant and the Arts Council has entered into a two-year strategic plan process. T. Jones requested an update from Council regarding the idea that came out of the OCP planning process for an outdoor community stage and advised that the Arts Council has set aside five thousand dollars to go towards it. Council replied that the Town acquired property on Main Street and at Central Park and that the 2013 Legacy Committee is seeking ideas for legacy projects.

In response to questions from Council, T. Jones confirmed that: a) provincial funding will not be increasing; b) the BC Arts Council must now provide funding to new Arts Councils in Burns Lake and Terrace, resulting in less funding for them; c) the B.V. Arts Council has not had to take away from the principal for bursaries; d) Hytech now gives out its own arts bursaries; e) besides the Art Gallery, the Arts Council contributes towards fiddle and guitar camp tuition, affordable recreation, symphony, etc.; f) the number of grant requests received by the B.V. Arts Council has not decreased since the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation began handing out grants; and g) the proportion of contributions from the Town of Smithers and Regional District remains constant.

3.4 ART GALLERY (Susan Smith and Allan Cormier)

The Smithers Gallery Association requested 2012 operating funding in the amount of \$15,700.

A strategic planning session was conducted in 2011 without the aid of a paid facilitator. The plan will help to achieve goals as the Centre for the Arts, increase the chance of obtaining grants, ensure better service and better use of technology, and define new funding sources and partnerships, including the corporate sponsorship program.

In response to questions from Council, the presenters explained that: a) Council could provide leadership, as is done by Golden's Council, and reach out to arts groups by holding a forum on how to improve arts in the community; b) arts provides a sense of community and brings people to Smithers; c) visual arts has its own home and fixed monthly expenses, whereas performing arts has theatre spaces that it can rent; d) no entrance fee is charged because the Gallery is a public amenity similar to a library and does not want to turn people away, however, donations are accepted at the door; e) workshops are kept affordable to attract more participants; f) the Gallery's job is to exhibit art, not to sell it; g) there are 111 members paying \$25.00 annually; h) 1,014 volunteer hours go into the operation of the Gallery; i) providing free art classes to children on Saturday mornings, during the Farmer's Market, may make the Gallery eligible for certain grants; j) the Gallery missed out on Wetzin'kwa Community Forest Corporation and B.V. Foundation grants this year, as it has been difficult finding the time to prepare grant applications due to management change-over; k) the Gallery identifies four major fundraising events and four educational activities per year; l) the Gallery is requesting a grant-in-aid increase in 2012 to help get to another level, build on current momentum, and deliver the goals in the strategic plan; m) the \$5,000 contingency item is used for various purposes; and n) the Gallery was not considered when the agreement, between the Town of Smithers and the Regional District, for fire protection in exchange for recreation and culture, came about.

### 3.5 MUSEUM (Fergus Tomlin and James Emery)

The Bulkley Valley Historical and Museum Society requested 2012 operating funding in the amount of \$71,400.

F. Tomlin stated that the Museum today is a business that caters to arts, culture, and educational and cultural tourism, and that the grant-in-aid is considered an investment which must be earned. As the only museum in the northwest operating year round, the B.V. Museum has taken a lead role in expanding the very successful Culture Crawl concept from Burns Lake to Hazelton, including Granisle and the Babine area, known as the "Five Rivers Culture Crawl". Museum partners include the Smithers Exploration Group, Northwest Community College, Northern Tourism BC, and Simon Fraser University's fossil expert Bruce Archibald, and the many business owners who display Culture Crawl exhibits on their premises. A recently-acquired Omineca Beetle Action Coalition grant is helping to pay for a Curator, to enable F. Tomlin to focus on the "Five Rivers Culture Crawl" and new museum building.

Regarding the potential purchase of the former B.V. Christian School, it was confirmed that: a) the B.V. Museum will not be seeking additional funds from Council, as there will be extra space that can be rented out to offset costs; and b) the Museum should select tenants that fit into the zoning uses.

F. Tomlin welcomes Council's advice and requested that Council consider approving the grant-in-aid for a three-year period.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

##### **4.1 SCHOOL DISTRICT #54**

Northrup/

THAT the letter dated October 28, 2011, from S. Richards, Secretary Treasurer, School District No. 54, requesting funds in accordance with the Joint Use Agreement between the Town of Smithers and the School District in the amount of \$2,000, be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

##### **SECOND ARENA**

A. McCreary made a presentation on behalf of the Smithers Arena Committee. He distributed a handout presenting "funding to date" estimates for the second arena project, compiled after discussions among the following: Al McCreary, Francesco Aquilini and Barry Savage of the Aquilini Investment Group, Dan Hamhuis, and Matt Stickney, Assistant for Minister Ida Chong. D. Sargent advised that she also spoke with Matt Stickney. A. Hillaby will present a full report at the January 10, 2012, Regular Meeting of Council, regarding the results of the December 9, 2011, "RFP - Construction of a Second Arena" opening.

The handout mentions that: a) local governments may only submit one "Community Recreation Program" grant application (referred to in the handout as the "Provincial Recreation Infrastructure Fund); b) applications already submitted may be amended up until December 28, 2011; c) there is a Committed Loan Authorization of \$650,000 and a donation from the Aquilini Investment Group of \$250,000; and d) "to complete" fundraising \$200,000, Gas Tax for heating \$139,000.

A. McCreary advised that the \$150,000 (\$200,000 minus \$50,000 from Smithers Minor Hockey Association) shortfall could be fundraised by seeking donations.

L. Ford explained the borrowing process and bylaw with the Municipal Finance Authority. D. Sargent advised that only 30 grants will be awarded and that she believes our project would resonate with Minister Chong based on previous discussions with the Minister.

Council commented that: a) the loan authorization was intentionally held in reserve, so that it could be used to leverage grants; b) we do not want to jeopardize the \$1.7 already provided by the Province in 2006; and c) the Committee needs to commit to assist with the application to ensure it is the best application possible. A. McCreary advised that he would contact Matt Stickney to determine the application essentials that the Ministry requires.

Bandstra/

THAT Council direct staff to submit a provincial "Community Recreation Program" grant application for a ~~second~~ **new** arena, to replace the grant application for indoor turf which was submitted by the Town on November 26, 2011.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Briennesse/

THAT Council direct staff to request, in its provincial "Community Recreation Program" grant application for a ~~second~~ **new** arena, a total grant amount of \$650,000.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

It was decided that a Special (Open) Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at noon to adopt the minutes of this Committee of the Whole meeting (and thereby the motions contained in the minutes), rather than waiting until the next Regular Meeting of Council scheduled for January 10, 2012.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Goodacre/

THAT the meeting be adjourned (9:05 p.m.).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council  
held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator/CAO

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Taylor Bachrach  
Mayor

**Certified a True and Correct Copy** of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

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Deborah Sargent  
Corporate Administrator