

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 NOON.

Council Present:

Taylor Bachrach, Mayor
Mark Bandstra, Councillor
Bill Goodacre, Councillor
Charlie Northrup, Councillor
Frank Wray, Councillor.

Council Excused:

Norm Adomeit
Phil Brienesse.

Smithers Public Library:

Wally Bergen
Paul Parry
Lorraine Doiron
Barry Smith
Margie Olmstead
Tracey Therrien.

Staff Present:

Deborah Sargent, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Bassett, Director of Corporate Services
Leslie Ford, Director of Finance
Janice McKay, Recording Secretary.

Staff Excused:

Mark Allen, Director of Development Services
Andrew Hillaby, Director of Recreation, Parks and Culture
Keith Stecko, Fire Chief
Rob Blackburn, Airport Manager
Wilf Taekema, Director of Works and Operations.

Media Present: M. Dekkema, The Peak.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS

2.1 LIBRARY BOARD PRESENTATION

Bandstra/

THAT the letter dated November 28, 2011, from W. Bergen, Chairperson, and B. Smith, Treasurer, of the Smithers Public Library Board, presenting the Library's 2012 budget, be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

W. Bergen advised that the presentation would include: a) an overview of 2011; b) 2012 budget; c) fundraising status for a new facility; and d) landscaping at the front entrance to the Library. He introduced the Board and T. Therrien, Librarian.

a) Overview of 2011: T. Therrien gave a PowerPoint presentation which included the following highlights for 2011: a) creation of a new logo reflecting community interaction and a marketing plan; b) comparison of 2011 statistics with those from 2010 and comparison with similar libraries, including the number of in-person and virtual visits, items borrowed, memberships, computer and WiFi use, and the number of programs offered; c) partnership with Smithers Community Services Association to provide teen programming, partnerships with Friends of the Library and the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation for the purchase of eReaders, partnership with School District #54 for technical services, and partnerships with local businesses and agencies to conduct programs; d) the popular "In Our Backyard" presentation series with local experts on a wide variety of topics; e) the hiring of a computer tutor made possible through a federal grant; f) the Library's membership to the BC Library Cooperative, SITKA, and the North Coast Library Federation, which provides discounts and resource sharing benefits; g) the dedication of staff and volunteers and their ability to adapt to change. T. Therrien invited Council to tour the Library and presented Mayor Bachrach with a copy of "The 100th Anniversary: A History of Library Services", dedicated by author Dave Obee to Ruth Mould, former Smithers' librarian between 1957 and 1978.

b) 2012 Budget: B. Smith referred to the graph showing Operations from 2008 to 2011 and the Projection for 2012. He explained funding and fiscal year timelines. He noted that some expenditures have decreased due to good management of the Library, while there was an increase in Audit Fees. The requested 2012 budget increase of \$26,628 would cover: a) wage equity increase of \$11,965, representing the final increase of a 5-year commitment; b) 1.6% CUPE wage increase of \$3,663; and c) an increase in salaries of \$11,000 to allow a minimum of two staff during open hours for safety reasons and to provide a continuous front-counter presence.

L. Ford advised that the Library usually has a substantial amount of deferred revenue carried forward and that the Library receives a considerable amount of matching revenue for programs. She will request year-to-date information from the Library to circulate to Council prior to the Committee of the Whole Meeting being held January 10, 2012.

c) Fundraising Status for a New Facility: P. Parry provided a handout presenting a summary of developments during the past five years of the "Space, Light and Literacy Project" to replace the current Library with a new fully-functioning one. To date \$340,000 has been raised for the project, which includes a \$100,000 commitment from the Town of Smithers. The Fundraising Committee is waiting to hear back from

three major corporate sponsors and its goal is to achieve \$2.1 million through corporate donations. W. Bergen advised that: a) the Board supports Council's decision to make the second arena the top priority; b) it is not feasible to pursue funding for two major projects at the same time and therefore the Library would hold off, so as not to hinder fundraising for a second arena; and c) if the second arena project does not proceed, within a reasonable time period, the Board would like Council to make the Library the top priority.

d) Landscaping at Front Entrance: W. Bergen reported that the Board sent a letter to the Town requesting that it be part of the re-landscaping at the Library entrance, following improvements made to the drainage system. He advised that St. Joseph's Church will be removing the steeple in the spring and the 40-year old Centennial log sign will be used as a back for a bench, with replacement signage to incorporate the Town of Smithers logo. The Board recommends an inexpensive, simple courtyard using existing materials and volunteer labour and will bring a design forward. For maximum visibility, well-spaced. low shrubs will be included in the design.

Mayor Bachrach thanked the presenters and advised that staff will be in touch at the end of January with Council's decision.

3. OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

None.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Northrup/

THAT the meeting be adjourned (1:08 p.m.).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO

Taylor Bachrach
Mayor

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting
held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at noon.

Certified a True and Correct Copy of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 12:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1027 Aldous Street, Smithers, B.C.

Deborah Sargent
Corporate Administrator/CAO