

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY JANUARY 27TH, 2014

PRESENT: MAYOR BRIAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR BOB KENDEL
COUNCILLOR NEIL KROG
COUNCILLOR PATRICK O'DOHERTY
COUNCILLOR CHER WYERS

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CORPORATE OFFICER
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT AND
ENGINEERING
FIRE CHIEF
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

D. Allin
D. Heinrich
R. Shepherd
S. Winton

S. Bird
D. Heriot
K. McKinnon

CALL TO ORDER

Call meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA

Agenda for January 27th, 2014

Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: O'DOHERTY / WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE JANUARY 27TH, 2014 COTW AGENDA IS ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

CARRIED.

REGISTERED PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

West Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital Board - Jim Gustafson presentation

Mr. Gustafson spoke with regard to:

- The roles and responsibilities of the Interior Health Authority (IHA) Hospital Board
- Main function is the approval of capital projects, which are focused on acute care
- The changing role of capital works which now includes bricks and mortar
- The Kootenay Boundary Hospital board is not a wealthy one and unlike other wealthier boards cannot consider issues that are not acute care related
- Interior Health has "A" projects that are going to move forward and "B" projects that will move forward if there is provincial money available and upon approval one of these is a planning study which is what Mr. Gustafson is here to discuss.
- 1.5 million is identified by IHA as being allocated to a study for future planning for the Boundary Hospital
- An improvement in acute care will rely on the approval of the Province, the Treasury Board and Doctors.
- In order for the Strategic Plan to be valid it needs input from stakeholders; IHA advised that Councils need to be included and provide input in order to move forward. Thirty communities (representatives of each community sit on the Hospital Board) will participate by providing answers to three questions. The information will then be included in the strategic plan.

The strategic plan will provide the Hospital Board with some direction for planning in the future and Mr. Gustafson requested that the City provide a response to the three questions by March 15th, 2014.

Council advised that:

- The direction of the request to participate may be better received if it came from the Hospital Board as whole rather than one director on the board (Castlegar)
- Council would feel more comfortable if IHA provided feedback as they are the group on the ground
- The group Concerned Citizens for Health Care exists in the community and may be referred to for input.

Mr. Gustafson reiterated that Castlegar asked him to speak to the thirty involved communities on their behalf and to identify what the West Kootenay Boundary can afford, and other recommendations for the future of acute care in the region.

He further advised:

- That the Hospital Board includes both East Kootenay and the West Kootenay Boundary and is one of the only boards that combines regional districts into one Board.
- The process is legislated by the Treasury Board and the steps must be followed in order for a proposal to be considered.
- This is a controversial subject and this process is being considered

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT THE REQUEST WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENTATION MADE BY JIM GUSTAFSON AND THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION WITH REGARD TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN QUESTIONS WITH CONSULTATION FROM THE INTERIOR HEALTH AUTHORITY.

AND FURTHER REFERS THE MATTER TO THE JANUARY 27TH REGULAR MEETING.
CARRIED.

Interior Health - Cindy Crane presentation

Ms. Crane spoke with regard to:

- The challenges that are faced in the area with regard to health care.
- Emergency services in the Boundary sees 12,000-13,000 emergency patients annually
- Boomers will continue to be the largest demographic needing health care
- The target group in the Grand Forks area is 50-69 year olds
- There will be pressure on the health care system from this group
- Interior health is looking at fiscal challenges, balanced budget, quality, safety, access and sustainability.
- The Ministry is shifting from re-active care to pro-active care to reduce the high cost for hospital care
- 34% of population (Grand Forks) suffer from some form of chronic disease
- Emergency and Acute care services are main the focus of Boundary Hospital including short and long term care

The high number of chronic disease in Grand Forks is attributed to demographics and the high number seniors that relocate to the area. The area is attractive to this demographic because of the low cost of living and access to health care.

MOTION: KROG

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION BY CINDY CRANE OF INTERIOR HEALTH.

CARRIED.

Interior Health (IH) - Kerri Wall presentation

Ms. Wall spoke with regard to:

- The Healthy Communities initiative
- This project is focused on helping healthy people healthy as opposed to acute care
- Chronic disease is preventable and is the responsibility of all sectors

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- Chronic Disease is the present day concern as opposed to infectious diseases which was the focus in the past
 - Strategies by Local Government to encourage good health are in place
 - IH is committed to collaborating and partnering with local governments to build healthier communities.
 - The Government recognizes that health care costs are not sustainable.
 - Impacts on health come from the social, economic, and physical environments not health care.
 - Healthy Families BC Communities Program builds on the good work underway within Local Governments and the establishment of partnerships between IH and local governments.
 - The Healthy Communities Initiative is IH's project to support healthy communities.
 - Ms. Wall is here to provide information and clarity and access to data to community partners.
 - Requested that Council pass a motion to work in partnership with IH.

Mayor Taylor spoke with regard to the high demand for Mental Health Services in the Grand Forks Community. He advised that service providers are stretched thin and have capacity challenges. Treatment Centers in the area would be considered an acute care issue. Ms. Wall spoke with regard to mental health promotion and the data that contributes to mental health wellness.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that Council is currently working on healthy community initiatives through the Environment Committee with carbon neutrality, water management and air quality, as well as trail improvement and signage.

Councillor Wyers acknowledged the partnerships that exist within the community already help promote and create a healthy community.

MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION BY KERRI WALL OF INTERIOR HEALTH AND REFER TO THE FEBRUARY 11TH REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CARRIED.

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Elaine Kumar presentation

Ms. Kumar spoke with regard the Animal Control Service that the RDKB provides to the community. Mr. Brian Garvey and Tom Huston of the Commissionaires were introduced to the COTW.

Mr. Brian Garvey spoke with regard to the dog control services in the RDKB and advised:

- 2 people are employed to provide animal control in the area and that this will increase in the summer months
- They work out of the facility on Donaldson Drive. The facility has been cleaned up and is maintained in good standards for the animals and residence of the area.
- Both employees are available 24 hours per day.

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- Residence can call the posted number and the officers will attend to any emergencies
 - The goal is to provide quality service and education before any action is taken
 - Can provide numbers of calls etc at a later date

Ms Kumar spoke with regard to the new Animal Control Bylaw. She advised that:

- The bylaw is currently in a draft form.
- It has been seen by stakeholders and will be brought to the board for first reading next week
- It will go for public consultation shortly

Mayor Taylor asked Mr. Garvey to provide the salary for the service providers and Mr. Garvey refrained from doing so. Mr. Garvey advised that the staff is selected based on ability and skill set. Administration costs are determined in conjunction with the RDKB.

MOTION: WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE PRESENTATION BY ELAINE KUMAR OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY REGARDING THE ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE.

CARRIED.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 10:45am
The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10:57am

PRESENTATIONS FROM STAFF

Monthly Highlight Reports from Dept. Managers

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of the work completed by the management team for December.

Council spoke with regard to the Water Meter Open House, thanking staff for the good work and to the good questions that came from the public.

MOTION: WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS.

CARRIED.

Chief Financial Officer - 2014-2018 Financial Plan Review Agenda

The Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer spoke with regard to the Operating Budget process and review.

- The City worked from a 2% increase, allowing funds to be allocated to a reserve and used for Capital Projects.

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- Overview of the budget plan process dates as well as the legislative requirements were presented

Managers from each department presented their budgets and an overview of operations of the department.

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 12:22pm
The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 12:51pm

The Chief Administrative Officer advised of the importance of using tax rate comparisons that are comparable to region and to Grand Forks. He further discussed items referred to the 2014 budgeting Process.

These include:

Mountain Media – bill board
River Park Estates – landscaping
Grand Forks Park in the Park – event sponsorship
Boundary Museum – Fee for Service
Head Start for Girls and Young Women Program
Phoenix Mountain Alpine Ski Society
Environment Committee – purchase of a nephelometer
Feasibility of using carbon neutrality funds to support local initiatives
Phoenix Foundation – Healthy Communities, Vital Signs 2014

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that once Council approves the 2014 Budget it is then sent to the Ministry to be approved. The deadline for submission to the Ministry is by May 15th each year.

Capital Budget presentations at next COTW, February 11th, 2014.
The Chief Administrative Officer requested an extra COTW meeting on February 24th, 2014.

MOTION: WYERS

RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL APPROVE STAFF REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL COTW MEETING ON FEBRUARY 24TH, 2014, AT THE JANUARY 27TH REGULAR MEETING.

CARRIED.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR DISCUSSION

INFORMATION ITEMS

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

LATE ITEMS

REPORTS, QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (VERBAL)

QUESTION PERIOD FROM THE PUBLIC

Christine Thompson: She spoke with regard to the first budget process of 2014 and thanked staff for a great presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31PM.


MOTION: O'DOHERTY

RESOLVED THAT THE COTW MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:31pm

CARRIED.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


MAYOR - BRIAN TAYLOR


DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER -
SARAH WINTON