

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**RURAL DIRECTORS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 17, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Chair Rob Newell

Directors Mark Fisher  
Tom Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Mark Parker  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson

Staff Melany de Weerd, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – arrived at 3:23 p.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Other Roy Spooner, Alternate Director, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)

**CALL TO ORDER** Chair Newell called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA** Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

**RDC.2019-2-1** “That the Rural Directors Committee Agenda for January 17, 2019 be approved; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

**Rural Directors Committee Meeting Minutes -January 3, 2019** Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

**RDC.2019-2-2** “That the minutes of the Rural Directors Committee meeting of January 3, 2019 be received.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORT**

**Vanderhoof Children’s Theatre – Request for Grant in Aid – Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)** Moved by Director Petersen  
Seconded by Director Fisher

**RDC.2019-2-3** “That the Rural Directors Committee recommend to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors that the Vanderhoof Children’s Theatre be given \$5,000 grant in aid monies from Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) for costs associated with its Beauty and the Beast production.”

(All/Directors/Majority) **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **VERBAL REPORT AND POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

### **General Rural Budgets**

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### **RDC.2019-2-4**

“That the Rural Directors Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer’s January 14, 2019 memo titled “General Rural Budgets.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

John Illes, Chief Financial Officer provided an outline of the following: Rural Government, Electoral Area Planning, Building Inspection, Development Services and Emergency Preparedness Services. He spoke of surplus within services and the use of surplus’ to reduce taxation and the numerous reasons that various amounts of surplus can occur within a service. Mr. Illes commented that due to changes in Provincial legislation there has been an increase to staffing levels at the Regional District. Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Emergency Services provided an overview of staffing changes due to some of the provincial legislative changes in 2015 to current in regard to Rural Fire Departments and emergency services. He spoke of the Emergency Social Services (ESS) Strategy and bringing forward a report to the Regional Board in regard to the municipal support of the ESS Strategy and the roles and responsibilities of the Regional District and its member municipalities. He mentioned some of the 2019 budget considerations to meet the commitments of the ESS strategy, the hiring of a Director of Protective Services, ESS/Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) trailer utilizing grant funding, fire smart initiatives, and review of the rural fire departments. Mr. Llewellyn also noted that the provincial government is moving forward further legislative requirements of local governments in regard to fire inspection that could increase work load and budget.

Mr. Illes spoke to Rural Government Services from 2014 to 2019 with 2014 as a base year in regard to total taxation. He noted that Financial Staff are still calculating expenses for 2018 and awaiting shared service budgets from member municipalities.

Mr. Illes summarized changes to Building Inspection and providing services to some municipalities by contract. The variance in building inspection is dependent on building inspection fees and there can be an increase in fees when there is a large industrial project built.

### **What do the Rural Directors want to see in regard to Budget presentations?**

- Budget format used for services
- Budget format outlined in staff’s January 14, 2019 memo titled “General Rural Budget”
- Board commitments – what is the exact cost?/impact to the budget
- Priority of expenditures
- Better to have percentage increase overtime
- Answer “why” in regard to increases in budget – don’t spend a lot of time on budgets with no or little change
- Review essential budget items
  - Services provided – what is essential?
- Be mindful of provincial downloading/changes to provincial legislation
  - Creating a public demand for local governments to take responsibility from a direct result of provincial government downloading.

### **Local Services**

Staff will provide Electoral Service budget packages to Electoral Area Directors for consideration and changes can be provided to staff.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RDBN Rural Committee Priority Listing**

Chair Newell mentioned that if there are any suggestions or changes to the RDBN Rural Committee Priority listing the information can be forwarded to Chair Newell or RDBN Staff including Directors priorities that they wish to move forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Parker  
Seconded by Director Greenway

RDC.2019-2-5

“That the meeting be adjourned 4:17 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Rob Newell, Chair

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Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant