

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

BROADBAND COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, October 24, 2019

PRESENT: Chair Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Tom Greenaway
Rob Newell – arrived at 9:04 a.m.
Mark Parker
Gerry Thiessen – left at 10:04 a.m., returned at 10:12 a.m.

Director Absent Clint Lambert, Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Alternate Director Scott Zayac, Electoral Area “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Manager of Administrative Services
Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Donovan Dias, Vice President, Sales & Project Management, CityWest – left at 10:05 a.m.
Bart Kuntz, Vice President, Outside Plant, CityWest – left at 10:05 a.m.
Linda McGuire, Village of Granisle – arrived at 10:04 a.m.
Jerry Petersen, Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural) – arrived at 9:39 a.m.
Mike Pilon, Director of Projects, CityWest – left at 10:05 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Riis-Christianson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenaway

BBC.2019-3-1

“That the Broadband Committee Agenda for October 24, 2019 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2019

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Director Parker

BBC.2019-3-2

“That the Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2019 be approved.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Greenaway
Seconded by Alt. Director Zayac

BBC.2019-3-3

“In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Committee that matters pertaining to Section 90(2)(b) – the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party (Connectivity), may be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reconvened at 10:05 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

British Columbia Cattlemen’s Association – Request to Improve High-Speed Internet in Rural Communities

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Greenway

BBC.2019-3-4

“That the Broadband Committee recommend that the Board provide a thank you letter to the British Columbia Cattlemen’s Association encouraging them to forward the letter to the Provincial and Federal Government in regard to the Request to Improve High-Speed Internet in Rural Communities; and further, that the Board reference the letter in its UBCM 2019 letters to the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Citizens’ Services.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION ITEM

Fibre Lines – BC Assessment Impact

John Illes, CFO spoke with BC Assessment in regard to the taxation of fibre lines. BC Assessment indicated that fibre lines owned by local governments, not leased by a third party, are tax exempt. BC Assessment bases taxation of fibre lines on linear metres.

NEW BUSINESS

CIRA Test

Nellie Davis, Regional Economic Development Coordinator mentioned that the RDBN CIRA Test officially launched October 23, 2019 at the RDBN Business Forum. Ms. Davis provided an overview of the visual representation of the data on the map displaying the different levels of internet performance.

Director Newell noted he has researched download and upload speeds in the area and very few areas have the expected CRTC broadband speeds of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps for upload. He spoke of funding broadband initiatives regionally.

Telus Presentation

Mr. Illes mentioned that Telus is scheduled to attend an RDBN meeting in November 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Greenway
Seconded by Alt. Director Zayac

BBC.2019-3-5

“That the meeting be adjourned 10:13 a.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Michael Riis-Christianson, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant