



FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

New Zoning Bylaw receives 1st and 2nd Reading

Over the past several years the Planning Department has been working on a proposed zoning bylaw "[RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020](#)" intended to replace "[RDBN Zoning Bylaw No. 700, 1993.](#)" The draft was provided to the Board on several occasions for comment and a referral and public consultation process has been ongoing over the past year.

At its February 20th Meeting the Board gave 1st and 2nd reading of the Bylaw. A [Public Hearing](#) will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the RDBN Board Room located at 37-3rd Avenue, Burns Lake. If you have any questions, please visit our website or contact the RDBN Planning Department.

Housing in the RDBN: A Discussion Paper

The Board has had a number of discussions in regard to housing issues in the RDBN and directed staff to develop a Discussion Paper. Please find the report on the Board Agenda [Housing in the RDBN: A Discussion Paper.](#)

2020 Budget

The Board gave 1st and 2nd reading to the "RDBN Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1903, 2020". The 2020-2024 Financial Plan will be on the agenda for further consideration on March 5th and is scheduled for adoption at the March 19, 2020 Board Meeting.

Federal Gas Tax Funds – Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural), Smithers Community Services Association

The Board considered an Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural) Federal Gas Tax Fund application for the Smithers Community Services Association for a Cultural Infrastructure project at the Smithers Rail Station building. Due to an unsuccessful grant application from other sources they requested an additional contribution of \$100,000 to allow for the project to be completed. A total Federal Gas Tax contribution of \$150,000 was approved to ensure the project is fully funded.

Southside Fire Department application to Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund

The Board supported an application to the Nechako-Kitimaat Development Fund on behalf of the Southside Fire Department for funding to replace its aging water tender. The Board also confirmed that through the Electoral Area "E" Northern Capital and Planning Grant a contribution of \$100,000 will be provided for the project.

UBCM Emergency Operations Centre Funding Application

The Board supported an application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) and Training stream for \$25,000 to support the EOC function in the RDBN.

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund is a suite of funding programs provided by the Province of BC and administered by the Union of BC Municipalities intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.

Recent Grant in Aid

Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

- \$1,482.98 to the Seymour Lake Conservation Society for Dog Waste Receptacles
- \$150.00 for a Regional Service Meeting
- \$2,191.07 to the Bulkley Valley Christian Seniors Society for an AED Installation Project

Electoral Areas “B” (Burns Lake Rural) and “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

- \$750 from each Electoral Area to the Omineca Ski Club for costs associated with the Biathlon BC Cup #3

Electoral Area “C” (Fort St. James Rural)

- \$1,000 to the Fort St. James Secondary School for a Grade 12 Scholarship

If you would like to view any previous or upcoming Board Agenda(s), please go to our website at www.rdbn.bc.ca or click here for a direct link: [Board & Committee Meetings](#)