

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

MEETING NO. 11

Thursday, August 12, 2021

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Tom Greenaway
Clint Lambert – arrived at 10:17 a.m.
Linda McGuire
Bob Motion
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Michael Riis-Christianson

Directors Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa
Absent Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake
Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Alternate Annette Morgan, Village of Telkwa
Directors Kim Watt-Senner, Village of Fraser Lake

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development
-arrived at 11:15 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison – left at 10:05 a.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant
Chris Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator – left at 10:05 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Curtis Helgesen, CAO administered the Oath of Office for Annette Morgan, Alternate Director, Village of Telkwa.

Staff Introductions

Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services introduced Chris Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator.

Curtis Helgesen, CAO introduced Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison.

AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-11-1

“That the Board Meeting Agenda of August 12, 2021 be approved; and further that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Board Meeting Minutes July 15, 2021

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-2

"That the Board Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021 be adopted."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes July 15, 2021

Moved by Alternate Director Watt-Senner
Seconded by Director Fisher

2021-11-3

"That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ELECTORAL AREA PLANNING (All Directors)

Bylaw for Adoption

Rezoning Application RZ A-04-21 Adoption Report Rezoning Bylaw 1949, 2021 Electoral Area "A"

Moved by Director Fisher
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-4

"That Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Rezoning Bylaw No. 1949, 2021 be adopted this 12th day of August, 2021."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT

Development Variance Permit Application No. F-04-21 Electoral Area "F"

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Alternate Director Watt-Senner

2021-11-5

"That the Board receive the written submission regarding Development Variance Permit F-04-21."

"That the Board approve Development Variance Permit F-04-21 for the property located at 49825 Tapping Road to vary Section 8.0.7 1. b) of Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Zoning Bylaw No. 1800, 2020 by reducing the setback from the eastern Side Parcel Line from 2 metres to 1.39 metres for a storage building as shown on Schedule A of the permit."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crown Land Referral No. 7410188 Electoral Area "D"

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-11-6

"That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Referral No. 7410188 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT (CONT'D)

Crown Land Referral
No. 7002824 & 135339180
Electoral Areas "D" and "F"

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Parker

2021-11-7

"That the Comment Sheet for Crown Land Referral No. 7002824 and 135339180 be provided to the Province."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER

Coastal GasLink Pipeline
-Socio-economic Effects
Management Plan (SEEMP)

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-8

"That the Board receive the Coastal GasLink SEEMP Status Report No. 5 attached to the Director of Planning's Coastal GasLink Pipeline - Socio-economic Effects Management Plan (SEEMP) staff report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place in regard to inviting Coastal GasLink to a future Board Meeting to discuss impacts to roads and waste disposal.

ALC Regulation Changes
-Residential Flexibility Options

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

2021-11-9

"That the Board receive the Planning and Parks Coordinator's ALC Regulation Changes – Residential Flexibility Options staff report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and Trails Service
Update

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

2021-11-10

"That the Board receive the Director of Planning's Parks and Trails Service Update staff report."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TRANSIT

2021/2022 Bulkley Nechako
Regional Transit Service
Annual Operating Agreement
Amendment

Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Alternate Director Watt-Senner

2021-11-11

"That the Board receive and approve the 2021/2022 Bulkley Nechako Regional Transit Service Annual Operating Agreement Schedule A Amendment."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUILDING INSPECTION

Second Quarter Building Permit Summary Moved by Director Brienen
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-12 "That the Board receive the Building Inspector's Second Quarter Building Permit Summary staff report."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding BC Housing's HousingHub Program.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Code of Conduct Moved by Director Atrill
Seconded by Director Fisher

2021-11-13 "That the Board adopt the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Code of Conduct as amended removing the first sentence of Section 5.1."

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Greenaway

2021-11-14 "That the Board defer the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Code of Conduct for consideration at a future meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Enforcement of a Code of Conduct
- Diverse ethical backgrounds
- Incorporating the Code of Conduct while conducting the Oath of Office
- Section 5. Use of Social Media
 - o 5.1 Removing the first sentence
- Communication
 - o Board members/staff role sharing information
 - Providing information to the public
 - o Board Highlights
 - o Developing a corporate Facebook page
- Section 12 Compliance and Enforcement
 - o Removing the word "ethical"
 - o Removing the word "ethical" from the document in its entirety
- Office of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of B.C. and Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner of Canada
 - o Use of the word "ethics"
- Code of Conduct a "living" document

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS (CONT'D)

Federal Gas Tax – Area “F”
(Vanderhoof Rural) Cluculz
Lake Community Hall
Association – Septic System
Upgrade

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director McGuire

2021-11-15

1. “That the Board authorize contributing up to \$18,585.00 of Electoral Area ‘F’ (Vanderhoof Rural) Federal Gas Tax allocation monies to a Recreation Infrastructure Project at the Cluculz Lake Community Hall Association, and further,

(All/Directors/Majority)

2. That the Board authorize the withdrawal of up to \$18,585.00 from the Federal Gas Tax Reserve Fund.”

(Participants/Weighted/Majority) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COVID-19 Relief Funds

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Lambert

2021-11-16

“That the Board approve the following COVID-19 Relief Funds Applications:

Electoral Area “A” (Smithers Rural)

-Bulkley Valley Research Center – Insurance - \$2,183.00
-Bulkley Valley Gymnastics – Physical Distancing Equipment
- \$8,318.06

Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

-Lakes District Fair Association – Operational Expenses at Fairgrounds - \$3,167.57
-Rose Lake Community Club – Insurance, Hydro Expenses
- \$2,652.74
-Rose Lake Community Club – Equipment Replacement (Theft)
- \$2,707.03
-Burns Lake Public Library – Physical Distancing Equipment
-\$2,959.77

Electoral Area “D” (Fraser Lake Rural)

-Fraser Lake Historical Society – Facility Maintenance
- \$1,500.00

Electoral “E” (Francois/Ootsa Lake Rural)

-Grassy Plains Community Hall – Insurance (2021/22)
- \$4,363.00
-Burns Lake Public Library – Physical Distancing Equipment
- \$2,959.77

Electoral Area “F” (Vanderhoof Rural)

-Vanderhoof Farmers’ Market – COVID Supplies - \$775.39
-Nechako Valley Exhibition Society – Insurance - \$15,154.00
-Cluculz Lake Community Hall – Flood Repair in Bathroom
- \$3,254.89.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

<u>Michael Lee, BC Liberal MLA Vancouver-Langara</u>	Director Parker mentioned that he met with Michael Lee, BC Liberal MLA Vancouver-Langara while on his BC Liberal leadership tour. MLA Lee is running in the upcoming liberal leadership race. Director Brienen also met with MLA Lee in Houston. He spoke of ensuring that conversations include the RBA.
<u>Chinook Emergency Response Society Community Meeting</u>	Director Lambert mentioned that when he attended the Chinook Emergency Response Society Community meeting a topic of discussion was the challenge homeowners have in accessing fire insurance for their homes. Director Newell noted that in homes with single source wood stove heating the cords of wood burned may impact fire insurance for the home. Discussion took place regarding FireSmarting homes and work FireSmart Canada is doing with insurers. Director Motion spoke of addressing the issue in greater capacity.
<u>Endako Weir Public Consultation Process</u>	Director Riis-Christianson noted that the Endako Weir Public Consultation process has completed. He commented that concerns were brought forward regarding the public consultation process.
<u>Meeting with Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena-Bulkley Valley RE: Broadband</u>	Director Riis-Christianson met with Taylor Bachrach, MP Skeena Bulkley Valley and raised concerns regarding the cost to household for broadband. He also spoke of funding concerns for broadband services.
<u>Noise Bylaws</u>	Director Riis-Christianson spoke of receiving concerns from residents regarding noise issues. Regional District Electoral Areas do not have noise control bylaws.
<u>Village of Telkwa – Flood Mitigation</u>	Alternate Director Morgan mentioned that the Village of Telkwa is working on its flood mitigation study.
<u>Evacuation Alert Rescinds</u>	Director Greenaway noted that the Cutoff Creek and Mount Porter Wildfire Evacuation Alerts have been rescinded which is good news. Director McGuire thanked RDBN staff for the level of communication during the wildfire event.
<u>Granisle Day Celebration</u>	Director McGuire commented that the Granisle Day Celebration will be taking place August 14 th . There are 15 vendors planning to attend along with a parade. It will be a day of family fun.
<u>Housing Vacancies – Village of Granisle</u>	Director McGuire mentioned that there is a limited number of houses for sale in the community and currently only one rental unit remaining.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

<u>Union of B.C. Municipalities Minister Meetings and RDBN Committee Meeting September 9, 2021</u>	Director McGuire questioned the RDBN Committee Meeting scheduled September 9, 2021 being the same day as potential Minister Meetings at the Virtual UBCM Convention. CAO Helgesen noted that the RDBN will proceed similar to the 2020 UBCM Convention and work around the Minister meetings as well as hosting a dinner in the evening for the Board and Senior Management.
<u>Endako Mud Races</u>	Alternate Director Watt-Senner announced that the Endako Hall Society will be hosting its Endako Mud Races on August 28-29, 2021.
<u>Building Permits – Smithers</u>	Director Atrill spoke of the building activity in Smithers and the number of building permits issued to the end of June 2021.
<u>Homeless – Town of Smithers</u>	Director Atrill reported that the number of homeless people has increased in the community and the tent camp is currently located at the Town of Smithers Municipal Office building.
<u>Bulkley Valley Exhibition (BVX) -August 26-29, 2021</u>	Director Atrill announced that the Bulkley Valley Exhibition (BVX) will take place August 26-29, 2021.
<u>Town of Smithers – Celebrates 100 years of Incorporation</u>	Director Atrill mentioned that the Town of Smithers was the first incorporated Village in B.C. and turns 100 in September 2021.
<u>Opioid Overdose</u>	Director Newell spoke of his encounter of an individual experiencing an opioid overdose. He noted the increased stress levels in his region from COVID-19, wildfires and financial impacts that are increasing concerns and issues.
<u>Roads and Road Maintenance</u>	Director Newell commented that he would like to be involved in discussions regarding roads and road maintenance.
<u>Connectivity – Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural)</u>	Director Newell mentioned that residents in Electoral Area “G” (Houston Rural) have expressed their feeling of hopelessness due to the lack of available and accessible internet. He voiced the importance of continuing to work to ensure that residents have access to internet.
<u>District of Houston -Downtown Improvement Project</u>	Director Brien reported that the District of Houston’s Downtown Improvement Project is nearing completion. He noted that moving ahead with the improvement project derived from economic development reports completed when the mine and sawmill closures took place. Council was able to utilize that information to move forward the project to improve the community.
<u>Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance (RBA)</u>	<p>Director Brien commented that the RBA All Members meeting is being held August 20th. He encouraged those able to attend to do so and noted that a virtual option would be available. The meeting will provide an update and include conversation regarding next steps moving forward.</p> <p>Director Brien mentioned that the RBA member Regional Districts are seeing challenges in attracting businesses to the region due to housing shortages.</p>

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

Director Brienens provided a brief outline of the RBA meeting with the Honourable Selena Robinson, Minister of Finance and the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs. Ministers Robinson and Osborne identified other provincial priorities beyond RBA and were unable to confirm a future meeting date. The RBA has been unable to secure a meeting with Premier Horgan or Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine and Jennifer Rice, MLA North Coast.

Recognition of Commitment of Past Director Rob Newell

Director Brienens recognized the commitment of past Director Rob Newell and the dedication of all Board members.

Mid-Summer Music Festival -Smithers

Director Fisher mentioned that the Mid-Summer Music Festival in Smithers will take place in September 2021.

Lake Kathlyn Float Festival

Director Fisher commented that the Lake Kathlyn Float Fest took place on August 7th with music and boats floating on Lake Kathlyn.

Young Farmers

Director Fisher spoke of the number of young people that are showing interest in farming in Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural). He also noted the work of the Young Agrarians Program.

Working Group – UBCM Convention

Director Fisher indicated he will no longer be able to participate on the RDBN UBCM Event Planning Group to plan an RDBN event for Directors during the 2021 Virtual UBCM Convention. He noted that it is worth continuing the planning discussions if possible.

North Central Local Government Association Solid Waste Forum

Director Fisher mentioned that the North Central Local Government Association will be hosting a Solid Waste Forum in October 2021. He will provide more details once they are available.

Chair's Update

Chair Thiessen provided an update regarding the following:

- Meeting with Nechako First Nations
- Met with MLA Michael Lee, Liberal Leader hopeful
- Meeting with Rogers Telecommunications
 - Fibre to the home costs in Toronto, Prince George and rural B.C.
 - The Board discussed the cost of fibre to a home and ISP's applying for grant funding to provide cost effective fibre to the home
 - The RDBN and CityWest pursuing a partnership to address connectivity needs was also discussed
 - Wireless connectivity
- Opioid and mental health crisis
 - Director Brienens mentioned that Houston RCMP members are working with community members to mitigate mental health and opioid issues in Houston
 - Discussion took place regarding the formation of situational tables to address the issue
 - The lack of access to adequate connectivity creates a lack of the ability for individuals to access online services and programs to assist with mental health and wellbeing.

VERBAL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS (CONT'D)

- BC SPCA recent statement of unannounced site visits to livestock producers
 - Director Parker is working with RDBN Agriculture Coordinators and will bring additional information forward in September 2021
- House insurance
 - o Impacts of wildfires for homeowners and the real estate market
- Staffing change in Vanderhoof
 - New CAO and Deputy Corporate Officer
 - Expressed appreciation to communities that provide mentorship to new employees to local governments as well as the Northern Development Initiative Trust Intern Program
- District of Vanderhoof will have a new Cultural Tourist Centre in the near future.

Receipt of Verbal Reports

Moved by Director Brienens
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-17

"That the verbal reports of the various Board of Directors be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Evacuation Route Planning

Moved by Director Riis-Christianson
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-18

"That the Board authorize staff to enter into a contract with Calian Ltd. as the successful proponent for the Regional Evacuation Route Planning project."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

COVID-19 Plexiglass Dividers

Discussion took place regarding the COVID-19 plexiglass dividers in the Board room.

IN-CAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Atrill

2021-11-19

“In accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors that matters pertaining to Sections 90(1)(c) – labour relations or other employee relations, 90(1)(i) – the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose, and 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 (First Nations Relations/Boundary Expansion), must be closed to the public, therefore exercise their option of excluding the public for this meeting.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Motion

2021-11-20

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant