

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2022

PRESENT: Chair Gerry Thiessen

Directors Gladys Atrill – arrived at 10:54 a.m.
Shane Brienen
Mark Fisher
Dolores Funk
Tom Greenaway – via Zoom
Clint Lambert
Linda McGuire – via Zoom
Annette Morgan – arrived at 10:17 a.m.
Bob Motion – left at 1:47 p.m.
Chris Newell
Mark Parker
Jerry Petersen
Sarrah Storey – via Zoom, left at 12:12 p.m.

Director Absent Michael Riis-Christianson, Electoral Area “B” (Burns Lake Rural)

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer – via Zoom
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services
Nellie Davis, Manager of Regional Economic Development – left at 11:23 a.m.
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services – left at 1:46 p.m.
Cameron Kral, Planning Summer Student – left at 10:20 a.m.
Taddea Kunkel, First Nations Liaison – arrived at 1:43 p.m., left at 1:50 p.m.
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning – left at 11:23 a.m., returned at 1:40 p.m.
Emma Moore, Protective Services Summer Student – left at 10:20 a.m.
Tiarri Rushton, Environmental Services Summer Student – left at 10:20 a.m.
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services
Chris Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator – arrived at 10:54 a.m., left at 12:12 p.m.
Grace Zayac, Economic Development and FireSmart Summer Student – left at 10:20 a.m.

Others Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate – via Zoom – left at 10:50 a.m.
Taylor Turkington, Manager, Beswick Hildebrandt Lund – via Zoom – left at 1:40 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Thiessen called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SUMMER STUDENT STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Senior Management introduced Tiarri Rushton, Environmental Services Summer Student, Grace Zayac, Economic Development and FireSmart Summer Student, Emma Moore, Protective Services Summer Student and Cameron Kral, Planning Summer Student.

AGENDA

Moved by Director Brien
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2022-5-1

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 12, 2022 be approved.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Minutes – April 14, 2022

Moved by Director Petersen
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2022-5-2

"That the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 14, 2022 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate RE: Human Trafficking – Via Zoom

Chair Thiessen welcomed Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate.

Ms. Peters spoke to the following:

- 8 strategies for local governments to consider:
 - o Learn about the issue
 - Be Amazing Campaign Stop Exploitation
 - The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking
 - Office to Combat Trafficking in Person (OCTIP)
 - o Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnerships
- 5 Strategies for Police and communities
 - o Awareness
 - o Address Demand
 - o School Liaisons
 - o Inventory Scan
 - o Best Practices
- Preventing Child Sex Trafficking in BC
 - o Definition of Sex Trafficking
 - o Buyer
 - o Trafficker/pimp
 - o Victim
 - o Traffickers Use
 - Common age of child entering sex trafficking is 13 years old
 - Large urban centres 10-12 years of age
 - Not a choice or a job
- Organized and international crime involved
 - o Lucrative crime
 - o A trafficker can make \$280,000 per victim, per year

Cathy Peters, BC Anti-Human Trafficking Educator, Speaker, Advocate RE: Human Trafficking – Via Zoom (Cont'd)

- Recruitment
- Deadly industry
- Canada is a sex tourism destination
- Raising awareness
- How to stop human trafficking.
 - o Enforcement of law
 - o Education
- *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*
- Providing presentations to:
 - o law enforcement across Canada
 - o federal, provincial, and local governments
- Provided a brief to the Federal Government regarding work camps
 - o Ms. Peters May 8, 2022 Brief for the Federal Status of Women Committee - The importance of protecting Indigenous women and girls in context of resource development projects
- Advocacy
 - o Write to Premier Horgan and the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety and the Honourable David Lametti, Federal Minister of Justice.

Discussion took place regarding;

- Community responsibility and ensuring safety of constituents
 - o Prevention
 - o Identifying and reporting concerns
- Issue is not going away but growing and becoming more and more dangerous
- Message should be shared everywhere
- Advocacy
 - o Provide resolution to Union of B.C. Municipalities
 - o Education
 - o Social media – public awareness
 - o Children of the Street Society as a resource
- Reaching out to schools
- Work camps
- Parents – set a high standard of love within your home
- Source of statistics
- Resources and references material
 - o Joy Smith Foundation – National Human Trafficking Education Centre
 - o Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking
- Endemic businesses to Human Trafficking:
 - o Airbnb and VRBO (Vacation Rentals by Owner) being identified as potential locations
 - o Significant accommodation issues in the north – challenging to eliminate those options for rental accommodations
- Do not accept or support the full decriminalization of prostitution
- Be vigilant.

Chair Thiessen thanked Ms. Peters for attending the meeting.

REPORTS

Draft Communication Policy and Corporate Communication Plan

The following was discussed:

- Policy and plan provide consistent communication
 - o Utilized when speaking on a corporate level
 - o Level of professionalism
- Create a framework
 - o RDBN is a recognized as a trusted source of information
- Social media components will evolve moving forward
- Clarity required regarding components of the plan that are intended for internal staff and those that are intended for the Board
 - o Define staff expectations vs. Director's expectations
 - o Simplify plan for the Board
 - o One pager to provide guidelines for Directors and included in Director orientation
 - o Elected officials need to have the ability to communicate in various ways with constituents in respect of policy
- Plan is thorough
 - o Ensure not unduly restrictive
 - o Ensure it's a living document
 - o Ensure the vetting in using images
- Communication Plan – operational tool
 - o Provides staff with basic framework and guidelines
- Maintaining a standard but flexible
 - o Provide consistency and guidelines
- Formal vs. informal communication
- RDBN E-mail communication subject to a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy request
- Utilized Northern Development Initiative Trust Playbook in developing plan
- Include the use of radio in the plan
- Amateur radio use
- Staff will bring forward a revised Communication Plan and Policy for review at future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Evacuation Route Guide

The following was discussed:

- Evacuation Route Guide – 100% grant funded
- Member municipalities and Saik'uz First Nation also participated and developed detailed plans
- Other First Nations in the region provided input
- Collaborative initiative to have the 8 member municipalities, First Nation communities and the Regional District develop plans
 - o Each municipality has received its own plan
 - Town of Smithers Council has received its Evacuation Route Plan
 - Key opportunities for municipality and rural areas to work together
- Plan does not include detailed evacuation routes
 - o Vastness of the Regional District – challenging to have a detailed evacuation route plan similar to the municipalities
 - o Provides the Regional District with information on how to get people out during an evacuation event
 - o Contacts with other groups and organizations
- Ministry of Forests, Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure responsible for roads and creating alternate routes when required
- Plan is one tool for staff to use in the Emergency Operations Centre to assist in evacuating people from an area during an event

REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Update information regarding:
 - o Gas Stations in Granisle
 - o Additional evacuation zones in Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)
 - o Number of homes in Electoral Area "G" (Houston Rural)
- Challenges for Village of Telkwa due to bridges crossing the Bulkley River
- School District participation in the plan
 - o Required to have their own evacuation plans
- Living document
- Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessments
- Neighbourhood planning in Electoral Area "A" (Smithers Rural)
 - o Pilot project
 - o Funded by Northern Capital Planning Grant funding from Electoral Area A
 - o Complement Evacuation Route Plan
- Consultation and working with Electoral Area Directors
- The importance of on the ground information and truthing rather than from a desktop will be forwarded to the consultant
- Local knowledge and input key
- Search and Rescue invited to provide input
- Opportunities to explore developing apps to assist people in moving around during an event.

Break for Lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Break for Special Board Meeting at 1:04 p.m.

Reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Public Meeting

Moved by Director Lambert
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2022-5-3

"That the Committee receive the Deputy Director of Corporate Services' British Columbia Electoral Boundaries Commission Public Meeting memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

First Quarter Financial Statements

Moved by Director Parker
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2022-5-4

"That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's First Quarter Financial Statements memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action & Province of BC DRIPA Action Plan

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Lambert

C.W.2022-5-5

"That the Committee receive the First Nations Liaison's Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and Province of BC DRIPA Action Plan memorandums."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Write letters to Premier Horgan, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Moved by Director Morgan
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2022-5-6

“That the Committee recommend that the Board write letters to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada in regard to ending human trafficking, sex trafficking and prostitution in BC; and further request that law enforcement and education are increased to achieve the ending of human trafficking and provide safety for citizens.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion took place regarding:

- Proactive questions in terms of work camps
- Lake Babine Nation - Interagency Meeting Construction Camps and Communities group
 - RDBN staff participate
- Request RCMP input regarding the topic of Human Trafficking
 - Scheduled to attend the July 21, 2022 Meeting
- Staff will follow up with Ms. Peters regarding social media information and Children of the Street Society information.

Boardroom Plexiglass

Discussion took place regarding the potential removal of the Boardroom plexiglass.

INCAMERA MOTION

Moved by Director Newell
Seconded by Director Brien

C.W.2022-5-7

In accordance with Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, it is the opinion of the Board of Directors 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 (Cycle 16 Trail) 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 McGuire
Seconded by Director Newell

C.W.2022-5-8

“That the meeting be adjourned at 2:01 p.m.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gerry Thiessen, Chair

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of
Corporate Services