

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Shane Brienen  
Leroy Dekens  
Martin Elphee  
Judy Greenaway  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Shirley Moon  
Kevin Moutray  
Chris Newell  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Stoney Stoltenberg  
Sarrah Storey  
Henry Wiebe

Director Absent Gladys Atrill, Town of Smithers

Alternate Director Frank Wray, Town of Smithers

Staff Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Janette Derksen, Waste Diversion Supervisor – arrived at 11:00 a.m.  
Alex Eriksen, Director of Environmental Services – arrived at 11:00 a.m.  
Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning  
Danielle Sapach, Administration Clerk – left at 10:47 a.m., returned at 11:00 a.m.  
Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of Corporate Services

Media Frank Peebles, LD News – arrived at 10:41 a.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Curtis Helgesen, Chief Administrative Officer conducted the Oath of Office for Frank Wray, Alternate Director, Town of Smithers.

**STAFF INTRODUCTION**

Cheryl Anderson, Director of Corporate Services introduced Danielle Sapach, Administration Clerk.

**FIRST NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**AGENDA**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

**C.W.2023-1-1**

"That the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 12, 2023 be approved."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MINUTES**

**Committee of the Whole  
Minutes – September 8, 2022**

Moved by Director McGuire  
Seconded by Director Brienen

**C.W.2023-1-2**

"That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORTS**

**Major Municipal Services**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

**C.W.2023-1-3**

"That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Major Municipal Services memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Budget Planning – Change in  
Assessments and Inflation**

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Storey

**C.W.2023-1-4**

"That the Committee receive the Chief Financial Officer's Budget Planning – Change in Assessments and Inflation memorandum."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Discussion took place regarding;

- Past taxation increases
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 2023
  - o Information will be released near the end of January 2023
  - o Budget items impacted by CPI
- Inflation consideration for Budget 2023 and 2024-2026

## REPORTS (CONT'D)

- Consideration of housing market slowdown and potential loss of pipeline camps
- Non-Market Change Roll Comparison Summary by Regional District
  - o Percentage change due to market 13.18%
    - Utilities – 21.31%
  - o Effect of pipeline in region
  - o Tax assessments throughout the region
- Staff to bring forward percentage and dollar increase options as well as potential requisitions for municipalities and rural areas at a future meeting
- Reclassification of properties.

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Emergency Support Services Program Guide

Moved by Director Stoltenberg  
Seconded by Director Lambert

### C.W.2023-1-5

“That the Committee recommend that the Board send a letter to Minister Ma of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to identify the RDBN’s concerns with the Provincial Emergency Support Services Program Guide, and copy the letter to the EMCR ESS program, UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee, and all regional districts.”

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The following was discussed:

- Frustration and concerns regarding the lack of consultation by the Province with First Nations and local governments
- Centralization of decision making by the Province
- Impact to ESS volunteers
  - o Potentially see a decline in volunteers
  - o Province needs to encourage volunteers and support the attraction and retention of volunteers
  - o Impediment to volunteers
  - o Challenging to fill ESS Director Positions
    - Extremely time consuming
    - Approximately full-time position
    - Volunteer position with no pay
- Struggle to engage volunteers across the region
- Staff to include volunteer retention and attraction in letter to the Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

**NEW BUSINESS**

Write a letter to Premier  
David Eby re: Bill C-21

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2023-1-6

"That the Committee recommend that the Board write a letter to the Honourable David Eby, Premier requesting his position regarding the Federal Government's Amendments to Bill C-21, *An Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms).*"

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Canfor Closure of Pulp Mill  
in Prince George, B.C.  
and Food Banks

Director Lambert spoke of the announcement by Canfor regarding the closure of its Pulp Mill in Prince George, B.C. He also noted reported impacts to food banks in Canada. He spoke of the impacts to individuals by taxation increases as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Storey

C.W.2023-1-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 11:11 a.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

---

Mark Parker, Chair

---

Wendy Wainwright, Deputy Director of  
Corporate Services