

Minutes of the *SPECIAL BOARD BUDGET MEETING* of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held in the Woodhaven Board Room, Regional District Offices on Friday, March 28, 2003

Directors

R. Cannan (City of Kelowna)
C. Day (City of Kelowna)
A. Dinwoodie (Westside Elect. Area)
B. Given, alternate for W. Gray (City of Kelowna)
P. Hanson (Ellison/Joe Rich Elect. Area)
B. Harriman (District of Peachland)
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)
R. Hein (District of Lake Country)
D. Knowles (Westside Elect. Area)
L. Novakowski (Westside Elect. Area)
S. Shepherd (City of Kelowna)

Staff

W. d'Easum, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Arcuri, Director of Planning Services
C. Cameron, Engineering Services
R. Fine, Director of Economic Development
G. Leier, Director of Human Resources
H. Reay, Director of Financial Services
M. Rilkoﬀ, Budget Analyst
K. Roth, Director of Inspection Services
B. Vos, Director of Parks & Recreation Services
M. Drouin, Administrative Assistant (recording secretary)

Robert Hobson, Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

The Board agreed to add the following item to the agenda:

- 2.3 - Myra Canyon Service Road

1. Public Comment

In accordance with the Local Government Act, which allows for public consultation before final adoption of the proposed 5-year financial plan for 2003-2007, the Board heard from the following concerned residents:

a) Wilson's Landing Volunteer Fire Department

Bruce Ashton, Chair of the Wilson Landing Fire Department, addressed the Board on behalf of the fire department and expressed concern about the proposed increase to ratepayers to fund the fire department over the next five years. He noted the fire department averages 10 call-outs per year and does not have first response. Excerpts of a June 14, 2000 letter to Wilsons Landing property owners from Hilary Hettinga, Director of Engineering Services, noting it is believed that owners would see a further reduction in taxes for fire protection was read. Instead of a reduction in taxes, significant increase in taxes will occur. It was noted that property values have increased in Wilsons Landing by 37% over the last six years.

Mr. Ashton noted the Fire Department submitted a budget of \$57,000 but the proposed budget is \$40,000 higher. The Officers of Wilsons Landing Fire Department request the original budget submitted be approved by the Board.

Mr. Reay explained what has been included in the budget for the fire department:

- based on the operational costs for 2002
- Board policy has been to leave tax rate at \$1.20 per thousand
- monies are being put into the reserve fund

Questions:

The Board questioned Mr. Ashton on the status of the department's equipment and their future needs. The department has been reviewing a 10-year plan and believes there is adequate money in reserves for their future equipment needs. It was noted that Lake Okanagan Resort has gifted \$200,000 to the fire department of which the Regional District holds.

The Board agreed to the reduction in the capital reserves with the understanding that there will be an operational review by the Regional District of all fire departments and that there is a need to do 20-year capital plans in order to determine equipment replacement reserve fund levels.

#152/03

NOVAKOWSKI/DINWOODIE

THAT the Wilsons Landing Fire Department equipment reserves budget be reduced to \$5,000 and the operating budget be reduced to \$50,660 for 2003;

AND FURTHER THAT the reductions be reflected in the 5-Year Financial Plan.

CARRIED

b) Mr. R. Ensign – Chair Mount Boucherie Expansion Committee

Mr. Ensign addressed the Board noting the Expansion Committee supports the increase of transfer to reserves of .13 cents per thousand which will allow for existing taxation revenue to be put in reserves to allow for no tax increase for the proposed Mount Boucherie expansion. Mr. Ensign highlighted future economic spinoffs to the Westside with the arena expansion.

2. Business Arising

2.1 Regional Grant-in-aid request

a) KADAC

In follow-up to KADAC's presentation to the Regional Board on January 27, 2003 additional information was circulated to the Board. The Regional Grant-in-Aid request is \$30,000 for 2003. In 2002, KADAC received a grant of \$18,868.

The Board discussed the requested grant increase and expressed concern regarding:

- duplication of programs with KVPAC,
- the need to identify clear goals and long-term plans,
- the Region's ongoing support of KADAC,
- and that the organization should not consider a grant-in-aid as a long-term funding source.

It was noted that government funding may be lost if regional support does not exist. Consensus was reached that support be considered at the same level as 2002 for an amount of \$20,000.

#153/03

DINWOODIE/HARRIMAN

THAT a Regional Grant-in-Aid be considered for the Kelowna & District Arts Council to the same level of funding as 2002.

CARRIED (opposed Hein, Hanson)

Consensus: To include in the budget. Directors Hein & Hanson opposed (\$18,451 approved)

ACTION: It was agreed that in the future regional grants-in-aid requests be reviewed at a Governance & Services Committee meeting prior to final Board approval.

b) Kelowna Geology Committee

The Kelowna Geology Committee requested a regional Grant-in-Aid to assist in the publishing of a revised edition of the book "*Geology of the Kelowna Area*".

#154/03

SHEPHERD/GIVEN

THAT a \$5000 Regional Grant-in-aid be allocated to the Kelowna Geology Committee for the republication of the book "*Geology of the Kelowna Area*";

AND THAT a project budget be requested and reviewed by staff prior to the grant being allocated.

CARRIED (Cannan opposed)

c) Additional Grant-in-aid

Director Hanson noted that she wants to add support of Ellison/Joe Rich Electoral Area to the following regional Grants-in-Aid 2003.

- \$500 to SPCA
- \$1,000 to Restorative Justice

d) Green Sustainability

Chair Hobson noted that there is nothing in the budget for Green Sustainable Development and that there may be budget implications once the final report has been produced. The Board agreed to review this, if and when it is required.

2.2 Review of Vice-Chair stipend

The Board discussed the Vice-Chair stipend and agreed that it should be removed from the budget.

#155/03

HEIN/SHEPHERD

THAT the \$10,000 designated for a stipend for the Vice-Chair position be removed from the board remuneration budget.

CARRIED

2.3 Myra Canyon Service Road

Director Shepherd noted in follow-up to the March 24th Board meeting and a recent meeting with the area MLAs, it was suggested by Minister Thorpe that the Regional District may wish to look at applying for an infrastructure grant for the upkeep of Myra Canyon Service Road.

Staff reported a draft budget of \$1,262,637 to pave a section of road and repair drainage problems. The budget includes Federal, Provincial and other funding sources. The Regional District's portion would be approximately \$300,000. It was noted that a detailed study to address maintenance issues, ownership issues, ongoing operating costs and the economic value to the Region would be required as a first step and would cost approximately \$20,000.

The Board discussed the proposal. Concern was expressed that infrastructure grants should be ranked for importance to the community, weighed against other priorities, rather than last minute applications and that an application may have an affect on the Region's ability to be successful with other infrastructure grants such as sewer. It was noted that the Provincial government is downloading services to the community that they are responsible for.

It was agreed that the Regional District contact Minister Thorpe to inform him that the Regional District does not have the funds necessary for this project and ask the Province to provide funds for an infrastructure grant to upgrade the Myra Canyon Service Forest Road.

ACTION: The Board agreed to review priority for infrastructure grants at the next Governance & Services Committee meeting.

3. Review of 2003-2007 Financial Plan

Mr. Reay reviewed the changes to the provision budget that are detailed in the 2003-2007 Financial Plan.

- Changes to final assessments
 - reduce Ellison Fire Protection - \$140
 - reduce Joe Rich Fire Protection - \$585
 - reduce North Westside Road Fire Protection - \$3,385
- Add \$20,000 for the Mount Boucherie Expansion Committee
- Add \$20,000 for Westside directors regional office function
- Reduce Board remuneration admin budget by \$10,000
- Add \$5,000 for Ellison/Joe Rich Electoral Area Grant-in-Aid for Ellison community policing station
- Ellison/Joe Rich now participating in regional grants-in-aid
- Increase capital budget for the Johnson-Bentley Memorial Aquatic Centre by \$8,668 plus GST to purchase covers for the therapy pool, hot tub (including rollers) and a digital camera system (including three cameras).
- Wilsons Landing Fire Department capital reserves budget be reduced to \$5,000 and the operating budget be reduced to \$50,660

Discussion:

- Parks Advisory Committee will be reviewing over the next year the requisition for parks which is currently at 14.7 cents.
- Westbank Sewer Expansion Program – it was noted the costs have been projected without any infrastructure grant. Parcel taxes will increase from \$5.00 to approximately \$60.00 if no grant money is received. Parcel taxes will be reduced by whatever grant amount is received. It was noted that a strategy needs to be developed for the future application of infrastructure grants for the sewer plant.
- Ellison Electoral Area is looking at adding a community policing office in the Ellison area.
- Sterile Insect Release program should be winding down by 2006/2007. Growers have requested the Regional District enforce the noxious insect bylaw.
- Concern was expressed regarding funding for a mosquito program due to the spread of the West Nile virus. It was noted that this is an issue the Ministry of Health is responsible to oversee and fund.
- Treaty Advisory Committee – It was noted the provincial government has stopped funding the treaty advisory process and that this has not been an issue in the last few years as negotiations have not been occurring. The Committee will be reviewing Federal/Provincial funding opportunities to assist the Committee when WFN comes back to the negotiating table.

ACTION: The final year-end quarterly report measures were circulated to the Board and it was agreed to discuss the report at the next Governance & Services Committee meeting.

4. Regional District of Central Okanagan 2003-2007 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1013, 2003, 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings and Adoption (*All Directors - Weighted Vote*)

HEIN/DAY

THAT the amendments be incorporated into the 2003-2007 Financial Plan;

AND THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan 2003-2007 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1013, 2003 be given first, second and third readings, reconsidered and adopted this 28th day of March 2003.

CARRIED

5. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:50 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT

Robert Hobson (Chair)

W.B. d'Easum (Chief Administrative Officer)