

Minutes of the SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of the Regional District of Central Okanagan held at Regional District Offices, 1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. on Friday, March 27, 2009

Directors:

J. Baker (District of Lake Country)
J. Edgson (Central Okanagan West Electoral Area)
K. Fielding (District of Peachland)
D. Findlater (District of West Kelowna)
B. Given (City of Kelowna)
K. Hayes (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)
G. James (City of Kelowna)
D. Ophus (District of West Kelowna)
A. Reid (City of Kelowna)
M. Rule (City of Kelowna)
C. Hodge, alternate for S. Shepherd (City of Kelowna)

Regrets:

L. Derrickson (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

H. Reay, Chief Administrative Officer
R. Bruneau, Manager of Information Services
R. Fine, Manager of Economic Development Commission
M. Kopp, Manager of Parks Services
D. Plamondon, Manager of Development and Environmental Services
M. Rilkoff, Manager of Finance and Administrative Services
M. Drouin (recording secretary)

Chair Hobson brought the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1.1 Introduction and Review of 2009 Tax Rates

Marilyn Rilkoff introduced the budget noting changes have been made to the budget as directed at the March 19th Governance and Services Committee meeting. She noted that final requisition adjustments will need to be made once revised assessment numbers are available from BC Assessment. An overview of the 2009 tax rates (based on a home assessed at \$456,000) for each of the municipalities and electoral areas were highlighted including:

- City of Kelowna: Increase of 6.40% (\$4.57)
- Peachland: Increase of 15.14% (\$22.68)
- Lake Country: Increase of 17.98% (\$20.33)
- West Kelowna: Increase of 14.85% (\$26.27)
- Central Okanagan West Electoral Area: Increase of 2.67% (\$0.57)
- Central Okanagan East Electoral Area: Increase of 1.62% (\$7.96)

1.2 Delegation: Dan Schlosser, President and Dave Tilley – Central Okanagan Search & Rescue Society – funding request (follow-up Oct. 9, 2008 G&S meeting)

In follow-up to discussions at the October 9, 2008 Governance and Services Committee meeting, the Central Okanagan Search & Rescue Society were requested to provide additional financial information on their funding request.

It was noted that the Society is funded under the regional rescue budget, normally funded at \$25,000 per year for operating expenses. In addition to the regular operating funding, the Society has requested additional funding for capital purchases in 2009 and 2010.

Dan Schlosser answered questions:

- Is this equipment held in a pool so that it is available for fire departments? Search and rescue is separate from fire departments. It is part of the provincial PEP program.
- Fire departments and Search and Rescue are two different components. Fire departments serve a different roll in rescues, as well have boundary areas for which they serve. Search and Rescue does not.
- Can you purchase one piece of equipment at a time? No, the equipment has to be available in pairs. One piece of equipment would not be used on its own due to safety concerns (searchers travel in pairs).
- Is it possible to purchase less this year and space out the purchases? They are looking for best options for purchases.
- How many rescues are done each year? Depends upon the year, it averages 25-30 per year.
- Some funds are paid by the provincial PEP program – an hourly rate for equipment such as ATVs and snowmobiles and gas mileage.
- Are individuals charged for rescues? No. Province-wide there is discussion whether individuals should be charged for a rescue. There is concern that if an individual would be charged for a rescue that family members will try to do it on their own thereby delaying a call for help and risking their lives.

1.3 Outstanding Information Requests (*from March 19 Governance and Services Committee meeting*):

i) Treasurer Report – Draft 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan

Marilyn Rilkoﬀ reviewed the information requested by the Regional Board at its March 19, 2009 Governance and Services Committee as well as budget changes requested including:

a) Regional Rescue

The Central Okanagan Search and Rescue (COSAR) made a funding request for \$25,000 in 2009 and \$62,000 in 2010 to fund capital purchases. These amounts are currently in the budget.

b) Economic Development Commission

In follow-up to the March 23rd Board meeting further information was provided noting that the tax impact of adding \$30,000 to the budget is \$.0009/\$1,000 assessment or approximately \$0.41 on a \$456,000 home.

c) Joe Rich Fire Department

It was noted that \$20,000 for a cistern purchase was moved from 2009 to 2010. In 2009, transfer to reserves was increased by \$14,000 to \$29,000 which means a reduced tax requisition impact. Over the next year staff will continue to review the capital acquisition plan for 2010.

c) Fintry/Valley of the Sun Water System

Staff noted that the establishment and loan authorization bylaw has been given three readings. The capital budget was added for 2009 and 2010.

d) Regional Planning – Regional Growth Management Strategy

In follow-up to Board recommendation the update of the Regional Growth Strategy will be deferred. \$100,000 and related \$30,000 grant was removed from the 2009 budget.

e) Administration

Added \$12,000 capital for a sound system in the Woodhaven Boardroom – funded from reserves.

f) Regional Parks

As was previously directed by the Board, the Mission Creek Greenway tunnel budget was reduced to \$220,000 in 2009.

ii) Planning – regional vs electoral planning allocation

Staff report dated March 25, 2009 outlined the staff resourcing for electoral area vs regional planning activities and development applications. It was noted that all member municipalities and electoral areas participate in regional planning. Staff reviewed the background of regional planning including working in cooperation with member municipalities on various issues.

It was noted that fringe area planning will be further discussed at the Board's strategic planning exercises later this year.

iii) Septage Facility – Lake Country

Staff noted that further meetings have occurred with the District of Lake Country regarding the septage facility. Operational issues have been reviewed and the District of Lake Country plans to implement technical changes. Staff are confident that the majority of haulers will be serviced at the Lake Country facility and rarely will diversion be required.

It was noted that this is a regional function and that the region contracts the service through the District of Lake Country. Staff will continue to look at cost recovery but it was noted that last year due to operational issues a deficit was incurred. As the Regional District, under the Local Government Act, cannot run

deficits the costs must be recovered by the general taxpayers. Tipping fees have been increased this year but these will not recover the deficit from last year.

iv) Economic Development Commission – Budget

In follow-up to the Board's March 23rd regular board meeting Robert Fine presented further background on the new positions budgeted including: technology position, export development support as well as background on the arts culture tourism position.

Three options were presented:

- 1) Add \$30,000 to the EDC budget to maintain existing contractor programs and create an export development support program (implication is \$0.41/\$495,000 assessed home and
- 2) No budgetary increase – no implementation of an export development support program.
- 3) No Arts Culture Tourism Officer – add an export officer instead.

Staff have looked at ways to fund the positions but believe there are no other options within their current budget. The arts position does not duplicate any other position in the area. The EDC Advisory Board, based on budgetary challenges, notes the arts position is of lesser priority than the other two positions.

#77/09

RULE/EDGSON

THAT \$30,000 be added to the Economic Development Commission budget to maintain existing contractor programs, including the arts culture tourism officer position, and creation of an export development support program.

CARRIED (opposed Findlater)

v) Boardroom Sound System

Staff noted that \$12,000 has been budgeted in reserves for a possible boardroom sound system. As the timeline for this request has been limited, true costs are not available and staff have been directed to research options for a sound system.

1.4 Public Comment on 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan

i) Petition – North Westside Ratepayers Association (Diane Baldwin)

A petition from the North Westside Ratepayers Association opposing the purchase of a fire boat was circulated to the Board. Diane Baldwin addressed the Board stating their opposition to the purchase of the proposed fire boat. Several reasons for their opposition were stated: not the region's responsibility to

provide cheaper insurance to some property owners, believe purchase will exceed planned budget, specific training will be required, Fire Technical Committee in previous meetings did not support the purchase of a boat, liability and maintenance is of concern, fire boats are not meant to fight land based fires.

Staff reviewed the status of the boat acquisition: money is budgeted in reserves; CGI study has just been received and will be brought forward to the Board for consideration. Last year, the Board put a caveat on the budget that no decision would be made on the purchase of the boat until the CGI study is completed. It was further noted that although the funds are in the 2009 budget, no purchase would occur without the Board's final approval, community support and technical fire advisory committee recommendations. The director has committed to seek community input on the purchase.

#78/09

EDGSON/GIVEN

THAT the Regional Board receive the March 21, 2009 petition from the North Westside Ratepayers Association regarding the purchase of a fireboat (mobile marine water supply unit);

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Board supports including in the 2009 budget the funds to support an equipment purchase but defers any decision with regard to the purchase of a fireboat until all technical information is received, including feedback from the Fire Technical Advisory Committee and public consultation.

CARRIED

ii) Dave Robertson re: North Westside Fire Department

Dave Robertson expressed concern regarding the North Westside Fire Department noting they should be given the resources needed to provide the protection needed in the community. He is a volunteer fire fighter with the department. He has provided alternate equipment information to Rod Miller the Regional District's fire coordinator. He further noted that there is no mention of Engine 102 replacement within the budget when he understood replacement was needed. Suggested replacing Engine 102 with a proper designed bush truck instead of a fire boat. Proper public input should be completed and a strategic plan needs to be done for the department for the long-term.

iii) Other Presentations

Joe Acres – North Westside homeowner – background is a fire-fighter and is a volunteer firefighter with the North Westside Fire Department. Does not believe there are many homeowners opposed to the purchase of the fire boat nor do the petitioners have the correct information. Concern was expressed regarding the water pumps in the Killiney Beach area. Fire hydrant boat would be better than a fire rescue boat.

The Chair reminded the gallery that the Board is not debating whether to purchase the fire boat, the decision today is based on budget only and whether to keep the funds in the reserves..

Mary Mandarino – Westside Residents Association (spokesperson for the group) *Noted she was chosen by the five charter members as their spokesperson.* Concerned about the duplication of services between the District of West Kelowna and the Regional District in particular the issue of parks. Concerned about the costs for increased transit services to the Westside. Does not believe it is the correct economic time to purchase lands for parks acquisition. Concern was noted about fiscal restraint during this difficult time.

Director Findlater noted that the District of West Kelowna is looking at service reviews between the municipality and the Regional District. Chair Hobson noted that a strategic review of the Regional District will be ongoing throughout 2009.

Bob Johncock – North Westside Communities Association – believes the petition for the fire boat does not represent the true community concerns. Believes the funds should be taken out of reserves and put into the budget. Let the experts make the decision about the fire boat.

Sharon Schnurr – Valley of the Sun – have no water system to fight fires and it will take three years for the water system to be put in place. Existing water systems should be upgraded so fire departments don't run out of water.

Ms. Landers – expressed concern about the economic downturn and the tax base and increased taxes.

Joe Acres – provided further advice on what type of fire boat equipment should be purchased.

Deborah Iglehart – member of the North West Fire Department – noted support for the purchase of the fire boat. It will help save homes and lives. The boat will provide the water that is required and will be a tool to support the fire department.

The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m.

- 1.5 Regional District of Central Okanagan 2009 - 2013 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1256, 2009, **1st, 2nd and 3rd readings and Adoption** (All Directors - Unweighted Vote)

Once again, staff noted that to date the final assessment roll has not been received from BC Assessment Authority. The budget must be approved by March 27th therefore the budget needs to be approved subject to those adjustments required when the final roll is received.

The Chair asked if there were any other items to be discussed regarding the budget.

Yard Waste Pickup

Staff updated the Board on the additional yard waste collection issue with regard to spring/fall pickups. Solutions have been reviewed with stakeholders from the municipalities except the District of West Kelowna who were not in attendance at the meeting. At that meeting there was no appetite from the stakeholders to look at options which would cost all taxpayers. Yard waste is picked up every two weeks, as well it was noted the contractor does offer additional pickup services for yard waste for residents who wish to pay for the service (\$2.50 per bag). It is a user pay-service instead of a service where all would pay for those who require the additional service.

Staff recommend the user pay service: obvious advantage is it is equitable. If the decision was to move to a one time, unlimited spring and fall collection – historically each household paid about \$15 per household. Rough estimates on the cost for a one time pickup, twice a year would be about \$8 per household. Staff will provide a report to the April 9th Governance and Services Committee meeting on the options and costs. It was noted that municipalities can negotiate their own system if they wish to amend their contracts. The Board did not want to add any funds to the budget for additional service.

Administrative Overhead Charges

The issue was raised regarding an independent audit of administrative overhead charges and how costs are allocated for the various services. A review would provide information on whether costs are being allocated fairly between municipalities and the electoral areas. It was noted there has been Board policy but that it would be timely to review this as part of the Board's strategic planning process. The Terms of Reference is to be brought forward for Board approval before proceeding.

Staff noted that no new funds would be required for the audit. The cost of the audit would come out of the contract services in administrative services.

#79/09

BAKER/EDGSON

THAT the Regional District of Central Okanagan 2009 - 2013 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1256 be adopted subject to the inclusion of requisition adjustments resulting from the revised assessment roll when it is received from the BC Assessment Authority;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan 2009 – 2013 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1256, 2009 be given first, second and third readings, reconsidered and adopted this 27th day of March 2009.

CARRIED (Findlater, Ophus opposed)

#80/09

GIVEN/FINDLATER

THAT, as part of the strategic planning process, an independent audit be performed to review how administration overhead costs are allocated for all services provided by the Regional District;

AND FURTHER THAT the Terms of Reference for the audit be forwarded to the Regional Board for approval.

CARRIED

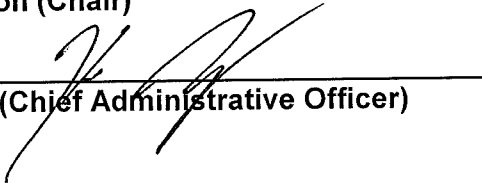
2. ADJOURN TO A REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT



R. Hobson (Chair)



H. Reay (Chief Administrative Officer)