

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 25, 2011

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)
J. Collinson, alternate for K. Hayes (Central Okanagan East Electoral Area)
C. Hodge (City of Kelowna)
R. Hobson (City of Kelowna)
G. James (City of Kelowna)
D. Ophus (District of West Kelowna)
A. Reid-Nagy (City of Kelowna)
S. Shepherd (City of Kelowna)

Regrets:

M. Rule (City of Kelowna)
M. Werstuik (Westbank First Nation)

Staff:

H. Reay, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Kopp, Director of Parks Services
R. Miller, Fire Services Coordinator
D. Plamondon, Director of Developmental Services
C. Radford, Director of Engineering Services
M. Rilkoﬀ, Director of Administrative and Finance
M. Drouin, Corporate Services Coordinator (recording secretary)

Chair Hobson brought the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Addendum to the Agenda

3.1 Approval of an Ad Hoc Finance Sub-Committee

#81/11

BAKER/SHEPHERD

THAT the agenda be adopted with the addition of 3.1 – Approval of an Ad Hoc Finance Sub-Committee.

CARRIED

1. BUSINESS ARISING

1.1 Request by the Regional Board for report on the Marine Mobile Water Supply (fireboat) for North Westside Fire Protection Area

The Regional Board following its March 10, 2011 meeting requested staff provide a report outlining the background reports for the fireboat, including copies of correspondence received regarding its purchase. Staff report dated

March 21, 2011 outlined this information. It was noted that this process first began in 2005 and has been budgeted since 2009. The Electoral Area Director has stated he would support the acquisition if the proposed five year plan could support the acquisition of the fireboat and if it could be funded within the current taxation level. Staff confirmed that it would.

Rod Miller addressed the Board noting he recommends the purchase of the fireboat. The purchase is not unlike any other fire apparatus other than it sits on the water. From a financial perspective, the purchase is funded by the North Westside taxpayers and there is no increase in the tax rates as the purchase of the boat is from reserves.

The question was raised how mobile the fireboat would be for other needs throughout the Okanagan--will there be the ability to transfer the use of the fireboat ie: interface fires? Staff noted that if the boat is not needed in its primary area, then it would be available through a mutual aid agreement for other emergency purposes.

2. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2.1 2011 – 2015 Financial Plan Introduction

a) Review of changes following the March 10, 2011 Governance & Services Committee meeting

Staff reviewed the changes requested following the March 10, 2011 Governance and Services meeting. The largest impacts to requisitions were highlighted.

It was noted that transit cost sharing between West Kelowna and WFN shared routes is still under review. Director Fielding noted that the transit increase for Peachland is confusing and quite obscure. They are being asked to make a significant increase in funding without increase in level of service. Peachland is reviewing service levels. Discussions continue with BC Transit.

Final requisition adjustments will be made when the revised BC Assessment figures are received later next week.

The 2011 Tax Rates were reviewed:

| | 2011 | Tax Rate <u>% Incr/Decr</u> | Inc/Decr on <u>\$446k home</u> |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kelowna | \$.2844 | 0.513% | \$2.34 |
| Peachland | \$.4186 | 3.151% | \$8.14 |
| Lake Country | \$.3171 | 0.079% | \$2.01 |
| West Kelowna | \$.3182 | 1.236% | \$3.62 |
| Central Okanagan West | \$.9630 | -2.072% | - \$3.19 |
| Central Okanagan East | \$.8826 | -2.399% | - \$4.25 |

A review of how regional districts differ from municipalities was noted including regional districts must keep all services separate and cannot combine or inter-mingle any funds, surpluses or deficits between any services. Currently the Regional District has 83 separate operating budgets. It was further noted that while keeping the tax rate increases at less than the BC average CPI increase, the Regional District has still managed to increase transfers to reserves and capital projects by 23.1%.

2.2 Public Comment on 2011 – 2015 Financial Plan

Chair Hobson asked if there was anyone in the gallery who wished to comment on the 2011-2015 Financial Plan. As there were a number of people in the gallery requesting to comment on the purchase of the North Westside fireboat, the gallery was informed they would be given two minutes to present their comments. It was noted the cost of the fireboat is included in the budget.

The following residents addressed the Board:

- Ian Kilpatrick, 303 Kildare Way – spoke to the sense of community in the North Westside. The boat will be used for all the community. The fireboat issue has created division in the community which is not good.
- Diane Baldwin, 10390 Pinecrest – North Westside Ratepayers: noted that 260 petitioners are opposed to the purchase and they want the Board to reconsider purchase of the fireboat. Questioned what is actually being bought. The community is small and she expressed concern on the increasing budget to the taxpayers. Questioned what the costs will be for the auxiliary equipment required.
- John Tulloch – 8525 Ewings Landing – expressed support for the fireboat. He was involved when the community first started considering the boat years ago. It did not start out to just look at a water source for lakeshore homes but it was to provide water to Westside Road. It will be a water source for the rest of community as well.
- David Robertson-586 Mountain Drive. Opposed to the purchase of the fireboat. Believed Directors should be informed before making a decision. Don't know if the fireboat can perform duties as it is supposed to do. He requested the Board vote according to the knowledge and information received. Do it fairly and dispassionately.
- Don Bennison-2279 Westside Place - Chair of Wilsons Landing Fire Department. Spoke in support of fireboat. Unique areas along the Westside with many access points that are less than desirable in an emergency. It is hoped that Wilsons Landing will benefit from the boat in emergency situations.
- Sharon Schnurr – 819 Balsam Road, Valley of the Sun. Water system will cost \$17,500 for each resident. Why can't taxes go down for a change?
- Michael Thacker – 9674 Keithley Road – opposed to the purchase of the fireboat. Not fair for such a small community to pay for such an expense. Capital cost and ongoing costs to the community are significant. Cost to bring adequate water supply just to lakeshore property owners is too expensive. Not being asked to provide water to Valley of the Sun. Money was provided through property parcel tax so he paid the same as higher priced homes.

Staff clarified that a parcel tax that was collected over five years was put aside specifically for the purchase of future fire trucks not for the purchase of the

fireboat. The amount set aside for the purchase of the fireboat was surplus funds that were put in reserves.

- Ben Hanson, Valley of Sun – supports the purchase of the fireboat. It should work just fine and will give access to all the water in the lake.
- Gavin Huey, 107 Crown Crescent – has lived through a number of power outages in the community and when this occurs, the water reservoir drains down and the fire department has limited to no access to water. Has come to realize that the pumping capacity of the boat can pump water for other uses. Power outages are a common occurrence in the area. The North Westside area has one of the highest rating for interface fires. Supports the boat for the extra fire protection that it will provide to the community. It will be a benefit to all and will be used for many purposes including suppression.
- Al Conroy, 9620 Helton Road – lives in upper portion of Killiney. Believes the boat will be a benefit to all the community. Not enough water in the water systems and if power goes out, water is not available. It will provide water to inland fires. Strongly in favor of boat. Believes some people have been misinformed on the boat issue.
- Debra Igelhart (?), 519 Leah Road, Killiney Beach – if the purchase of the fireboat saves one life, one family, one home, one stand of trees its paid for itself. It will protect the community and that is what people should be looking at.
- Sharon Schnurr – not happy the meeting is being held in the daytime.

2.3 Regional District of Central Okanagan 2011 - 2015 Financial Plan
Bylaw No. 1289, **1st, 2nd and 3rd readings and Adoption** (All Directors
- Weighted Vote)

There were no comment on first, second or third readings.

Staff was asked to provide the summary PowerPoint presentation on the budget to municipal staff for their information.

With regard to the purchase of the fireboat, final comments included:

- Paid for by the North Westside taxpayers;
- The area director is convinced much of the community supports the purchase;
- Lack of power supply during power outages to pump water is of great concern;
- The faster you can get to a fire, the quicker it can be fought;
- It is unfortunate the issue has divided the community.
- Sometimes residents must pay for services they don't directly benefit from--that is part of being in a community.
- Options have been well researched.
- Those that questioned the cost of the fireboat have forced the Regional Board to take a closer look at the costs.
- We live in a community where fire risk is high and part of living in a community is to pay for resources needed. It is hoped the community comes together to mutually support each other to improve health and safety throughout the area.

#82/11

SHEPHERD/OPHUS

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan 2011 - 2015 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 1289, 2011 be given first, second and third readings and adopted this 25th day of March 2011.

CARRIED

- 2.4 Regional District of Central Okanagan Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1290, 2011 **1st, 2nd and 3rd readings and Adoption** (All Directors - Weighted Vote)

#83/11

SHEPHERD/OPHUS

THAT Regional District of Central Okanagan Temporary Borrowing Bylaw No. 1290, 2011 be given first, second and third readings and adopted this 25th day of March 2011.

CARRIED

3. NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1 Approval of the Ad Hoc Finance Sub-Committee

#84/11

HODGE/EDGSON

THAT an Ad Hoc Finance sub-committee be formed to establish principles and review the allocation of administrative overhead including how it is calculated, how the rates are set and portioned to the participants of the service and report back to the Governance & Services Committee;

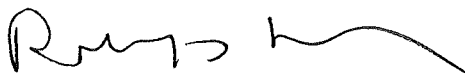
AND FURTHER THAT Directors James, Shepherd, Edgson and Ophus be appointed to the Ad Hoc Finance sub-committee.

CARRIED

4. ADJOURN TO A REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT



R. Hobson (Chair)



H. Reay (Chief Administrative Officer)