



Public Meeting  
MINUTES

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**Date:** February 2, 2017

**Location:** School Board Office

**Trustees Present:** Chris Matthews, Don Mikkelson, Jeremy Baillie, Mark Nelson

**Trustees Absent:** Kevin O'Neill

**Staff Present:** CAO Rosemary Smart, CFO Wes Abel

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Community members: 38

Meeting called to order: 7:00 PM

Trustee Jeremy Baillie welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the agenda and the procedure for the meeting. He introduced and handed out the additional tool of tasknotes/question forms that would guide where the next meeting was to go, explaining the need to keep the subject on point,

Trustee Baillie introduced the first speaker, Scott Durward.

Scot Durward opened the meeting with a 15-minute presentation. He spoke of his career as Human Resource head for Tolko Industries, his background with the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce, his current work with the University of Victoria and the Master's Thesis on the subject of Improvement District funding (or lack of it), and the invitation to sit at the negotiating table

He then went into some detail of how this subject came to his attention, and how it moved into the BC Chamber itinerary and became policy, gaining the support of 35,000 businesses across to province. He outlined the work to-date with the government, and where he anticipates it moving on from there giving a time line of 1 8 months to work out the final details.

He emphasized Rosemary's work as a volunteer to the Improvement District Coalition in bringing it forward, and keeping it on the table.

Q & A — Scott answered questions about the time line (could it be shortened), and tips for moving forward.

CFO Wes Abel spoke using a power point. He explained the breakdown of the yearly intake, explaining how revenue is handled, where it comes from, and where it goes to. He explained the need to break down the water system income to all maintenance including purification, how it is being handled, and what is being put away for the future.

Abel spent time explaining the increase in divided costs between water system and fire protection as it had been increased this year with the increase in accountability and transparency, and Bill 4 Fire Safety Act and regulations.

Abel emphasized the need for caution moving forward, assuming we will not get funding. He stressed the need to carry the whole costs on our own, for now.

Q & A — Abel fielded questions including the unsustainability of the rates, as well as questions concerning savings and other institutions. It was confirmed that after examining other rates and limits, it was decided to keep the money local.

Chair Chris Matthews ended the meeting with a challenge to the community. He spoke to the need for volunteers for the many duties performed if the district wants to bring the system back to 1985 rates.

Comments included the need to meet WCB compliance, and the various duties now required. A note of appreciation for the work the trustees have undertaken was expressed several times.

A note was made of Former Trustee Dunsworth's draft report to government. Chris briefly explained what the trustees have dealt with in the past year leading up to the present noting the draft report could very well be addressed in future.

Trustee Baillie wrapped up the meeting reminding those present to leave questions or talking points that could clarify future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9: 15 PM

 (Chair)