



HAGENSBERG WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Location: District Office, Hagensborg Fire Hall

Meeting time: 1:00 pm

Regular Meeting Minutes September 19, 2019

Present: Trustees Jeremy Baillie, John Morton, Kevin O'Neill, Diane Skelly (portion)

Maintenance Contractor: Chris Matthews

Regrets: Trustee Norton

Gallery: Donald Mikkelson, Joy MacKay

- 1) It was moved/seconded by Morton/Baillie that the meeting agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried**
- 2) The minutes of the August 22, 2019 regular meeting were reviewed, and it was moved/seconded by Baillie/Morton that they be adopted. **Carried**
- 3) A written administration report was presented by CAO Skelly, outlining activities over the past month. These included a report from watershed warden Rob Gruetter, the placing of an ad for a maintenance contractor and the submission of a grant application for replacement turn-out gear for the district's volunteer firefighters. Thanks to fire chief Norton for taking the lead on this. Most recent water sampling results were circulated, revealing the persistence of coliforms and e coli at all testing locations. It was moved/seconded by Morton/Baillie that the admin report be received. **Carried**

It was then moved/seconded by Morton/Baillie that the CAO purchase a polycom device to facilitate attendance at future meetings by trustees absent from the valley. **Carried**

- 4) The financial report was presented by trustee Morton and circulated, along with obligations for the previous month. It was moved/seconded by Baillie/Morton that the financial report be received, and approval of payables in the amount of \$9,447.33 be given. **Carried**
- 5) No petitions or delegations were presented.
- 6) Correspondence: An email from the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce dated September 12, 2019 involving confirmation from the province that direct infrastructure funding will not be provided to improvement districts unless they “dissolve and transfer assets and services to the appropriate local government.” **Appendix A**
- 7) New Business: Trustee Baillie suggested that future meetings begin with in camera items, with the regular public meeting commencing at 1:30 PM. It was moved/seconded by Baillie/Morton that this change be implemented for the next regular meeting. **Carried**
- 8) Portfolio reports: Maintenance Contractor Chris Matthews reviewed activities over the past month, noting that during periods of turbidity, the district had switched to the well and that this might become more common with the advent of fall rains. Additionally, screen cleaning of leaves and woody debris would increase. The final weed whacking around the hydrants was being completed.
- 9) Trustee Skelly joined the meeting at 1:40 pm.
- 10) Questions from the gallery included the status of our fire truck, audit recommendations/implementation, meeting procedure bylaw 218 and posting of future agendas on the district’s website.
- 11) The meeting moved in camera at 2:05 PM
- 12) The regular meeting reconvened at 3:00 PM, with the release of two decisions. The trustees have adopted a formal Conversion Review as prepared by Jim Tarves and Evangeline Hanuse, and will make copies immediately available. The review will be presented to ratepayers at a

public information meeting on October 3rd beginning at 7:30 PM at the Nusatsum Elementary School gym.

- 13) The next regular meeting of the Hagensborg Waterworks District was scheduled for October 24, 2019

Chair

Corporate Administrative Officer

Appendix A Below

APPENDIX A

Email from Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce Sept. 12, 2019

Good morning Diane. I am reaching out on behalf of the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce in regard to a resolution that was written, with Rosemary's help, by Scot Durward back in 2015. It was ready to fall off the books in 2018 so with Scot's help, we rewrote it, resubmitted it and it again formed a part of the BC Chamber Policy package to the Provincial Government.

I had opportunity last week (Sept. 5) to sit at a table with a number of Government representatives to discuss policies that had come from the Chamber network with the view of gaining direct input and response to action/inaction. The policy regarding Improvement Districts obtaining funding for improvements was one of the policies discussed. Yesterday, I received the email below from the Nicola Marotz, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It pretty much speaks for itself but after speaking with Scot yesterday, he suggested that I share information of the meeting and the email with you as the CAO of the Hagensborg Improvement District.

During the meeting in Prince George, I covered the Policy basics and asked for a response. These are my notes from the meeting:

- Nicola Marotz of Municipal Affairs & Housing was asked if anything is being done to support Improvement Districts with access to funding. It would appear not when it was brought to Government in 2015 and returned in 2018 and yet nothing has surfaced in the line of movement. She took a bit of offence to this observation yet continued the party line that Government would assist with the absorption process.
- Basically, the Government wants Improvement Districts to join with Regional Districts and stated that it was happening slowly. Government policy, as you are aware and is referenced in the Chamber Policy is clear on that point.
- The message was clear in the room. Outside the room, she approached me and observed that her answer was not what I was looking for. Well she opened the door so I basically stepped into her but also was cautious as we needed a teammate to resolve this. She stated flatly that the Government will not allow access to funding for Improvement Districts. There is no interest in supporting something that is slowly going by the way and contrary to a policy that they have in place.
- When challenged, she advised that there is help available to ID's move through the amalgamation process with Regional Districts if they ask for it. The Government is not interested in soliciting their engagement, it must be breached by the Improvement District.
- When pushed, she advised that she will be in touch with contact information for the Improvement District to guide them into having the conversation with their Regional District in a meaningful way if they are challenged to speak with them directly.
- Though it was unsaid, I came away with the idea that the Government is banking on notion that Improvement Districts will run out of capital to keep things running and will then be forced to join with a Regional District.

Apparently we made an impression because the email below came yesterday from her indicating that some movement towards joining the Regional District in your case. Ms. Marotz has offered contact

information in her email to help with the process as you move through it. It would appear that the options are limited at this point.

Regards,

Mark

Mark W. Doratti, Executive Director
WL & District Chamber of Commerce
250-392-5025

williamslakechamber.com or tourismwilliamslake.com

We are an Accredited Chamber of Commerce "With Distinction"

We promote and foster a work, stay and play at home atmosphere.

Join us in 2020 for a "Taste of Portugal". Flights from Kamloops to Lisbon and return over 8 days.

<https://www.indus.travel/tour/a-taste-of-portugal-with-williams-lake-and-district-chamber-of-commerce>

On Wed, Sep 11, 2019 at 4:57 PM -0700, "Marotz, Nicola MAH:EX" <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Dear Mark Doratti:

It was very nice to meet you in Prince George last week at the Central-Cariboo Regional Consultation between the BC Chamber of Commerce and the provincial government. Coming out of the response I provided at the meeting and our follow up chat regarding improvement districts (IDs), I committed to provide you with some further information and contacts.

The 2018 Chamber of Commerce resolution focuses on finding ways to enable IDs themselves to be eligible for infrastructure grants. As I noted in my response at the meeting:

- The Ministry continues to have consistent objectives in regard to IDs – that is, enabling IDs to perform their specific local service role while at the same time preparing for the eventual assumption of their responsibilities by a local government. The Ministry focuses on supporting the role of regional districts (RDs) as the key local government for rural areas.
- Consistent with those objectives, provincial/federal funding for upgrades to ID infrastructure will only be considered if the ID agrees to dissolve and transfer its assets and the service to the appropriate local government (referred to as "ID conversion"). A transition plan can be worked on over an agreed amount of time.
- While there can be cost increases when an ID converts to an RD or municipal service, this is in large part because of the very necessary yet sometimes expensive infrastructure upgrades; such upgrades are in most cases partially paid by provincial/federal funding. As well, conversion and infrastructure upgrade mean that the service becomes modernized and professionally run, meeting environmental and public health standards.
- Before getting to conversion, IDs and RDs can also work together to have the RD submit an Infrastructure Planning Grant application to seek funding support to help the parties plan for and understand what infrastructure upgrades are needed.

I understand from our conversation that the resolution arose from some challenged relations at a particular point in time between the Hagensborg ID and the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD), including the ID's sense that the CCRD was unwilling to partner with it to seek infrastructure funding. Having checked in with colleagues here in the Ministry, it would appear that things have changed in the intervening years, and I understand that there were subsequent discussions between the CCRD and the Hagensborg ID. Those discussions were clearly productive, as the CCRD received infrastructure funding

at the end of August under the Environmental Quality program (under the federal-provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) for \$3,787,294 towards a \$5,162,000 project for Hagensborg Community Potable Water Distribution and Treatment. That means assistance is available for upgrading the infrastructure and for creating a direct incentive for ID conversion, which will be a condition of the funding.

As I noted to you, Ministry staff are always available to support joint efforts of IDs and RDs to work together to find more efficient and effective ways to provide needed services and infrastructure. If RD and ID representatives from your area need to establish contact with Ministry staff in this regard, they could use the following staff as initial points of contact: Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance Structures (for service delivery and conversion matters) – Marijke.Edmondson@gov.bc.ca , 778 698-3227; and Madelaine Martin, A/Director, Local Government Infrastructure (for infrastructure supports) – Madelaine.Martin@gov.bc.ca, 778 698-4748. Once contact is established, the appropriate staff analyst for that particular region would become their key connection.

Hope this information is helpful to you – and again, it was very nice to chat with you.

Cheers

Nicola Marotz

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