



Electoral Area Director's & RTAG Committee

MINUTES

July 20, 2021

RDMW Office – 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC

CALL TO ORDER: 11:04 am

Attendance:

EA/PA Directors: Chair Andrew Hory, Kevin Cameron (Zoom), Sandra Daniels (Zoom), James Furney, Rod Sherrell

Other Directors: Dennis Buchanan

Staff: Greg Fletcher, Administrator; Patrick Donaghy, Manager of Operations; Nicole McDowell, Recording Secretary

1. Agenda

21-23 It was moved and seconded, that the agenda dated July 20, 2021 be approved. **CARRIED**

2. Minutes

21-24 It was moved and seconded, that the minutes dated June 15, 2021 be adopted. **CARRIED**

3. Reports

a) Arena Manager's Report (July 20, 2021):

i) Gas Tax Application: Trash/Recycling Bear Proof Bins

Also noted:

- *This is a general report on potential for getting trash bins*
- *If using Gas Tax, they must be sponsored by a local service; Coal Harbour Local Community Committee and Woss Residents' Association are sponsoring their bins*
- *Received quotes from two different places, \$16,000 and \$26,400*
 - *It is shipping that costs a fortune; therefore, if we go with shipping to store at Home Hardware (Port Hardy) then they can be purchased for the \$12,000 retail*
 - *We are suggesting to proceed with the \$16,000 quote that includes freight*
- *We always need these bins; regardless whether we buy them through the Parks service or use Gas Tax funds*

Q: Have you had them built in the past?

We didn't have the bins built; we had the foundations built; which became super problematic for shipping because a Hiab was needed to install

Q: Would you sell extras to municipalities?

That is an option; however, we would likely need them in one of our regional parks, so they would be kept in stock; RD Parks service could purchase and put money back into Gas Tax, since they are always needed, and it is often a debate on whether to pack bins in and out.

21-25
GT2021-01 It was moved and seconded, that the Gas Tax Application 2021-01 to purchase six Trash/Recycling Bear Proof Bins, up to \$16,000 be approved. **CARRIED**

21-26 It was moved and seconded, that the Arena Manager's Report be received and filed. **CARRIED**

- b) Administrator's Report Regarding Funding for Broadband Infrastructure (July 20, 2021):
ii) Attachment #1: 2016 Gas Tax Policy

Also noted:

- Review of Gas Tax Funding policies & applicability to funding Broadband connectivity
- In 2014, the Province, through UBCM, amended the Gas Tax Policy:
 - They added things like recreation, roads, short line rail, deep sea shipping & Broad band internet
 - The committee set specific criteria regarding recreation funding but did not address the other new categories
 - Typically, RDs don't have jurisdiction or capacity for these things
 - Street Lighting – had previously set aside \$200,000 for conversion to LEDs which is no longer required because of BC Hydro's decision to directly fund this change
- In 2019 an agreement was made with Telus to provide last mile fibre optic internet service connections to all Coal Harbour Households with the RDMW investment ensuring connections for sewer, fire, and water local services with a 10% project contribution using gas tax funds
- Internet Connectivity has long been an Economic Development priority for the Regional Economic Development service
 - Initially (2005-2012) part of the strategy to diversify and support clean IPP power projects connected through the 'smart grid'
 - Lobbied & supported fibre optic backbone build out, implemented by Telus from 2012 to 2017
 - Focused lobbying helped get last mile service for Port Hardy, Port McNeill and Hyde Creek and Cell phone coverage for Woss
- Reviewed report insert "RDMW Communities Internet Connectivity Availability":
 - noted that the data was from the carriers for their service plans (maximum rates) and user survey for the actual; currently only fibre based services meet the new standard

- Q- Can other carriers access the proposed Connected Coast community backbone hubs?
- Yes

- iii) Attachment #2: RDMW 2019-23 Gas Tax Project Funding

Also noted:

- Updated draft 2019 to 2024 spreadsheet version was presented at meeting:
 - Updated to include identified potential Connected Coast last mile projects, Paul Getman's 8 sewer lift station automatic battery backup systems (the prototype was tested during the power failure) and other known projects that were already approved in 2020 and 2021
 - It also included possible funding for the extension of the Rotary Trail to Hyde Creek
- This report just shows what 'could be done' with Gas Tax funding...even with internet funding included... would be \$8,000 leftover in Gas Tax when current funding agreement ends in 2024

Q: How do we go forward?

- Other purpose of doing this, is to ensure we do not over extend ourselves ... for example, \$90,000 was allocated to Malcolm Island Recreation back in 2015, but nothing started due to capacity issue
- Usually \$10-15,000 in interest ...not shown on this spreadsheet
- \$1,022,000 currently in Gas Tax fund including approved projects underway

Q: Asset must be owned by a Gas Tax recipient?

Some sort of ownership stake is indicated and as in the Coal Harbour example this has been satisfied by providing infrastructure needed by a local service. Collectively, any potential revenues arising from this stake could be returned to the Electoral Area Administration service.

Addition to Agenda:

"Last Mile Network Infrastructure Partnering Agreement" (City West and SRD)

- Document shared with RDMW with permission from SRD
- Key line is the cost sharing determination in section 4.3; the agreement would need to be customized to suit the local conditions for all rural; communities that have potential funding partners

21-27 It was moved and seconded, that an agreement be drafted with Connected Coast to provide Last Mile Fibre Optic Internet Service to the following places: Winter Harbour (Area B), Holberg (Area B), Mahatta River (Area B), Malcolm Island (Area A), and Telegraph Cove (Area D); and that applications be prepared to provide gas tax funding for up to 10% of the network infrastructure costs associated with respective local Last Mile networks

CARRIED

21-28 It was moved and seconded, that the Administrator's Report be received and filed.

CARRIED

c) Completion Report: GT2020-06 Coal Harbour Waste Water Plant Upgrades

Also noted:

- Project is complete
- With staff shortages, we do not have cost report finalized for today; to be presented next month

21-29 It was moved and seconded, to accept the Gas Tax Completion Report for GT2020-06 Coal Harbour Waste Water Plant Upgrades, with final numbers to follow next month.

CARRIED

Next Meeting – To be announced

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm

CERTIFIED CORRECT

SECRETARY

CHAIR