

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.

Present: **Chair:** Mayor Leonard
Council: Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Gillespie, Ngai (8:00 p.m.); Sanders and Wergeland
Staff: Tim Wood, Administrator; and Isobel Hoffmann, Senior Committee Clerk.

ADM 115
CRD
Strategic Plan &
2007 Key Initiatives

Presentation by Kelly Daniels, Chief Administrative Officer, and Robert Lapham, General Manager, Planning and Protective Services – Capital Regional District Strategic Plan & 2007 Key Initiatives

Mr. Daniels stated:

Background:

- Starting at the end of March, the CRD Strategic Plan and the 2007 Key Initiatives will be presented to various service clubs and the Chamber of Commerce.
- The presentation is a work in progress and will cover the following:
 - Health Facilities Planning
 - The role of the CRD and the services it provides
 - Review of the 2006-08 Strategic Plan and major initiatives for 2007
- The CRD Board consists of 22 members from the 13 member municipalities and 3 electoral areas and they cost share in the services they wish to participate in.
- Amongst the general public, there is a high level of confusion on what services are provided by the CRD.
- The services vary from community to community and include:
 - Regional Services – provided region-wide: (water protection services, solid and liquid waste management, regional parks and trails, and emergency planning);
 - Sub-Regional - does not cover the entire Regional District: (arts development, parks and recreational services, water distribution to the Western Communities, sewer systems and sewage treatment);
 - Local Services, mostly to electoral areas: (electoral area planning, fire protection, animal control, parks and recreation, sewer and water services and management, bylaw and regulatory services, building inspection).
- The CRD also acts as the local Board of Health and the Hospital Board.

Strategic Priorities:

- There are six strategic priorities outlined in the Plan, which will require cooperation with other government levels and community partners. These priorities are:
 - Regional Transportation
 - Liquid Waste/Sewage
 - Emergency and Disaster Response
 - Growth Management
 - Environmental Protection
 - Organizational Performance

CRD Hospital
Board

Mr. Lapham stated:

- The Hospital Board provides 40% of major capital projects and a lesser

share of medical equipment, with total projected expenditures of \$586 million, the CRD's share will be \$262 million.

- The impact to the taxpayer, based on a home assessment of \$409,000 will be \$99.29 for 2007, increasing to \$239 in 2117.
- The capital plan identifies a number of projects that have increased in cost due to delays, including \$250 million for improvements to Royal Jubilee Hospital in-patient facility and \$17 million for the Victoria General Emergency Project; improvements are also proposed for the Saanich Peninsula Hospital.
- The CRD's share of these major capital projects is \$141 million.
- He distributed a chart showing the existing and estimated debt servicing from 2007–2016 for current 10-year Capital Plan, based on MFA borrowing terms of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years.
- The Health Facilities Planning Department administers the Capital Plan and brings reports to the Board, as well as:
 - Preparing bylaws, such as the Clean Air Bylaw.
 - Providing funding to non-profit residential care facilities.

Regional Growth Strategy

- The Regional Growth Strategy is due to be reviewed in 2008.
- There will be an interim update this year regarding: the context statements for the Highlands; recognition of the Settlement Containment areas in Electoral Areas; and recognition of MOUs with Oak Bay and View Royal.
- It is proposed there will be public information sessions held at the beginning of June, a Public Hearing at the end of June, and consideration by the Board for third reading in November.
- Municipalities will then be given 120 days to review the document; each municipality must approve the amendments.

Regional Emergency Response Plan

- Some major projects were initiated last year on the Regional Emergency Response Plan, including the HAZMAT service, and it is hoped an initial agreement can be reached by the end of March.
- The first stage of the Emergency Response Plan provides for operation, training and equipment; there will be no response trigger until a protocol agreement has been reached with the Provincial Emergency Programme (PEP) and the Ministry of Environment.
- A retired training officer has been hired under a 3-month contract to put together an equipment agreement and outline the training requirements for various fire departments; it is hoped the equipment can be in place by this summer.
- The response plan should be finalized and in place by year-end; in the meantime, they are relying on the existing response mechanism with Ministry of Environment and PEP.
- A considerable amount of work is being done on the Regional Disaster Response Model project which will coordinate regional services, resources and communications in a disaster.
- Transportation Planning is also an important function; the Travel Choices Select Committee has reviewed the implementation plan and identified some key transportation issues for the region.

Other Strategic Priorities

Mr. Daniels provided an update on the strategic priorities that are part of the 2000 Parks Master Plan, and stated:

- One initiative is development of the E&N rail trail; the Board has identified this as a significant priority for the Gas Tax Grants received.
- Regarding the Core Area Sewage Treatment Project, a report from the Ministry of Environment has identified sites, established a time frame, and estimated costs for implementing sewage treatment within the core area; this should be available by late March.
- He estimates it will take about ten years to complete the projects.
- It will be important to balance the significant costs of the sewage treatment facilities with the major capital health projects that will take place over the next ten years.
- Another major initiative is the Community Energy Plan and Climate Change Initiative; a comprehensive report will be available in March, which will be reviewed by the steering committee and a technical committee prior to coming before the Board.
- Many of the key recommendations in the report will be amalgamated to have an overall action plan for the region and coordinating the plan with the Regional Growth Strategy update.

In response to questions and comments from Council, Mr. Daniels stated:

- Working with municipalities, the CRD will identify walking corridors and linkages to major transportation hubs; they will also take into account the aging population in the urban villages.
- In an attempt to make the document more readable and understandable, some of the technical information with respect to environmental protection and protection of the watershed was removed; he will ensure this section is revisited.
- While there is nothing specific in the Plan about Climate Change, a consultant has been hired which could in turn affect management of the watershed.
- The extreme winter weather conditions have resulted in some leachate problems at the Hartland Landfill; they are prepared to answer questions from the public on this issue.
- The Affordable Housing Strategy is to be considered by the Board next week and it is expected there will be an implementation strategy within the next few weeks; this is still considered a provincial and federal responsibility in terms of funding.
- The Regional District can do a lot of things at the local level, such as working efficiently with local communities and agencies to provide housing for the homeless.
- They are still waiting on a response from the federal and provincial governments on the affordable housing issue; hopefully information will be received within the next few weeks.

Adjournment

On a Motion from Councillor Gillespie, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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MUNICIPAL CLERK