



Director's Corner

Wells Gray Country-Electoral Area 'A'

TNRD

TNRD BOD's Meeting Highlights July 16, 2009

Planning applications and related items dominated the TNRD Board meeting on Thursday. A proposal for a 71 unit Mobile Home Park in the Pritchard area received a favorable third reading despite significant public objection. The majority of the objections related to the capacity of the community water and sewer systems which are in need of repair and upgrading. A related item which involves extension of the water and sewer systems to the proposed mobile home park was adopted. The extension of services requires the mobile home park owner to pay \$456,000 in service connection fees over time as the project expands.

Many issues were taken into account when approving this contested zoning application. The project itself is intended to provide much needed affordable seniors housing that is near a major centre, the cash input from the developer will assist in upgrading the local infrastructure, the added tax base will diversify costs of future upgrades to the sewer and water systems, highway access improvements to the area are pending, as well, the majority of the objection was related to the sewer and water systems, not directly related to zoning issues. Third reading of the zoning bylaw passed by a narrow margin of 13 to 11 votes.

Other planning issues involved a commercial RV storage facility in Knutsford of which there is a very high demand for in the Kamloops area, rezoning three Savona properties along Kamloops Lake from commercial to residential status, approval of a small strata development, City of Merritt boundary expansion and once again several "Notice on Title" filings where property owners have built structures without a permit. With a notice on title filed prospective buyers are forewarned of existing violations and building code infractions.

The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Implementation Committee put forward a resolution that staff be directed to prepare a tender for a 2-year recycling processing contract, specifying that the TNRD would prefer and have the ethical responsibility to make recyclable commodities available to markets within British Columbia and the Northwest United States. The City of Kamloops recycling contract expires in 2 years. TNRD and City of Kamloops staff have started discussions whereby a joint contract may be negotiated in the future, hopefully with increased volume the result will be a lower cost per tonne processing fee to area taxpayers. A second resolution regarding the dispute resolution process was referred back to the committee as one of the parties named did not wish to be involved in the process.

The votes are in and counted and so a decision is now final on the issue of the Vavenby Industrial Park Taxation that is provided to the community of Vavenby. The funds will be accumulated for the period of 2008-2012. At that point residents within the Vavenby Fire Protection boundaries will once again be asked how they would like to spend the funds. Most likely a similar process will be used whereby public meetings are held to obtain input and then another mail out ballot will be sent to property owners.

Mayor Harwood and I met with an individual regarding the proposed Youth Activity Trust. An interesting proposal that meets part of the goals of this project was put forward. Work on this item is ongoing; hopefully positive results will eventually be seen.

Once again I have met with a significant business in the Cariboo. We are now discussing their possible expansion to include Log Home Construction and a Wood Pellet Plant. The business involved is taking steps to investigate timber supply for their operations in order to determine if expansion for them is in fact viable. Minister of Forests, Pat Bell provided some interesting options which I relayed to the Cariboo business. Myself and the District of Clearwater will continue to work on this project.

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Disclaimer: These comments are personal comments of Wells Gray Country Electoral Area 'A' Director Tim Pennell and in no way reflect the comments, opinion or position of the Thompson Nicola Regional District Board of Directors