



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

AGENDA

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009
5:00 PM

- (1) CALL TO ORDER
- (2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- (3) NEW BUSINESS
- (4) MATTERS REFERRED

(a) Matter referred from the March 9, 2009 Regular Meeting of Council re:

“THAT a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting be scheduled for Council to review the information concerning Development Cost Charges prior to the public consultation meeting.”

- (5) DELEGATION

(a) Katrine Conroy, MLA, West Kootenay Boundary re: Questions submitted by Council.

- (6) CLOSE OF MEETING

Development
Cost Charges
(information
previously
copied to
Council)

Katrine Conroy,
MLA
7:00 PM

RE: Questions for MLA Katrine Conroy

1. What is your position on STV?
 - a. What do you see as the strongest merits and biggest issues?
 - b. What do you anticipate the local impacts to be?
 - c. The impact of STV on local government if it becomes law?

2. Many worthy resolutions came to the legislature from the UBCM convention last September. **Please comment and update** us on the following:
 - a. B27 PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHEDS The text of this resolution only protects watershed lakes despite the implication of the title to give broad protection to all water resources and watersheds.
 - i. What is your position on providing more stringent protection for lands and watercourses located within designated water sheds?
 - ii. What can be done to expand this protection beyond lakes?
 - iii. Are you familiar with designated Watershed Reserves (categories 1-3) that were granted throughout BC? What can be done to reinstate the protections these designations traditionally provided?
 - iv. The need for protection of water resources in general and our watershed in particular. We need to get information from the government about the status of the watershed reserves that are already in place and the power that those reserves give to Rossland Council?
 - b. B38 private power projects- requiring a coordinated approach to dealing with all aspects of IPPs
 - i. What is your position on IPPs in general and why?
 - ii. What are the strongest arguments for and against?
 - iii. How do you respond to those who say IPP represents “green energy” and is better than conventional methods of generating energy- such as the construction of huge hydroelectric dams?
 - iv. The need to ensure that electric power is publicly controlled and that no further IPPs are permitted.
 - c. B47 Support for agricultural initiatives- a bill supporting local food security efforts.
 - d. B81- banning sale of cosmetic pesticides- not just banning use
 - e. B82 control of pesticides- controlling use on private lands
 - f. B88 Banning thin film plastic bags.
 - i. This resolution bans bags outright. What would be your position on a resolution to amend the regulations under the Community Charter by granting additional powers for environmental protection to municipalities under the *Community Charter Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 144/2004 to provide municipalities with the authority to prohibit the distribution of single use, thin film shopping bags by businesses?

3. Tourism is an important element of our local economy. For two years we received a UBCM grant to help establish a DMO that has been very successful but still needs additional support. That funding no longer exists. What is the provincial government doing to assist tourism based communities? The need for more support for tourism from the provincial government. Small local governments can't be expected, or afford, to get in to bidding wars with their neighbours for tourism dollars.

4. What is the provincial government doing to help small communities diversify their economies and become more resilient? What incentives are there for small, localized start-ups and entrepreneurs? Is there assistance to develop small green business parks? Or innovation incubators? The minimum wage needs to be increased so that communities who rely on tourism can attract residents who can earn enough to afford to buy homes and raise families.
5. The Min of Education has issued the "Disposal of lands or Improvements Order" which does not allow local governments adequate consultation or control over school lands deemed to be surplus. A number of municipalities are protesting this order. What is your position on this matter and what can be done about it?
6. Council would like to discuss rural schools and funding for the future in order to maintain K-12 in rural communities and what the government is doing to manage the small schools concept, promoting and funding green initiatives for schools, and supporting the Community Learning Centers models so that rural communities can retain K-12 while housing a variety of other community ventures?
7. The need for more effort by the provincial government on consultation with municipalities before decisions are made by other ministries that will affect municipalities. For example, the sale of surplus lands by school boards, changes to highways, issues with streams, etc.
8. The issue of regional governance. All local government need to know what's involved, the financial impacts, the pros and cons, etc.
9. There need to be more help from the government to allow municipalities establish affordable housing. This help could come in the way of more grants, changes in legislation, etc.
10. Council has requested feedback to the following three potential resolutions:

1.WHEREAS small agricultural producers are significant contributors to local, sustainable food production and associated economies, and

WHEREAS many small producers are struggling and even ceasing production under current regulatory and economic conditions, which could result in loss of local production and negatively impact the sustainability of BC communities,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Province support the creation and implementation of food systems planning within each Regional District, including agricultural area plans; local food security plans and action strategies; impact assessments related to the effects of current meat processing regulations; and continuous core funding for establishment of a food system coordinator position within each Regional District, *in order that* all BC communities can work towards and implement solutions which support local food resilience and supply.

2.WHEREAS there is considerable concern about the environmental impacts of certain types of independent power projects (such as the proposed run-of-the-river project on Glacier & Howser rivers in the West Kootenays), and

WHEREAS there is also concern that the province's requirement that all new power projects come from the private sector essentially gives a public resource to private companies,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Province re-claim water as a public resource, re-evaluate the environmental standards associated with all hydro projects, and give back to local governments the power to approve or dis-approve of power projects that impact their communities.

3.WHEREAS British Columbia is the only province in Canada that does not pay medical benefits for the seniors population and;

WHEREAS this is an onerous financial cost (tax) for this respected sector of the population of BC,

I HEREBY make a motion that the BC Liberal Government immediately implement MSP basic premiums for all seniors in the province turning 65 years of age or upon retirement, which ever comes first.