



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ROSSLAND

AGENDA

**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009
7:00 PM**

- (1) CALL TO ORDER**
- (2) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- (3) NEW BUSINESS**
 - (a) Review of 2009 Budget**
 - (i) Fiscal Services**
 - (ii) Revenues**
 - (iii) Carryforward Items**
 - (iv) Capital Budget**
 - (v) Sidebar Items / Community Group Requests**
 - (vi) Water & Sewer Parcel Tax**
 - (b) Recommendations from Councillor Stradling**
- (4) INFORMATION ITEMS**
- (5) NEXT MEETING – MARCH , 2009 @ 7:00 PM**
- (6) CLOSE OF MEETING**



March 4, 2009

Rossland City Council
Rossland BC
VOG 1Y0

Dear Mayor Granstrom and Councillors,

As you may know Tourism Rossland has been successfully marketing Rossland to the world for the past two years. We have focused on building the destination tourism market and are working on many exciting projects in the coming year. Despite the current economic downturn, we are pleased to announce that last year we saw an increase of 5.95% in accommodation revenue over the previous year.

We would like to request that we create a service contract with the City of Rossland to continue to provide destination marketing services for our community. In previous years Tourism Rossland has received the UBCM tourism funds from the City of Rossland which has proved to be critical funding for our organization. Unfortunately the UBCM funding has been discontinued, and we are looking at being forced to close our office and work out of my home.

We would like to request funding of \$30,000 for the upcoming year, which is equivalent to the UBCM funds which we have been receiving. Our proven record and ability to leverage funding should be considered as we are confident that we would be able to leverage this full amount of funding. In both 2007 and 2008 we were able to leverage the UBCM funding by doubling its value by matching it with other funding.

On behalf of our board I look forward to discussing this proposal with you further.

Yours sincerely,

Deanne Steven, MBA
Executive Director

High Altitude,
Great Altitude



Tourism Rossland is Rossland's Destination Marketing Organisation and works collaboratively with input from all Rossland tourism stakeholders. The organisation is a registered non-profit society which was formed in 2007.

The mission of the organisation is to work in a fair and unbiased manner to grow Rossland's year round tourism economy within the context of the community's vision and values.

Managing by objectives, Tourism Rossland leads, directs and manages tourism development on behalf of Rossland by building on the existing strengths of local businesses and organizations, by being inclusive in nature, and developing strategic alliances.

The DMO supports local business and industry to improve product to meet changing market demands. By two-way communication, stakeholders will provide input into the process to achieve the objectives.

The Board of Directors of Tourism Rossland is made up of the following:

City of Rossland	2 Directors
Mountain Resort Association	3 Directors
Additional Hotel Room Tax Collectors (Accommodators)	2 Directors
Rossland Chamber of Commerce	1 Director
Red Resort	1 Director
Redstone Golf Course	1 Director
History/Arts Culture Sector (Rossland Museum Society or the Rossland Council for Arts and Culture)	1 Director
Community Recreational Assets (Kootenay Columbia Trails Society, or Blackjack Cross Country Club)	1 Director

Tourism Rossland is funded by the collection of the AHRT Tax, the City of Rossland, and the Red Mountain Resort Association in addition to various government grants.

To become a member of Tourism Rossland a company or organization must be a member of the Rossland Chamber of Commerce and a tourism business.

Deanne Steven is the Executive Director and has an MBA specializing in marketing.

High Altitude
Great Attitude

Beaks

318 103th
Castlegar, BC V1N3G2

Our Mission: "Reducing wild bird injury and death through education, rehabilitation and release"

March 4th, 2009

Rossland City Council

Re: Request for funding

Bird Emergency And Care Society (BEAKS) is desperately in need of financial support in order to provide continued care for our feathered friends. The only bird care centre within 600 kilometers, BEAKS has been in operation since 1971 and has had society status for over 10 years.

BEAKS has the capacity to care for between 350 and 400 wild birds each year but due to a shortage of funds we had to turn away more than 100 injured and orphaned birds- 98% of the of bird injuries are caused by humans and their domestic pets. Costs range from \$70 for song birds to \$300 for large raptors. The average cost is \$90 per bird. We track where the birds come from- on average, 25% come from Rossland. At \$90 per bird this adds up to an expense of \$8,550 annually just for the bird care. Our total budget runs between \$43,000 and \$47,000 each year.

I am a licensed rehabilitator and founder of BEAKS. I have donated my house and savings to caring for injured birds in the West Kootenays for 37 years. My efforts have been recognized multiple times, including the prestigious West Kootenay Eco-Society Lifetime Achievement Award in April 2008 and the 2008 Castlegar Super Hero Award. Our center could not operate without a dedicated team of volunteers.

It was heartbreaking for me to turn away 9 pigmy owls and 2 great horned owls recently, but caring for raptors is especially costly and with no frozen mice or wild meat to spare in the freezers, it just wasn't possible to take them on. (Frozen mice come at a cost of \$2 each and pigmy owls eat a minimum of 9 mice a day. Plus we have to rely on word of mouth for donations of wild meat.)

There are currently 52 adult birds on-site that need round the clock attention prior to being set free in the Spring and early Summer. It is not uncommon in the summer months for the center, to handle up to 120 baby birds at any one time.

BEAKS applies for various grants-regularly and has greatly appreciated funding from the following donors over the last few years: Osprey Foundation, BC Gaming, Shell/Esso, BC Hydro, and the City of Castlegar. The rest of our operating costs come from donations and our community fundraising efforts. This is the first year we have approached individual municipalities asking for their support for the birds that come to us from their city. Please see the attached chart of bird distribution for last year.

We are hoping that the City of Rossland will see this as a worthy cause to support financially and are asking to be considered for annual funding. Tax deductible receipts will be issued and donors will be noted on our new web-site, due to be publicly released in the early Spring.

BEAKS will be greatly appreciative of any donation the city can make towards its \$8,550 share of the costs.

Thank you for your consideration of our needs; any questions can be directed to Carol at 250-365-3701.

Carol Pettigrew
President

Birds by City Origin

Estimate for 2008*

Total birds:

375

Care expense -average \$90 per bird

City	# of Birds	\$ Costs	%
Nelson	186	\$ 16,740.00	50%
Rossland	95	\$ 8,550.00	25%
Montrose, Warfield, Trail, Fruitvale	75	\$ 6,750.00	20%
Castlegar	19	\$ 1,687.50	5%
Totals	375	\$ 33,727.50	100%

* estimate only as final books will be completed Mid-March.

Attention:
Tracey Butler
Rossland City Counsel

As you are aware, the animal control contract between the City of Rossland and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Animals (BC SPCA) is coming up due. We would like to inform you that the BC SPCA would very much like to renew this contract but would like to increase your fee. Our cost for utilities and maintaining the shelter has gone up over the years and we need to consider that when negotiating this contract. That said, we are asking for an increase of \$50.00 per month. This would make your fee \$500.00 per month or \$6000.00 over one year. If you have any questions please contact Danielle Jackman at 250-368-5910 or by email at djackman@spca.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Danielle Jackman
Branch Manager
BC SPCA Trail Regional Branch
djackman@spca.bc.ca
250-368-5910

**CITY OF ROSSLAND
ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET 2008 - 2009**

REVENUES	2008 Budget	2008 Actual	2009 Budget	SPCA 2009 Proposal
Dog Tags	8,000	9,069	8,500	8,500
Dog Fines	1,500	1,675	1,500	1,500
Total Revenues	<u>9,500</u>	<u>10,744</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
EXPENSES				
SPCA Contract	5,600	5,400	5,500	6,000 * 11.11% increase
Dog Tags (purchase)	500	265	400	400
SPCA Commission	300	465	500	500
Commissionaire Services	1,400	824	1,400	1,400
	<u>7,800</u>	<u>6,954</u>	<u>7,800</u>	<u>8,300</u>
Net Profit from Animal Control	<u>1,700</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>1,700</u>

<p>SPCA Contract:</p> <p>2008 - \$450.00/month - \$5,400.00/year</p> <p>2009 request - \$500.00/month - \$6,000.00/year (11.11% increase)</p>
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KENNELING AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into this 3rd day of April, 2006

BETWEEN: The British Columbia Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("the BC SPCA")
1245 East 7th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5T 1R1

AND: The Corporation of the City of Rossland ("the City")
Box 1179
Rossland, B.C.
V0G 1Y0

WHEREAS the City of Rossland wishes to utilize the animal shelter services as provided at the Trail Branch of the BC SPCA ("the Branch"), Highway 3B, Trail, B.C., for the period commencing February 15, 2006 to February 14, 2009.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the covenants herein contained, the parties hereto covenant and agree each with other as follows:

PART I - THE CITY'S DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The City shall pay to the Branch a monthly access fee of \$450.00 per month for the period February 15, 2006 to February 14, 2009. Said fee shall be paid by cheque by the fifth day of each month.

PART II - THE BCSPCA'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Branch shall provide for the City kennel space at the Trail SPCA Animal Shelter for impounding dogs captured in Rossland by its bylaw officers.
2. The Branch shall grant the City 24 hour access to the Trail SPCA Animal Shelter for impounding dogs captured in Rossland by its bylaw officers.
3. The Branch shall provide the City with key access to the Trail SPCA Animal Shelter for after hour impounding of dogs.
4. The Branch shall provide to the City a monthly report, in a form satisfactory to the City, on all fines collected; impound fees charged; licenses purchased and euthanasia charges levied.

PART III - FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

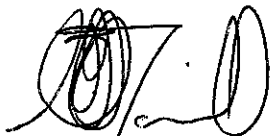
1. An owner may claim a dog impounded at the Trail SPCA Animal Shelter upon payment of an impound fee to the Branch of \$35.00 for the first day and \$15.00 for each additional day up to a maximum of three working days. Thereafter, the Branch may offer the dog for adoption and shall retain all adoption fees thereby charged.

2. The City shall pay to the Branch a fee of \$45.00 for euthanasia services provided by the Branch, for any dog impounded and not claimed by the owner and deemed unadoptable by the branch. The City is responsible for impound fees accumulated prior to euthanasia at the rates established under item 1, Part III above.
3. During the impoundment period for any dog, the Branch shall contact the City for approval of emergency veterinary fees required by the dog. Emergency veterinary fees shall be paid by the City. After the impoundment period, veterinary fees shall be at the cost of the Branch.
4. The Branch shall retain a 25% commission on all fines and license fees collected by the Branch on behalf of the City.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED

The Corporate Seal of the BCSPCA
and the City of Rossland were hereunto
affixed in the presence of its proper officers
in that behalf:

For the BCSPCA:



Craig Daniell, CEO

(Seal)

For the City



(MAYOR)



(CITY CLERK)

(Seal)

Recommendations from Councillor Stradling to CoW 11 March 2009

Rationale

Our new Council is faced with the challenge of responding quickly to the rapidly changing economic climate which is already impacting our community. In reviewing the current draft of the 5-yr plan I see too many indications that we are proceeding as though it is business as usual. Many of the departmental budgets show significant increases over last-year's actual expenditures. There is little evidence of a significant attempt to cut costs, and perhaps some restructuring of our departments, to reflect the expected decrease in housing construction and amenity migration into the community. I also feel that Council deserves the opportunity to consider a shift in priorities and public spending to those services and programs that might help us protect us from further downsizing of our community, and help us emerge quicker and stronger from the current recession.

My recommendations reflect my experience in developing the 2009 budget and business plan for my own organization. I had to prepare several scenarios for my upper management to consider, including worst case scenarios. I think Council should expect our senior staff to prepare some similar scenarios for us to consider for 2009 so that we might take more proactive action to address our current situation. The 5-yr plan Council chooses to adopt would likely not resemble any of the three scenarios contemplated below, but some hybrid of these.

1. That staff prepare two additional budget scenarios for Council to review at a Committee of the Whole meeting to be held prior to approval of the 5-yr financial plan. These shall include specifically: a) a '*Standstill Budget*' where 2009 Total General Fund Expenditures are frozen at the level of 2008 actual expenditures ie. \$7,458,345, and b) a '*Reduced Budget*' where 2009 Total General Expenditures are reduced from 2008 actual expenditure levels by 10%, that is to \$6,712,510. These shall be presented to council on the form of a high-level budget summary, broken down into Administration, Protective Services, Transportation, Environmental Health, Public Health, Planning & Development, Recreation & Culture, and Fiscal Services. Against each of these eight expenditure categories staff shall provide a brief narrative outlining the impact that these two budget scenarios will have on public services, programs and city hall staffing levels relative to the initial CPI Indexed budget.
2. That staff prepare for Council, a summary report on departmental staffing levels and municipal salary and labour costs over the past five years, and as projected in the current five-year plan. This should be broken down to distinguish between permanent and temporary staff, full-time and part-time, management and bargaining unit personnel.
3. That staff prepare for Council, an estimate of the expected 2009 general, parcel and utility tax revenues that would be collected from Rossland residents if mill rates were held constant at 2008 levels. There were no other municipal tax increases beyond the water and sewer rate increases currently before council, and potential RDKB increases outside our control. Any increase in the city's property tax revenues would be limited to new home construction and BC assessment increases.