



Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council

November 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers

Members Present: Mayor D. Funk
Councillor H. Wiebe – via Zoom
Councillor C. Rensby – via Zoom
Councillor K. White – via Zoom
Councillor K. Bjarnason – via Zoom

Staff Present: CAO S. Worthing
DCO, V. Anderson

Guests: Paul Davidson, BL Public Library Board Chair
Monika Willner, Library Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor D. Funk Called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded by Council:

2021-11-09: 346

THAT the Agenda for November 9, 2021 Special Meeting of Council is approved as presented.

CARRIED

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. DELEGATIONS AND PETITION

5. REPORTS

5.a 2022 Budget Presentation - Burns Lake Public Library

- Library Director M. Willner presented the highlights for 2021.
- M. Willner spoke about the 2021-2023 strategic plan.
- The library was closed to the public for 4 months in 2021.
- 1,589 cardholders, designation by VBL, Area B and Area E.
- BC one cardholders make up 25% of cardholders.
- The library has a number of community partners, LAFS was used as an example.
- Two new partnerships with Northern Health and Alzheimer Society of BC.
- Alzheimer's sessions for caregivers are currently online.
- Southside residents can order books from the library and items are sent on the WOW bus. Lakes Literacy operates the WOW bus.
- The curbside service is still operating due to demand.
- Safety items were added to the library in 2021.
- Improved technology for Zoom meetings was installed in 2021.
- Summer reading club, 190 were enrolled, double from previous years.
- 5 out of 6 First Nation communities participated in this program
- 180 packages for the summer reading program were sent out each week.
- Board Chair P. Davidson gave a financial overview, highlighting the challenges resulting from the pandemic.
- COVID cost the library a lot financially in 2021.
- Employee hours were reduced.
- 67% of costs are tied to wages and benefits.
- Self-generated revenue was \$10,000 lower than forecast.
- Forecasting a \$14,000 deficit for 2021 and \$54,775 for 2022.
- Staff has cut 3% (\$12,400) from the 2022 budget
- The library is anticipating a modest return to normal operations.
- COVID has challenged staff's ability to budget forecast.
- Wednesday and Thursday will once again be open to 7:00 pm.
- The library board has approved a strategy for recruitment and a modest increase in wages.

- Looking towards more full-time employees versus part-time to improve retention.
- Currently are lobbying First Nation bands for financial support.
- 2014-2020 budget forecast slide was shown.
- The accountant provided information that shows that the library needs \$50,000 in the bank at the beginning of the year to maintain operations.
- Predictions for 2023 were shared.
- Request that council continue to lobby the government to increase funding to libraries throughout the province.
- Request for additional financial assistance for 2022 of \$50,000 was made.
- Mayor Funk thanked the delegation for the presentation.


6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

7. ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded by Council:

2021-10-09: 347

THAT November 9, 2021 Special Meeting of Council be adjourned at 5:58 pm.



MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER