

**MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011
GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Governance and Priorities Committee was held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday, February 8, 2011.

PRESENT: **MAYOR:** Bruce Decoux

COUNCILORS: Siegbert Gail, Brian Gallant, Larry Mitchell,
Emile Saindon, Andrew Saje

Absent: Councillor Jerry Lonsbury

Also present:

Chief Administrative Officer	Tully Clifford
Director of Finance & Systems	Marion Vanoni
Director of Operational Services	Myron Thompson
Director of Legislative and HR Services	Lynne Cox
Recording Secretary	Carolee Ison

Absent:
Director of Community Services Cam Mertz

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Decoux called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions

Topics for Discussion

2. Update on the Affordable Housing Committee

Deletions

Delegations

2. John Pundyk and Shane Stewart – Development/Taxation

G#95-11: Mayor Decoux moved to adopt the agenda as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

Crowsnest Pass Conservation Society – Judy Cooke, President

Ms. Judy Cooke, President of the Crowsnest Conservation Society, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Crowsnest Conservation Society which included:

- Founded in 2001 with the vision to increase environmental awareness in the community
- Achieved charitable status in 2009
- Membership has grown to almost 100 members
- Committed to the promotion of conservation values in the community through practical initiatives and community partnerships
- The majority of activities are volunteer
- Several grants have allowed the organization to complete projects through contract services
- The Strategic Plan was updated in January 2011 identifying priorities and activities to achieve their goals which include:

Program Goal #1: Conservation of the Natural Environment

Objective 1: To promote integration of wildlife connectivity measures in the operation and future development of the Highway 3 corridor

Objective 2: To support development that is economically and ecologically sustainable in the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass

Objective 3: To be a local voice for water conservation and stewardship

Objective 4: To support integration of ecologically sensitive practices in decisions on use of public lands in and adjacent to Crowsnest Pass

Program Goal #2: Promotion of Environmental Values in the Community

Objective 1: To promote awareness and enjoyment of the unique natural heritage of the Crowsnest Pass among residents and visitors

Ms. Cooke extended an invitation to attend a Community Forum “*Conservation is part of our economic future. Why is it important to protect and sustain the natural landscape of Crowsnest Pass?*” on February 24, 2011 at the Lions Hall at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Crowsnest Pass BearSmart Committee

Ms. Elizabeth Anderson, Crowsnest Pass BearSmart Committee, was in attendance for a presentation to Council on the Crowsnest Pass BearSmart Program. The presentation included:

- The BearSmart Program was initiated by the Province of Alberta in May 2006
- Endorsed by the Municipality in May 2006
- Full commitment to a BearSmart Community in May 2010 as an action of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
- Wildlife attractants and hot spot locations were identified by the Miistakis Institute
- Garbage and apples were identified as the main attractants
- The BearSmart Committee is a volunteer group that is a subcommittee of the Crowsnest Conservation Society

DELEGATIONS – Crowsnest Pass BearSmart Committee - Continued

- A majority of the group’s work has focused on managing attractants and promoting public safety through bear awareness
- Partners include Fish and Wildlife, school groups, Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, and program funders
- Goals and activities include:
 - Bear Awareness and Education
 - Managing Attractants
 - Hot Spot Bear Monitoring
 - Waste Management
- Feel there are areas that can be improved in Bylaw 670, 2006 and would be willing to speak to Council or individuals that may be reviewing the bylaw
- Suggested a note be included in the Municipal utility bills to educate residents on the Bylaw in reference to requirements for animal proof waste containers
- The BearSmart Program takes a preventative approach to promoting a safe community and the surrounding areas for residents and visitors
- Programs address bear awareness and attractant management designed to mitigate human-bear conflicts

Further discussion included:

- Canmore found that curb-side recycling was a wildlife attractant and provides drop off recycling
- Bins are available to be purchased from the BearSmart Committee for approximately \$200.00 each or can be borrowed free of charge through the Bin Loan Program
- Estimated there are approximately 70 to 80 black bear and 30 grizzly bear occurrences reported per year; yearly occurrences are dependent on factors such as the local berry crop
- Currently no website or smart phone application exists to advise visitors of local bear occurrences
- During the fall months Fish and Wildlife provide weekly bear occurrence updates in the *Community Bear Briefs* section of both newspapers
- On a province wide scale grizzly bear populations are on a decline
- There are currently two Karelian Bear dogs in the program

Mayor Decoux thanked the delegations for their presentations and advised that any suggestions relative to the bylaw may be provided to the Chief Administrative Officer in writing.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Amended Bylaw 817, 2011, The Distribution Tariff Bylaw

Ms. Marion Vanoni, Director of Finance and Systems, provided Council with a written report on Amended Bylaw 817, 2011 – The Distribution Tariff Bylaw, Schedule C Distribution Tariff – Fee Schedule and reviewed the report with Council which included Administration’s recommendation:

“That the Governance and Priorities Committee recommend Council approve all three readings of Bylaw 817, 2011 – The Distribution Tariff Bylaw that incorporates an amended fee structure in accordance with the Municipality’s Wire Service Provider contract with ENMAX Power Corporation.”

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION - Amended Bylaw 817, 2011, Distribution Tariff Bylaw - Continued

- ENMAX Power Corporation has the authority to determine the pricing for fees charged to retailers for specific activities and services in accordance with the Wire Service Provider contract between the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and ENMAX Power Corporation
- Alberta Utilities Commission has approved the fee schedule with the applicable increases
- Through Bylaw 817, 2011, Council approves and incorporates this new fee structure into Schedule C Distribution Tariff-Fee Schedule associated with the Municipality's Distribution Tariff Bylaw
- Bylaw 817, 2011 will be forwarded to ENMAX Power Corporation and posted on the Municipal website when approved
- The amendment is required within sixty days of the January 18, 2011 email notification from ENMAX Power Corporation to the Municipality
- The Municipality is obligated to amend the Municipality's Distribution Tariff-Fee Schedule to include the amended fee structure as provided by ENMAX Power Corporation based on the Alberta Utilities Commission Decision 2010-593 and the contract between the Municipality and ENMAX
- The fees are for service charged by ENMAX to retailers accessing the Municipal Electrical Distribution System to sell electricity, and do not have a direct financial impact on the Municipality
- The bylaws and electrical service area maps are available on the Municipal website
- The Municipal Electrical Distribution system can be viewed on the website allowing residents to determine whether their wire service provider is Fortis Alberta or the Municipality
- The Municipality receives revenue when ENMAX bills retailers for usage of the Municipal Electrical System

Further discussion included:

- The Municipality does not have standby emergency power, but does have the capability to bring in large generators to link into the substations
- The Municipality is a wire service which is fed off points of delivery belonging to Fortis
- Energy come in through AltaLink → Fortis Pod →Municipal electrical wires and poles
- The energy coming into the wires is the responsibility of Fortis
- Information on expanding the Municipal Electrical Distribution system will be provided in the Electrical Capital Upgrade Plan
- Council requested further research be provided on the possibility of electrical distribution from both the east and west sides of the community
- The Director of Finance advised that in 2010 a rate increase of almost 36% was brought forward on electrical rates, which had not been increased since 2002, in order to bring them up to similar rates offered by other Alberta municipal power suppliers; another rate increase will be provided for Council's consideration as part of discussions on the Capital Upgrade of the system
- The Municipality is responsible for the replacement and upkeep of the wires and poles
- The Electrical Capital Upgrade Plan will addresses conditions of the system and provide further details on the entire power distribution and transmission system

G#96-11: Councilor Saje moved to recommend that Council accept Bylaw 817, 2011 - The Distribution Tariff Bylaw amendment as written at the next Council Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION - Continued

Update on the Affordable Housing Committee

The Director of Legislative Services advised that information requested on the Affordable Housing Committee will be provided to Council at the March 8, 2011 Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting.

IN CAMERA

G#97-11: Councilor Gail moved that Council go In Camera at 7:54 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECESS/RECONVENE

Mayor Decoux recessed the meeting at 7:54 pm and reconvened In Camera at 8:00 pm.

OUT OF CAMERA BUSINESS

G#98-11: Councilor Mitchell moved that Council come Out of Camera at 9:10 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AJOURN

G#99-11: Councilor Saindon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bruce Vernon Decoux

MAYOR

Tully Clifford

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER