



**DISTRICT OF HIGHLANDS
MINUTES OF ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 @ 7:06 PM**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ken Williams
Councillor Leslie Anderson
Councillor Ann Baird
Councillor Gord Baird
Councillor Marcie McLean
Councillor Karel Roessingh
Councillor Rose Stanton

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Administrative Officer Lorraine Hilton
Corporate Officer Deb Hopkins
Fire Chief Dean Ford

PUBLIC OBSERVATION: 0

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor McLean
That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2021

Moved Councillor Roessingh, Seconded Councillor McLean
That the minutes of the April 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1

Report, Chief Administrative Officer, May 6, 2021 (0640.30)
RE: PERIOD 1 – ACTIVITY REPORT, JANUARY 1 TO APRIL 30, 2021

The Chief Administrative Officer provided highlights of the departmental activities undertaken during Period 1 of 2021 and responded to questions from Council.

The Fire Chief was in attendance to discuss outdoor burning complaints and regulatory authority, and to respond to questions from Council. Discussion included:

- Regulations for location of outdoor burning;
- Complaints about materials burned and toxicity of smoke;
- Permitting process;
- Potential to implement regulations by bylaw;
- Ongoing education to achieve continued compliance and alleviate neighbour concerns; and
- Authority to enforce for fire prevention but not health regulations.

Staff in attendance also responded to questions from Council with respect to the Period 1 Activity Report.

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor McLean

That the January 1 to April 30, 2021 activity reports attached to the report of the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

CARRIED

5.2

Ministry of Municipal Affairs, COVID Safe Restart Grant FAQs (1855.38)

RE: COVID-19 SAFE RESTART GRANT DISCUSSION

Council reviewed the FAQ sheet provided by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs on potential uses for the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant provided to the District in December 2020.

Council discussion included:

- Using funds to increase staff capacity to achieve strategic priorities delayed by the pandemic;
- Opportunities to adjust the current budget to use grant funds to offset strategic plan delays;
- Determining which projects or proposals could qualify for acceptable use of grant funds;
- 2021 budget impacts are yet to be determined and there could be additional COVID-19 impacts; there is flexibility to draw down on the grant throughout the year;
- Concerns about potential risks of having to pay back funds for uses that are not permitted; and
- Implementing a creative approach to leveraging the funds for community benefit.

The Chief Administrative Officer responded to questions from Council. Ms. Hilton commented that Council has received information regarding the uses of the funds to date and that information was included in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan identifying anticipated costs and opportunities to offset these costs with grant funding. Ms. Hilton said that funding new staffing costs are not believed to qualify for use of the grants funds unless the work to be undertaken is directly related to COVID.

Moved Councillor Stanton, Seconded Councillor Anderson

That the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' COVID Safe Restart Grant FAQs be received.

CARRIED

6. IN CAMERA

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved Councillor McLean

That the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 10, 2021 adjourn at 8:16 pm.

CARRIED