



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

June 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Directors Present:

Chair Sperling, Electoral Area C
Vice-Chair Rose, Electoral Area E
Director Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek
Director Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd
Director Fraser, District of Taylor
Director Goodings, Electoral Area B
Director Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope
Director Hiebert, Electoral Area D
Director Smith, Village of Pouce Coupe
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John
Alternate Director Hansen, City of Fort St. John

Directors Absent:

Director Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
Director Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge

Staff Present:

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
Roxanne Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Tabatha Young, Deputy Corporate Officer
Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services
Katherine Suggitt, General Manager of Development Services
Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager
Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager
Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Services Manager
Trevor Ouellette, IT Manager
Matthew Bascom, Electoral Area Intern
Brenda Deliman, Recording Clerk

Delegations:

Dawson Creek RCMP Detachment – Staff Sergeant Damon Werrell
Chetwynd RCMP Detachment – Sergeant Wahnese Antonioni
Northern Health – Angela De Smit (in person), Steven Prins (via Zoom) and
Angela Pontius (via Zoom)



1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CW/22/06/01

MOVED

Director Heiberg

SECONDED

Director Hiebert

That the Committee of the Whole adopt the June 9, 2022 meeting agenda:

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Gallery Comments or Questions

4. Delegations

4.1. Dawson Creek and Chetwynd RCMP Detachments - Policing Priorities for 2022

4.2. Northern Health - Northern Health Recruitment

5. Reports

5.1. Health Care Scholarship Committee Terms of Reference Review, ADM-COW-007

6. Media Questions

7. Adjournment

CARRIED

3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Dawson Creek and Chetwynd RCMP Detachments - Policing Priorities for 2022 (10 am)

The Committee of the Whole received a presentation from Staff Sergeant Damon Werrell, of the Dawson Creek RCMP Detachment, on policing priorities for 2022 – 2023. Topics included:

- Total calls for service 2018-2021
- Crime trends 2019-2021 (assault, theft, motor vehicle theft, *Mental Health Act*, drugs, break & enter)
- Where police resources are presently being used (property crime, traffic, drugs, assault, mental health)
- Impacts of COVID restrictions
- Resources used in *Mental Health Act* calls
- Theft in rural areas
- Primary Priority 1 - Public Safety (identify cause and annual increases in person's related crimes, media releases intended to reduce intimate partner violence)
- Primary Priority 2 – Accountability & Good Governance (ensure any issues/concerns about level of service are promptly addressed)
- Primary Priority 3 – Employee Excellence & Workplace Culture (support mental wellness, periodic updates to staff to enhance morale including employee recognition)

A question and answer period ensued. Topics included:

- Pouce Coupe Community Policing Office
- Unreported crimes (educating the public, online crime reporting, connectivity issues in rural areas)
- Rural Crime Watch
- Car 60 program (mental health response team)

4.1 Dawson Creek and Chetwynd RCMP Detachments - Policing Priorities for 2022 (cont'd)

The Committee of the Whole received a presentation from Sergeant Wahnese Antonioni, of the Chetwynd RCMP Detachment, on policing priorities for 2022. Topics included:

- Detachment staffing levels
- Reduction in assault and motor vehicle thefts (unreported incidents)
- Traffic (collisions due to road conditions, notice orders vs. ticketing, distracted / impaired driving, speeding)
- Drug and alcohol seizures
- Community Policing Relationships (presence at community / cultural events, transient population care and monitoring, Tansi Friendship Centre)
- Violence in relationships (victim service referrals, improvements needed in documenting, statistics)
- Initiatives (school bus drivers target high incidence locations, roll over simulator, Coffee with the Cops, partner with South Peace Community Resource Society to support both parties in domestic violence situations, Party Program)

A question and answer period ensued. Topics included:

- Rural Crime Watch
- Relationship with industry (industry road patrols, collaboration)
- Transient population and mental health

4.2 Northern Health - Northern Health Recruitment (10:30-11:30 am)

The Committee of the Whole received an update from Northern Health on the recruitment and retention of medical professionals. Topics included:

- Recruitment philosophies (cultural safety, organizational approach, stakeholder engagement, metrics to inform strategies)
- Workforce demographics
- Vacancy rates by local health authority
- Net gains for 2022
- Retention statistics
- Provincial priority professions
- Specific provincial Northern Health initiatives (travel resource, child care and housing programs, Rural Urgent Doctor in-aid virtual support pathway, clinical management supports)
- Provincial recruitment initiatives (Prototype Rural Retention Incentive, Health Career Access Program)
- Ministry of Health incentives
- Northeast highlighted recruitment strategies
- Community collaboration and partnerships (local scholarships / bursaries, strategies to address daycare / housing challenges, partner with municipalities on recruitment / retention initiatives)

4.2 Northern Health - Northern Health Recruitment (cont'd)

A question and answer period ensued. Topics included:

- Local internationally trained health care professionals (barriers to Canadian certification)
- Barriers to northern recruitment (distance from family, housing, comparable employment for spouse, geographic separation from large urban centers, child care)
- Health Care Aides (BC Care Aide & Community Health Worker Registry, unregulated in other provinces)
- Recruitment options (visit universities and colleges located in Alberta, assist with spousal employment, travel / education incentives, advance hiring)
- High staff turnover rate (relocate to larger center, relocate to access specialty education, maternity / paternity leaves, retirement, travel)
- Clinical Mentors (filled position in Fort St. John, vacant position in Dawson Creek)
- Exit interviews (workplace environment, supports, hours, interaction with management, impacts of hospital overcapacity and staff shortages)
- Stay interviews (conducted at regular intervals, work rotations adapted to fit lifestyle / goals)
- Connecting with other professionals at work and in the community

Recess

The Chair recessed the meeting to luncheon and a Regional Board meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Reconvene

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Health Care Scholarship Committee Terms of Reference Review, ADM-COW-007

CW/22/06/02

MOVED

Director Rose

SECONDED

Director Hiebert

That the Committee of the Whole defer the report titled 'Health Care Scholarship Committee Terms of Reference Review, ADM-COW-007' to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

6. MEDIA QUESTIONS



7. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of the Peace River Regional District from a meeting held on June 9, 2022 in the PRRD Board Room, 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.

Brad Sperling, Chair

Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

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