

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KOOTENAY BOUNDARY

**Electoral Area 'E'/West Boundary/Big White
Town Hall Meeting
March 6, 2018**

Notes from the Electoral Area 'E'/West Boundary/Big White Town Hall meeting held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the White Crystal Inn in Big White, BC.

Present: Vicki Gee, Director, Electoral Area 'E'/West Boundary
Mark Andison, Chief Administrative Officer
Maureen Forster, Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Beth Burget, Manager of Finance
Frances Maika, Corporate Communications Officer
Jamie Svendsen, Big White Fire Chief
Chris Cormack, Deputy Fire Chief
Other members of the Big White Fire Department
Jessica Mace, Coordinator, working with Kettle River Watershed Authority

Approximately 50 members of the public.

Director Gee opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Director Gee advised the public that she would be providing a power point presentation on the 2018 Five Year Financial Plan and on the services provided to Electoral Area 'E'/West Boundary/Big White taxpayers.

The power point presentation highlighted the following:

- Staff changes at the Regional District
- Facts about Area 'E'
- Financial Plan Process
- Graphs and charts on taxation and services
- Big White Fire Department
- Big White only services
- Area 'E' wide services
- Animal control
- Grant in Aid priorities
- Gas Tax Program
- Projects
- Advisory Planning Commission

Director Gee provided handouts on the Five Year Financial Plan and Grants in Aid.

The following are some of the comments, questions and concerns that were made during the presentation and Director Gee's responses:

FIRE SERVICE BUDGET

Director Gee explained the three methods of purchasing capital equipment: putting money into reserves each year, short-term borrowing and long-term borrowing. Director Gee supports short-term borrowing. An audience member asked if this was fire department specific and she indicated that these methods are used throughout the RDKB. An audience member asked what the threshold was for a second fire hall and Director Gee indicated that for the long term it's something that the RDKB needs to look at due to the great amount of expansion happening. A question was raised in regards to bringing forward the purchase of a fire truck since it's being budgeting for in 2019. Fire Chief Jamie Svendsen commented that it takes a year to build a fire truck. Once board approval is given, the RDKB issues a Request for Proposal.

NOISE CONTROL

Audience members asked about noise control in Big White. Director Gee informed that audience that RDKB is moving towards a referendum at the next election so see if people want to pay for a bylaw officer.

ANIMAL CONTROL/BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

Discussion ensued on bylaw enforcement. An audience member expressed frustration around parking in front of fire hydrants. The audience asked why one person could not do all three jobs that dealt with noise and animal control and parking infractions. Director Gee informed the audience that currently the RDKB is working on ticketing authority, which will give the RDKB authority to issue tickets for bylaw infractions. This is dependent on creating a service, which would require voters' assent.

RCMP

Director Gee has had a recommendation from the RCMP to use local taxation for more RCMP presence and she is hesitant to support this and she feels that the Board of Directors won't support it either as it involves downloading from the Province. Audience members pointed out that \$250,000 was paid to Palladin for security services and asked why that could not be paid to the RCMP. Concerns were raised by the residents about the risk they face with no RCMP or ambulance services. Director Gee informed the residents that the big issue is that the Province does not provide enough people to provide these services.

REFUSE

Director Gee informed the audience that Big White residents are getting worse with recycling and garbage issues. An audience member suggested that educating people about recycling and garbage disposal might help. Another audience member asked what the contamination rate was for the rest of the RDKB given the fact the Big White's contamination rate is approximately 20%. The unmanned recycling bins' rate is 15% in Midway and Greenwood, which are schedule for closure. It was suggested that refundable cans could be removed from trash and would be a good revenue generator for a community group.

SECURITY

A member of the audience suggested that the RDKB should just have one contract to deal with security, ticketing and/or bylaw infractions. Director Gee informed the audience that there are statutory limitations to this. However, the RDKB could have a service to control animals but a service would have to be established and the residents would need to be asked if they would want to be taxed for that service. Included in the cost would be the cost of impounding animals. House numbering was brought up during this discussion and a resident asked how Big White could have house numbers when it does not have a postal code. Director Gee informed the audience that the RDKB uses physical addresses (i.e. for emergency response). Big White is creating more new physical addresses than the rest of the RDKB.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

An audience member asked whether the RDKB could use short term financing for the community centre. Director Gee informed the audience that permission would be needed from the taxpayers by going to referendum. A resident asked Director Gee, from an RDKB perspective, whether she was happy with the feasibility study that was done for the community centre. She that it was very expensive however, members of the committee were saying, "go big or go home". Discussion ensued on the cost of the community centre. An audience member asked whether Big White could go to a referendum for the land purchase and the rest could be funded through grants. Director Gee provided the audience with a timeline for a referendum. A question was asked about the size of land that would be needed for the centre. Director Gee informed the audience that land acquisition details were confidential.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

An audience member asked why the Big White Official Community Plan (OCP) was ten years old. M. Andison informed the audience that most municipalities are behind in their OCPs as they keep adding to them and amending them. Big White is next in line for a review after Christina Lake, which is taking place now. The planning department has the capacity to work on two OCPs at a time. A member of the audience asked why the RDKB started and then stopped the OCP process for Big White. M. Andison indicated that the Province would not consider incorporation of a resort municipality if the RDKB were actively working on an OCP.

KETTLE RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jessica Mace, Coordinator, working with the Kettle River Watershed Authority, attended the meeting and provided the audience with a presentation on the Plan.

AJOURNMENT

Director Gee thanked the members of the public from Big White for attending the meeting and she adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.