

## Technical Report Review August 19, 2009

### In Attendance:

Mario Pozza	Resident; SPRID Trustee
John Sternig	TNRD Representative; SPRID Trustee
Ines Popig	Resident; SPRID Chair
Tom Reid	Sussex Consultants Ltd.
Kyle McGauchie	Resident
Colleen Hannigan	Resident
Adam Earle	Resident; SPRID Trustee
Al Raine	Resident
Darcy Alexander	Resident: SPRC General Manager & Vice President
Nicky Braithwaite	SPRID Administrative Officer

Tom Reid reviewed the updated technical report and noted changes from the original report completed in 2007. He also informed the group that the Province had notified him that Sun Peaks does not qualify for the lower school tax but the police tax rate is approximately half that presented in the updated report. The net effect of the rates confirmation is that the taxes will increase by approximately \$105. This is up from the 2007 estimate of an \$87 decrease and is based on an average home valued at \$400,000.

It was questioned whether the estimated staff level of 5 FTE is too high. It was explained that although sewer/water employees is not required, tourism initiative coordination staff is.

Mr. Reid reviewed the benefits that would be received for the proposed tax increase as an effect of incorporation (page 78 of the report) and highlighted the following:

Some funding sources are not to be used for funding the administration of the municipality and include:

- The hotel tax – An estimated \$350,000 annually is to be used to fund tourism and marketing initiatives.
- Gas tax funding – An estimated \$65,000 is marked for environmental sustainability projects including but not limited to road improvements and transit.

The overall content of the report was reviewed with the following issues discussed:

- The Province's offer of road assistance includes maintaining the roads up to the end of 2013 plus a lump sum payment of \$65,000. Mr. Reid explained that the reason for this delayed transfer of services is more to do with having the resources to manage rather than the money. The costs in the report have been set up with road upgrades in the first several years and an averaged out maintenance cost.
- It was requested that the \$29,000 under 'Garbage/transfer station' needs to be explained.

- Some important questions arose from the discussions and need to be addressed with the Province:
  - The need for the boundary of the Municipality to be the Controlled Recreation Area as opposed to the Improvement District's boundary
  - Confirmation is required on the size and structure of the council (5 or 7 council positions)
  - Clarification on the appointed positions (i.e. would the appointed position be a representative of the Corporation or the Province)
  - Will a Provincial representative be in attendance at public consultation meetings to address any First Nations consultation questions
  - Is it an option to have the Province continue maintaining the roads
  - It was discussed that the government has created legislation to allow a resort municipality but have not necessarily set up the structure for financial support of such an entity. It was felt that the Province is supportive and there may be some leverage for the Province to help lessen the overall impact. A request for an adjustment to the calculation of the Small Community grant will be made.
  - The effects of the new HST were discussed and its impact on the hotel tax sharing funds.

It was agreed that the decision to move forward to public consultation will not be made until these questions have been answered.