

SUN PEAKS REFERENDUM COMMITTEE

c/o - P.O. Box 1002
Sun Peaks, BC V0E 5N0 Canada
Phone: 250-819-0035

Contact: Nicky Braithwaite (250) 578-8973

administrator@sunpeaksfirerescue.com

Notes from Referendum Committee PUBLIC Meeting - Draft

Date: Saturday January 9, 2010
Time: 3:00 PM
Place: Delta Sun Peaks Resort, Sun Peaks

Committee Members & Staff	Present	Absent
Darcy Alexander	✓	
Al Raine	✓	
Colleen Hannigan	✓	
Nicky Braithwaite (SPRID staff)	✓	
Tom Reid, Sussex Consultants Ltd.	✓	
Gary Paget, Ministry of Community and Rural Development	✓	
Lyle Huntley, TNRD Chief Election Officer	✓	
Cathy Watson, Ministry of Community and Rural Development	✓	

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Colleen Hannigan called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm and introduced the Referendum Committee. She also introduced Lyle Huntley, Gary Paget and Cathy Watson.

She then introduced Tom Reid from Sussex Consulting Ltd, who developed the technical report.

2. Review of Power Point Presentation on the updated Technical Report

Tom highlighted the major points:

- The referendum
 - Ordered by Minister Bennett
 - Voting day January 30, 2010
 - Mail-in ballots allowed
- The approved boundary is the Controlled Recreation Area.
- Voting eligibility
 - Set by BC statutes
- The shift of responsibility from current structure to a municipality
 - Land ownership does not change
 - Municipality would replace the Improvement District, local function of the TNRD and the Province.
- Municipal structure
 - Council structure
 - Mayor and four councillors
 - Serve 3 year term
 - 1 vote each
 - The Province could appoint one council seat (either SPRC or Provincial representative)

- Duties of Council
 - Set policies for community
 - Adopt bylaws and regulations
 - Set service levels and priorities
 - Approve budgets and tax policies
 - Approve contracts
- Changes due to municipal status
 - More local autonomy
 - More local accountability
 - More local coordination
 - More funding tools
 - More obligations (zoning, bylaws, roads, etc)
- Affect on Sun Peaks Resort Corporation
 - Assured rights under Master Development Agreement (MDA)
- Municipal Functions
 - Administration
 - Fire Department
 - Bylaw enforcement
 - Building permits & inspection
 - Roads, drainage, street lights
 - Zoning and plan development
 - Subdivision approval
- Provincial start-up assistance
 - Provincial short term help
 - Grants
 - Rural tax rebate
 - 5 Yrs. “free” road maintenance but no rehabilitation
 - Responsibilities will be phased in
- Financial needs
 - Basic and other enhanced infrastructure
 - Municipal staff with the possibility of contracting out services
 - Estimated annual budget
 - Tax implications
 - Based on \$400k residential property - \$79 increase
 - Based on \$400K business - \$211 increase
- Things not affected
 - SPRC development rights and mountain operations
 - Region-wide functions (TNRD)
 - Public and private Utilities
 - Tourism Sun Peaks
 - Policing
 - Property assessments
- Bylaws inherited from TNRD
 - Zoning
 - Subdivision servicing
 - Building
 - Heritage conservation
 - Unsightly premises
 - Noxious weed control

- Mosquito control

3. Questions and Comments

- Q: If a SPRC representative is appointed to council would they have a vote?
A: Yes, they would be a councilor like any other. Conflict of interest guidelines would be put in place. It was also noted that a SPRC representative is already currently appointed to the SPRID Board of Trustees.
- Q: How would police services be affected?
A: Police services is a provincial function and that would not change. However, council could provide more funding to policing.
- Q: Why are Radium Hot Springs' taxes lower than those proposed for Sun Peaks?
A: Mainly due to structural differences and the fact that Radium has lower level of fire protection (Part time Chief and volunteers).
- Q: Will the deadline of January 29th to receive mail in ballots allow enough time for appropriate verification?
A: Verification is done through the mail-in vote application process. It is recommended to apply as soon as possible in order for the TNRD office to complete proper verification. For multi owner properties, a consent form must be signed by a majority of the owners. Consent forms will be available on polling day but are required in order to vote. Faxes will not be accepted. Forms are available on the TNRD website. The deadline for all votes is closing of polls on January 30th. It is entirely the voter's responsibility to return the mail in ballot package on time to the designated location to be counted.
- Q: In the case of multiple ownership, what happens if only one of the property owners is a resident?
A: That person can vote as a resident, but can only vote once. The other owners could then appoint one of the other owners to vote on their behalf.
- Q: Would the municipality take over trails and parks?
A: The municipality would own only the property that the Improvement District already owns. The trails are not part of the local government system and are maintained and operated by SPRC. The roads would be owned by the municipality.
- Q: Is the Province going to improve the roads before turning them over or will it be up to the municipality to bring them up to standard?
A: The proposed budget includes improvement and maintenance of the roads. A report was commissioned to review the improvement costs of the roads. The Province denied a request for additional assistance for improvements.
- Q: Are there any plans as to how the Hotel Tax is spent?
A: It is up to council. Other municipalities fund various projects that include: transportation, festivals and activities. These expenditures are also audited by the Province to show that it has been spent on tourism related initiatives. A plan is also required prior to the funding being granted. The introduction of the HST will also

impact the Hotel Tax. The tax will only be in effect until 2011 however the province is working on a replacement program.

Q: Is it correct that the municipality would be providing a higher level of service in areas such as road maintenance and bylaw enforcement than what is currently being provided by the TNRD and Province?

A: Although the budget would be up to council, this is more than likely the case. A municipality will allow for more focus on these areas.

Q: Incorporation has a certain degree of tax risks. Are there any impending regulations to be aware of?

A: Most of these risks exist regardless of whether incorporation occurs or not.

Q: Do most other municipalities have sewer/water responsibilities and are these costs included in the cost comparison?

A: Many municipalities do have these responsibilities but these costs have not been included in the tax comparisons because a Sun Peaks municipality would not operate these utilities.

Ines Popig, Chair of the Improvement District explained that the improvement district was very restricted in its responsibilities and noted that the autonomy available with a municipality should be taken into consideration.

Q: What happens to the properties outside of the ID (Burfield and Burfield Heights)?

A: These properties are included in the ID boundary.

Q: Who is eligible to use mail-in ballot?

A: A person must either not be in the jurisdiction on the polling day or have a disability making it difficult to do so.

Q: Where are the advanced polling stations?

A: January 20th Delta Sun Peaks Resort
 January 23rd Delta Sun Peaks Resort
 January 27th TNRD Office

4. Next Meeting and Conclude

The next Referendum Committee public meeting will be held as follows:

DATE: Tuesday January 12, 2010 Burnaby

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Burnaby

DATE: Friday January 22, 2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Delta Sun Peaks

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 5:07 PM.

