

THE TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE
SPECIAL MEETING
April 16, 2007 at 5:00 pm
Council Chambers

Present: Councillor Gordon Frentz
Councillor Paul Bailey
Councillor Vic Beland
Councillor Terry Coray
Councillor Tony McCormick
Darren Ottaway, Chief Administrative Officer
Carolyn Ferraby, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Brown, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Mayor Louise Krewusik
Councillor Jackie Dube

Delegates: Mr. Richard Dunn, VP, Business Services, Calgary
Michael Forgo, Lead, Surface & Stakeholders, Calgary
Chris Tattrie, Supply Management, Calgary
Patsy Vik, Community Relations Advisor, Calgary
Patricia Etris, Group Head, Community Relations, Calgary
Gordon Cinnamon, Coordinator, Grande Cache
Bob Walker, Coordinator, Grande Cache
Keith Gerlack, Operations Superintendent, Calgary

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson, Councillor Frentz called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

2.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Moved by Councillor Coray and seconded by Councillor Beland
104/07 RESOLVED THAT** the agenda is adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 BUSINESS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Councillor Frentz gave regrets on behalf of Mayor Krewusik and Councillor Dube. He thanked the delegation for attending the meeting, and asked each attendee to introduce themselves and state their title.

D. Ottaway gave a verbal report on the background of the community of Grande Cache. He explained the Town's focus for the future, including the Beautification Projects, upcoming Deathfest and various cultural and recreation initiatives.

Mr. Dunn asked for the current population of Grande Cache. D. Ottaway said the last federal census stated there are approximately 3,800 residents.

Councillor Frentz asked if Council had any information to add. Councillor Bailey gave a brief overview of the Grande Cache Institution.

Mr. Forgo asked for information on the Death Race weekend. Councillor Bailey explained he is one of the original organizers. He told the delegation that the race annually attracted approximately 1,000 racers and their families and support groups. He said the weekend usually doubles the population. D. Ottaway said that last years' race had 960 adult participants and over 300 youth racers.

Mr. Forgo asked about the community health services. D. Ottaway explained that there is a hospital, Peace Country Health services, including ambulance and public health, Social Services, FCSS and a Seniors complex. Ms. Vik asked about

daycare services. D. Ottaway said there is a regular daycare for working parents, as well as the Creative Kids program run by FCSS. Currently, the Town is in the process of setting up a drop-in daycare for parents using the Rec Centre facilities, which should be operational within the next few weeks. Mr. Forgo asked if the community is comprised of mostly young families. D. Ottaway said the population is changing, and there are more young families in the community. Previously, Grande Cache was promoted as a retirement community, but with increased oil/gas industry operations, this is changing.

Ms. Vik asked about the situation at Grande Cache Coal. Councillor Frenz said the company experienced problems when CN Rail went on strike, but this is a temporary shutdown. D. Ottaway said the company has met with Council, and they have plans for future growth.

Mr. Forgo asked about growth and development in the community. D. Ottaway said the Town has a growth/development management plan, and will continue to develop as growth requires. Mr. Dunn asked if the Town has sold many development permits/business licenses. D. Ottaway explained the current developments.

Ms. Etris asked if the Town has concerns regarding growth and development. D. Ottaway explained the boom to bust attitude in the community, but says this is changing with the diversification of industry in the area. He said future development will be based on proper growth management.

3.1 Encana Oil & Gas Presentation

Ms. Vik gave a verbal overview of the information package provided by Encana, including the following points: Background information on Encana, Key Resources, Bighorn Business Unit, Safety, Drilling, Environmental Commitments and Community Relations.

Mr. Dunn further explained the company's production activities.

Councillor Frenz asked where the gas from the two plants is sent. Mr. Gerlack explained the gas route for this area. Councillor McCormick asked if the company trains local people for their operations in this area. Mr. Cinnamon said the most recent hires are from the Grande Cache area. He said the more experienced people were brought in to get operations online, and the company is now having these employees train the new people.

Mr. Dunn asked what the unemployment level is in Grande Cache. Councillor Frenz said it is similar to anywhere else in Alberta at this time. Councillor McCormick asked if the company would be interested in preparing high school students for jobs in this industry. Mr. Gerlack said the company is currently working on setting up training opportunities locally and hopes the program will be ready for next year. He said they currently provide summer employment opportunities, and offer training through NAIT and SAIT. D. Ottaway explained the local employment situation regarding wages vs. housing/living costs.

Councillor Frenz thanked the delegation for the presentation and information.

3.2 Tara Wignes, Community Development Officer Town of Grande Cache Beautification Project Presentation

T. Wignes gave a powerpoint presentation on the Beautification Project.

Mr. Dunn asked if the Town has approached any other companies in the community. T. Wignes explained the different components of the project, and how the Town would be approaching companies for partnerships.

Ms. Etris asked about the proposed multiplex. D. Ottaway explained the Town's plans, beginning with design development. He also explained the Beautification

Project, and plans to implement the project in phases. Ms. Etris asked if costs will be budgeted over a three- or five-year plan. D. Ottaway said the Town is working with consultants for the project, and some of the development will begin this spring. The project is in the Town budget, and it is not essential to receive funding immediately from interested partners. Ms. Vik asked what plans the Town has for soliciting sponsorship. D. Ottaway said the meeting today is an opportunity to provide information to the company, and other stakeholders will also get a similar opportunity to receive this information. Mr. Dunn told Council of Encana's commitment to support community projects, and the information provided today will be brought back to discuss at the corporate level.

Ms. Vik asked if the Town has plans to make improvements at the airport. D. Ottaway explained the facility is actually classed as an aerodome, not an airport. There are plans to fix the lights, upgrade the beacons, complete repairs and maintenance on the terminal building and purchase new equipment. There is nothing in the budget to resurface the strip at this time. Ms. Vik asked if it would be appropriate to speak with the MD of Greenview to have the facility upgraded to an airport. D. Ottaway explained the current situation and discussions between the MD of Greenview and municipalities in this area. Mr. Gerlack asked if a GPS unit will be installed. D. Ottaway said it has been considered, but only at the pricing stage. Mr. Gerlack said the company has experienced problems with trying to land at the facility. Councillor Frentz said the Town is aware of the problems, and will try to fix them as soon as possible. Mr. Forgo asked who the company should contact to discuss partnering to get upgrades at the airport. D. Ottaway said to contact him directly, and he will work with the Town staff.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

Encana delegate presented a cheque in the amount of \$7,000.00 to Town Council. Councillor Frentz thanked the delegation for attending the meeting and providing funding towards the Deathfest event.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

None

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Councillor Coray and seconded by Councillor Beland
105/07 WHEREAS** the business of this meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 4:03 pm.

Gordon Frentz
Acting Chairperson

Darren Ottaway
Chief Administrative Officer