

**THE TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 12:00 noon
Council Chambers**

Present: Mayor Louise Krewusik
Councillor Vic Beland
Councillor Terry Coray
Councillor Paul Bailey
Councillor Jackie Dube
Councillor Gordon Frentz
Councillor Tony McCormick
Darren Ottaway, Chief Administrative Officer
Carolyn Ferraby, Chief Financial Officer
Tara Wignes, Community Development Officer
Lisa Brown, Executive Assistant

Regrets: None

Delegates:

Mr. Tony Knutson, Manager, Maxim Power Corp.
Mr. Tom Mercik, Consultant
Mr. Tim Robillard, Consultant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krewusik called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Addition to the agenda, 3.5 Wage Grid

**Moved by Councillor Dube and seconded by Councillor Frentz
57/07 RESOLVED THAT** the agenda is adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

3.1 Milner Power, #14 Mine Presentation

Mayor Krewusik welcomed and thanked the delegation from Milner Power for attending the meeting. She asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Mayor Krewusik said that Council will have to make a decision on the level of support for the proposed project. She said that Council supports the growth of the company, and effects it will have on the community. She briefly described the history of the Town's economic stages, and Milner's part in the community. She said it is Council's responsibility to ensure the coal haul does not negatively effect the community.

Mr. Knutson distributed information packages. He told Council that the company wants to work with the Town, and gave a brief overview of the project to date. He said Milner will be announcing an additional unit at the Milner site during the Open House. He said with the growth in Northern Alberta, demand for electricity has increased substantially. The proposed unit will be similar to the Genesee Plant near Edmonton, and will have the same level of standards. Last summer the company completed exploration on Grande Mountain and discovered the vein contained approximately 13 million tons of available coal, which would provide coal for twenty seven years.

At the last meeting, Councillor Bailey posed a question regarding the company's stance on break even prices. Mr. Knutson said that after researching costs for coal, they are not considering selling the product, only using what they mine for the production of electricity. The issues the company faces are not pricing, but housing for workers, labor and environmental regulations.

Mr. Knutson said that the company is submitting a Product Disclosure document to the provincial government. He said it takes some time to receive approval, then construction will begin, and it is anticipated the first coal run will start in 2010.

Mayor Krewusik asked for an explanation of an EIA. Mr. Knutson told the Council it stands for Environmental Impact Assessment, and is not required for this project.

Mayor Krewusik asked Mr. Knutson to give an overview of the proposed coal haul plan. Mr. Knutson said the company will mine on the east-northeast side of Grande Mountain and trucks will haul the coal to Highway 40. They will build a six-kilometer road from the mine site to Highway 40, which will be paved to highway standards.

Councillor Beland asked how many trucks will be hauling, and what type of schedule. Mr. Knutson said he spoke with their engineer, and they have several options, including an 8-hour shift/5 days per week or 10-hour shift/4 days per week. He said there will be a truck going through Town every five minutes – empty and loaded. He told Council the company has arranged to have a unit on display for the Open House in April. Mr. Robillard said they are working with their engineers to find the best possible solution, whether it includes trucks hauling throughout the night when traffic is minimal, or not running during school hours, split shift.

Councillor Frentz asked if there are alternate routes from the mine so that the trucks aren't hauling through Town. Mr. Knutson said the company explored eleven or twelve options. He went on to explain the various options and impacts for each. Mr. Robillard said the company is addressing the 'dust' concerns.

Mr. Knutson said the company has been in contact with all the major stakeholders and groups affected by the mine site and coal haul. Mayor Krewusik asked if the company will have an opportunity for residents to express their opinions. Mr. Robillard said that the Chamber of Commerce sent out a survey to residents last year. He said that the company could set up something at the Open House in April. They could also distribute a 'Facts and Questions' sheet with an invitation to the Open House.

Mr. Knutson said the company timelines have this stage complete by April 30. Mayor Krewusik said that Council cannot make an informed decision without hearing from the public. Councillor Beland suggested that if surveys are available they shouldn't be given out until after the public has been given the information. Councillor Bailey agreed that it is important that the public is made aware of the issues and are given the information. Mr. Robillard said at the Open House information will be provided, and there is the option of completing a survey at that time. Mr. Knutson said if the Town backed the survey, it would hold more weight with the public.

Mr. Robillard said the Chamber of Commerce survey needs to be re-worded. For example: if dust is of concern, please provide suggestions or options. Councillor McCormick agreed that a survey should be available after the information is provided. It could be posted on the Town website and available from Milner Power. He stressed the importance of drawing out the public. Mayor Krewusik said the Town could partner with Milner Power in drafting a survey.

Councillor Dube said she spoke with several groups affected by the project, and all seemed happy with Milner's discussions to date. Councillor Beland expressed

concern that the mine project would disrupt plans to build a ski hill on Grande Mountain.

Mr. Knutson explained the road access and security. Councillor Frentz said it would be in everyone's best interest if the Town and Milner work together as a joint effort to ensure that both sides have input and ask the proper questions on the survey. Mr. Robillard said the company is willing to do this. Mayor Krewusik asked what would happen if once this has all been done, there is a total negative response. Mr. Mercik said that there could be a section on the survey where if the response is against the coal haul, provide options or alternatives. Mayor Krewusik asked if there are other options.

Mr. Knutson said a by-pass road could be an option. Councillor McCormick asked if a rail system would work. Mr. Knutson explained the research the company did for alternate hauling. Councillor Frentz said if the public was aware of the products that the oil/gas industry trucks haul through Town, they would be against them too.

Councillor Beland asked if the company will go ahead with the project if the Town consensus is against the coal haul. Mr. Knutson said it would not be in Milner's best interest, although legally they could. Mr. Robillard explained that the EUB would get involved, and they would make all the decisions. Right now, Milner and the Town are in control of the decisions.

Mayor Krewusik summarized the discussions, with the following points:

- Joint public consultation, provide survey after the Open House
- Strong support from Council for Milner Power's operations
- Alternative coal haul routes, possible truck by-pass road
- Night coal haul
- Input from the public before Council makes a decision

Mr. Knutson said the company has flexible timelines. The traffic study has been completed for the winter assessment. Mr. Robillard said they have different options for dust control, and will forward the information to Council.

Councillor McCormick asked how the trucks will be washed in -40° weather. Mr. Knutson said that won't happen, but there are other procedures. Mayor Krewusik asked about the water for the washing and will it be recycled. Mr. Knutson said there are regulations for this, and it will be recycled.

Councillor Coray asked where the company will get additional coal from if it is required. Mr. Knutson said they can purchase from Grande Cache Coal and Coal Valley. D. Ottaway asked if the speculation for buying Grande Cache Coal is a possibility. Mr. Knutson said this has been looked at, if the price is right, the coal can be used to generate electricity.

Mayor Krewusik said that housing is a concern, would the company consider providing housing for employees. Mr. Knutson said it is an option to consider.

Mr. Mercik said when the additional plant begins operations, there will be more workers required. Discussion on additional employees for Milner Power. Mr. Knutson said he anticipates 1,000 workers to construct the new plant, and will probably have a camp set up for them. He said they expect 70 new employees are required to run the new plant.

Mr. Robillard asked who he should speak with from the Town to work on the survey. D. Ottaway said that they could hold a conference call. The conference call is scheduled for Friday, March 9 at 10 am.

Mr. Knutson thanked Council for their time, and reminded everyone of the invitation to the Open House on April 19. Mayor Krewusik thanked the delegation for attending and providing Council with information on the proposed coal haul.

3.2 Issue Sheet – Skateboard Park

D. Ottaway explained the Issue Sheet. He said the Town will facilitate the project, but the fundraising would continue by the Skateboard Park Committee.

Discussion on quote and equipment from Brand X.

D. Ottaway said that components can be ordered according to available funds, it does not have to be ordered all at once. Councillor Frenz asked the amount of funds raised to date. Councillor McCormick said they have raised \$13,500.

Councillor Bailey said activities are needed for the youth, but should follow the 20/20 Vision. He researched Brand X equipment on their website and said he was not impressed, the components are not esthetically appealing, appear to be of poor quality and do not fit in with the Beautification Plan. He added that the repayment of costs seems unrealistic. He would like to see this project done properly, even if it means building with another material, like cement, which is more durable. Councillor Dube said that the City of Edmonton has ordered Brand X equipment, and is paying for several skateboard parks in the community. She says it is unrealistic for the Town to expect the Committee to fundraise for the entire amount. She suggested that the Town should approve paying the entire amount for this project. Councillor McCormick agreed, adding that the youth on the Committee requested adjustable components so the layout can be changed occasionally. He said the Committee asked for tenders, and no others were received.

Councillor Bailey said efforts are being made to beautify the community. Councillor Frenz agreed, adding that this project needs to be done properly, even if it costs more. He said there are things available for youth now, they choose not to participate. Councillor Coray also agreed, asking if the ½ pipe being built will fit in with the Beautification Plan. Mayor Krewusik agreed that the project needs to be done right, and that activities for youth are needed. She said Council should refer to the 'Ramped Up' enclosure and address several of the points made in this document.

Councillor McCormick suggested a site visit to an established skateboard park with equipment provided by Brand X. Mayor Krewusik said that the youth should be involved in the fundraising for the skateboard park.

Councillor Frenz asked what is happening with the proposed multi-plex, and expressed a concern that this project is being put aside. Mayor Krewusik explained that this item will be discussed at the Special Meeting for the 2007 Budget. D. Ottaway said Administration is working on the numbers for the Budget.

Mayor Krewusik said the Skateboard Park Issue Sheet should be referred back to the Recreation, Culture and Heritage Committee.

Moved by Councillor Coray and seconded by Councillor Bailey

58/07 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves \$16,000 to retain a suitable skateboard park design firm to develop a park design that complies with the Town's Beautification Plan.

CARRIED

Councillor Dube told Council that letters have been distributed to local companies requesting donations. Discussion on fundraising.

3.3 Evergreens Foundation

Mayor Krewusik told Council this item should have been acted upon at the last meeting. She explained the reason for Council approval, and the other community stakeholders have already submitted Letters of Support. Discussion on providing the Evergreens Foundation with financial support.

Moved by Councillor Frenz and seconded by Councillor Dube

59/07 WHEREAS the Town of Grande Cache is a member community of the Evergreens Foundation, and through levies, provides financial support for the construction and operation of seniors lodges and assisted living complexes in member communities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Grande Cache supports the Evergreens Foundation project in Jasper, Alberta to construct a 37-unit Lodge and Designate Assisted Living Complex.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of Grande Cache supports the borrowing of funds required to complete construction from a recognized lending institution for a period of three years.

CARRIED

3.4 Regional Assessment Board

Mayor Krewusik said this item was on the last meeting agenda. The information package is in circulation. D. Ottaway explained that although Grande Alberta Economic Region drafted the document, they are not involved; it is only the member communities. He requested that Council provide their support in principal and appoint a representative.

Mayor Krewusik said she had to leave, and handed the Chair to Deputy Mayor Dube at 1:56 pm. Deputy Mayor Dube took over the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

D. Ottaway explained costs for having a representative on this Board. He told Council that if this agreement is accepted a by-law will have to be drafted and an agreement signed with the other communities involved.

Councillor Frenz said that Council did pass a resolution for this item at the Regular Council Meeting. He did express concern with costs for attending meetings. Discussion on costs and development of the agreement.

Councillor McCormick left the meeting at 2:04 pm.

3.5 Wage Grid

Councillor Coray said this item was discussed at the Committee and Regular Meeting, and asked if qualifications were taken into consideration when developing this grid. D. Ottaway explained the selection of representatives and the process of developing the document. Discussion on employee input and knowledge, and implementation of the wage grid.

Moved by Councillor Beland and seconded by Councillor Coray

60/07 WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Town of Grande Cache to adopt a comprehensive, long term salary grid for Town employees in order to provide long term salary certainty and equity amongst individuals and departments.

AND WHEREAS the salary grid is comprised of five steps based on service, merit and cost of living expenses.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the salary grid be adopted, effective January 1, 2007 and remain in effect until 2011, with a review in 2009.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Frenz asked that a discussion be brought forward on a truck by-pass route for Highway 40.

ACTION: Council brings forward a discussion on a truck by-pass route for Highway 40.

5. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Councillor Frenz and seconded by Councillor Bailey
61/07 WHEREAS** the business of this meeting has now been completed;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does now adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 2:15 pm.

Jackie Dube
Deputy Mayor

Darren Ottaway
Chief Administrative Officer

RECAPULATION

Motions:

Moved by Councillor Dube and seconded by Councillor Frenz

57/07 RESOLVED THAT the agenda is adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Coray and seconded by Councillor Bailey

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does now adjourn.

CARRIED

Actions:

Council brings forward a discussion on a truck by-pass route for Highway 40.