

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2006 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PROVINCIAL BUILDING, GRANDE CACHE, ALBERTA

Present

L. Krewusik	Mayor
G. Frentz	Deputy Mayor
P. Bailey	Councillor
V. Beland	Councillor
T. Coray	Councillor
J. Dube	Councillor
T. McCormick	Councillor
D. Dukart	Municipal Administrator
V. Wiseman	Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Mayor Krewusik called this Special meeting of Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

Purpose

Mayor Krewusik outlined the purpose of tonight's meeting. Council needs to come to an understanding of where the Recreation Centre expansion is going. Mayor Krewusik received an e-mail from members of the community, Dennis and Sharon Johnson. They were extremely upset that the project was not going forward. They stated that taxpayer's money had already been spent on this. Mayor Krewusik believes there is a misconception in the community that the project is not proceeding at all. She re-read the article in the Moutaineer and believes that it could have been misunderstood. Mayor Krewusik will contact Arthur to put an article in the paper stating that the heating and mechanical upgrades are just the first phase and Council will be seeking public input before proceeding with future plans.

The first order of business was to elect a Chairperson. Council McCormick had expressed his interest in fulfilling this position.

**Motion No.
01-06**

Motion by Councillor Bailey to appoint Councillor Tony McCormick as Chair of this special committee.

Carried

Councillor McCormick noted the first Order of Business should be to set up a process for communication. A solid plan needs to be drafted, including appointing people to interact with the community and industry in the area to raise funds for the project. Councillor McCormick has been in touch with Dave McPhee, President, AWN, he is more than willing to help and stated he has already spoken to several companies interested in participating.

Secondly, it had to be decided who was going to sit as part of this special committee.

**Motion No.
02-06**

Motion by Councillor Dube that the special committee consist of all Town Council members.

Carried

Councillor Frentz expressed his opinion that a lot of the groundwork had already been done. There was a survey completed in 2001, was it necessary for Council to start all over again?

Councillor Bailey believes some critical errors were made and the committee needs to re-start the whole process. Every time a change is made to the project, it costs more money. We need to go and find a pool that is perfect for our needs, say, this is what we need, get the blueprints, costs and go from there.

Councillor Beland stated his concern over putting the Town in debt.

Councillor Dube believes a lot of money can be raised through fundraising efforts. A fundraising sub-committee should be formed.

Councillor Frentz feels that the decision that was made is the way Council should proceed. Start planning for a stand-alone facility, start putting money aside. If it takes 10 years, we have a good facility in the meantime that is being used. We have funds available to us now that we have to spend.

Mayor Krewusik noted the importance of not losing sight of the big picture. Other needs were identified as well in the social needs assessment:

- a) Community Hall
- b) Youth Centre
- c) Pre-School

To focus only on the pool in the short term is to ignore other significant needs in the community.

A multi-phase plan needs to be put together and at the end of that time, we will have what we need. We can't have it all at once. Mayor Krewusik sees the role of this committee being to develop an action plan that will bring us to completion, whatever is feasible.

Councillor McCormick has received some input for the old pool area, if a new pool was constructed. The area could become a community hall or drop-in center for youth, etc.

Councillor Bailey stated if we go with the plan Mayor Krewusik suggests, that brings us back to the Strategic Plan. The pool is not in there. A multi-use facility is.

Mr. D. Dukart pointed out the pool was in the works at the time, that is why it was not put in the plan.

Councillor Coray stated Council needs to look at what can be serviced for debt. We could possibly implement tax increases right now because the economy is good, but what about in five years time?

Mayor Krewusik asked about the possibility of designating a portion of taxes to go directly into a special fund for the expansion.

Councillor Frentz noted the big stumbling block at this point is knowing what we can afford. First, what money do we have? A public presentation cannot take place until we have those figures.

Councillor Beland feels we need a public meeting to explain what we can service as debt and what options are available.

Councillor Frentz stated we need to tell the public what the Town was going to do and how the costs increased over the past couple of years. Look at the whole picture; show plans of the pool that Councillor Bailey brought to us. The costs involved, they need to know everything.

Councillor Bailey stressed the importance of telling the public what it means to them as taxpayers, tax increases, etc.

Councillor Frenz noted Mr. Wells needs to be involved. We need to know our debt load, what we can service and a project outline. The public needs to know what percentage their taxes will increase by, every household will be different.

Councillor Beland feels we're not ready for a public meeting at this time until we have all of the information to present to the community.

Mayor Krewusik inquired if it was possible to just have a levee, e.g. \$200 per household for a determined amount of years.

Mr. Dukart didn't believe so, he will look into it.

Councillor Dube believes if people have to pay \$200 per year, then they will not be interested in fundraising.

Councillor McCormick reiterated that a process needed to be developed. A starting point had to be identified.

Mayor Krewusik stated we already have a good pool and a fitness center. Our children and seniors are swimming and taking part in various programs. We don't have a youth center, maybe that should be the first priority.

Councillor McCormick feels the perfect place for a youth facility would be where the pool is now. He suggested visiting other sites or doing some Internet research to get an idea of what we want.

Councillor Dube agrees with Mayor Krewusik, a community hall/youth center should be the first priority.

Councillor Coray feels a community center is the number one priority. He feels that something needs to be done with the downtown core, it's a real hindrance to expansion.

Councillor McCormick feels that Council doesn't have to pay for downtown improvements, this could come from industry/business.

Councillor Bailey believes Council has been through this every which way. First of all, we need to identify our priorities, what we can afford. Where does a multi-plex fit into our Strategic Plan? People want to see progress. They want to see something built. They see other areas progressing, but the Town isn't. We're very fortunate to have a swimming pool. Lot's of towns this size don't. Our pool revenue is less than expected; the facility is currently under-utilized. We need to take a look at how much money we have and what we need to spend it on.

Councillor Bailey feels the proper order is to find our how much money we have, take a look at the Strategic Plan and see what's most important and then look at different projects and what they will cost.

Mr. Dukart noted that some of the money will be spent on land development costs.

Mayor Krewusik's understanding is that it's Council's responsibility to develop and ratify our priorities and it's administration's responsibility to put together a draft budget and bring it back to Council.

Motion No.
03-06

Motion by Councillor Bailey to have Town Administration go through the Strategic Plan and put in dollar amounts on priority items.

Carried

Mayor Krewusik noted Arthur Veitch requested she do an article for the Mountaineer, outlining what Council wanted to see happen in Grande Cache over the next year. Secondary to that, something needs to be put in the paper as to where we are with the Recreation Centre project. The public feels we're not moving ahead at all other than on the heating and mechanical issue. The decisions regarding future plans must be based on what the public wants.

Councillor McCormick agreed the public has to know we are not standing still on this issue. An article needs to be done letting the community know that we are actioning a plan and we will be requesting their input.

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the committee for the Recreation Expansion project will be held at 5:00 p.m. on January 17th, 2006.

Motion No.
04-06

Motion by Councillor Coray to adjourn this Special meeting of Council at 8:25 p.m.

Carried

Mayor

Municipal Administrator