

Mayor's Report Monday, March 18, 2019

Wed. Mar. 6, 2019 CRD Governance and Finance Committee Meeting

The Governance and Finance Committee vigorously debated the costs and scope of a motion created to enhance transparency in governance. At issue were the creation of a voting dashboard, financial disclosure, and expanded publishing of highlights of the meetings including "in camera" items. These initiatives if implemented in full would require two full staff positions. There is also the question of privacy to consider. The committee referred the motion back to staff for more information.

The Governance and Finance Committee recommended to the board that the Corporate Asset Management Policy be adopted and implemented by staff. link:

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=15254&GUID=F77D44B1-6120-4EF2-8183-288223829568&Options=&Search=>

A report on procedures for "Notice of Motion" and "Motion with Notice" was recommended for consideration by the CRD board.

Wed. Mar. 6, 2019 Opening of New E-COMM Centre



A new Vancouver Island post-disaster emergency centre opened replacing the three call-taking and dispatch centres in the Capital Regional District. The new 1,200-square-metre facility will handle dispatch calls from all of Greater Victoria and the Gulf Islands including our West Shore RCMP .

Wed. Mar. 13, 2019 CRD Board Meeting

Here is a link to the CRD response to the Climate Emergency Declaration (see appendix A):

<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=15163&GUID=C27A3B00-3419-47BC-858A-0A48FBE4EEFB>

A motion to apply for a regional version of UBCM's Community Resiliency Investment Grant was passed by the CRD Board. This grant will help mitigate the threat of wildfire by vegetation management as well as address other issues caused by our changing climate.

The CRD Board has voted in two separate motions to voice opposition to an alternative route to the Malahat going through neighbouring watershed or parklands. Chair Plant will request a meeting with the Premier to stress the urgency of the situation for residents and the CRD Board. Chair Plant will also write, on behalf of the Board, to the Premier, copying the Ministers responsible for Environment and Transportation as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly representing constituencies on Vancouver Island.

A recommendation from the Parks and Environment Committee to expand the Hartland Renewable Gas Project by building another anaerobic digester to deal with kitchen scraps was referred back to staff with a request for more information on alternative processes.

CRD Corporate Finance Officer Nelson Chan gave his take on the provincial budget highlights.

Highlights of Provincial 2019 Budget released February 19, 2019:

Summary

- Estimated surpluses \$274 million for 2019/20, \$287 for 2020/21 and \$585 million for 2021/22
- 2019 has more than \$1.5B of unallocated spending - essentially a 3% contingency built in year 1
- Year's 2 and 3 have \$2.3B in unallocated spending.

3 New spending commitments

1. Province will commit \$902 million to implement CleanBC

CleanBC-Transportation

- \$90 million to encourage the adoption of zero emission vehicles
 - \$3 million to develop and implement a Zero Emission Vehicle standard
 - \$42 million to maintain point of sale incentives
 - \$20 million for fast charging and hydrogen fueling stations + \$5 million over three years for battery charging stations at highway rest areas
- \$6 million over three years for active transportation projects

CleanBC-Commercial & Residential Buildings

- \$168 million to support commercial reduction of GHG emissions
- \$58 million to make homes and buildings more energy efficient

CleanBC-Other CRD related

- \$15 million for the Remote Community Clean Energy Strategy
- \$3 million for the Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative
- \$1 million over three years to develop a program increase organic waste diversion
- \$299 million in contingency funding

2. First Nations and Reconciliation

- Gaming revenue sharing of \$297 million over three years
 - projected to provide \$3 billion over the next 25 years
- Forthcoming legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

3. Childcare and Support for Parents

- additional \$9 million will be provided for childcare fee reduction.
- \$400 million has been committed to introduce a new B.C. Child Opportunity Benefit starting in 2020 that will replace the Early Childhood Tax benefit.

Continuation from Last Budget

Housing

- additional \$24 million in operating funding grants will be provided over the next 3 years
- additional 200 modular units for homeless or at risk of homelessness will be built
- province wide homelessness count will be undertaken
- provincial homelessness coordination unit will be established
- accelerate payment of \$38 million in grants to housing providers to reduce ongoing borrowing costs