

Unapproved Minutes of a Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, January 25, 2017, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Present: J. Bancarz, Chair
N. Aubrey
M. Farrington
S. Germain, Councillor
M. Giles
K. Jenkins
A. Vinni, Councillor

Absent: K. Fleury
K. McGrath, Councillor

Administration: D. Woodworth, Recovery Team Lead
J. Brown, Supervisor, Legislative Services
S. Soutter, Legislative Officer

Call To Order

Chair J. Bancarz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by M. Giles that the agenda be adopted as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes of Previous Meetings

1. Minutes of Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee meeting - January 11, 2017

Moved by Councillor A. Vinni that the minutes of the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee meeting held on January 11, 2017 be approved as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Presentations

2. Elaine Read and Lunzaya Nlandu, CAREERS: The Next Generation re: Youth Rebuilding Fort McMurray

Elaine Read and Lunzaya Nlandu, CAREERS: The Next Generation, provided an overview of the non-profit organization indicating that Youth Rebuilding Fort McMurray is a new initiative to ensure youth are considered in the rebuild of the community. The presenters provided the Committee with a number of recommendations on how the organization can be supported throughout the rebuild.

Moved by J. Bancarz that the recommendations presented by CAREERS: Next Generation be referred to the Recovery Task Force for review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Rob de Pruis, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) re: Insurance update including Dispute Resolution Information

Rob de Pruis, Insurance Bureau of Canada, provided an update regarding insurance impacts of the wildfire and presented an overview of the dispute resolution options that are available for consumers.

4. Barbara Rex, Recovery Task Force re: Mental Health Update

Barbara Rex, Psychosocial Coordinator, Recovery Task Force, promoted self-care and mental well-being, as well as commented on Bell Let's Talk Day.

5. Laurie-Anne St. George and Erin O'Neill, Recovery Task Force re: Firebreak Program Update

Laurie-Anne St. George, Rebuild Supervisor, and Erin O'Neill, Operations Manager, Recovery Task Force, presented a summary of the extent of damages to firebreak properties, and a status update on the Firebreak Program.

New and Unfinished Business

6. 2017 Tax Relief

Marc Fortais, Chief of Staff, Recovery Task Force, and Philip Schofield, Director, Assessment and Taxation, provided an overview of the 2017 Tax Relief report, noting that this request is similar to the request made to Council for 2016 Tax Relief.

The following motion was presented by Councillor A. Vinni: "THAT the Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee (WBRC) recommend to Council the following:

1. That Council use its authority under s. 347 of the *Municipal Government Act* to cancel the municipal portion of property taxes payable for 2017 on residential properties in accordance with the following:

For every residential property that continues to be uninhabitable because it was destroyed or irreparably damaged by the wildfire: cancellation of the amount representing the pro-rated daily amount of the whole municipal portion of tax, including land and building, multiplied by the number of days in 2017 until the first to occur of:

- (a) Completion of reconstruction of the residence on the property as determined through the issuance of a final occupancy permit,
- (b) Sale of the property to a new owner, or
- (c) The end of the calendar year 2017;

2. That Council ask the Mayor to make a request to the Government of Alberta, on Council's behalf, to waive that portion of the provincial education requisition for 2017 that would ordinarily be payable by property owners for whom the municipal portion of property tax is cancelled pursuant to Council's exercise of its authority under s. 347 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
3. That Council direct Administration to make application to the Government of Alberta for funding support in an amount equal to the property taxes cancelled pursuant to Council's exercise of its authority under s. 347 of the *Municipal Government Act*;
4. That Council enact a bylaw to override the provisions of the Tax Penalty Bylaw in order to effect cancellations or refunds of penalties applied on January 1, 2017 to residential property taxes in arrears, to the extent that such penalties arise from the portion of the tax arrears that relates to the 2016 provincial education requisition, such overriding bylaw to be effective if and when and to the extent that the Government of Alberta pays a refund to the RMWB of all or a portion of the amount paid by the RMWB to the Government of Alberta on account of the 2016 provincial education requisition."

Moved by M. Giles that the 2017 Tax Relief matter be deferred to the February 8, 2017 Wood Buffalo Recovery Committee Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Exit and Return

Councillor S. Germain exited the Chamber at 7:34 p.m. and returned at 7:36 p.m.

7. **Sub-Committee Reports**

Marty Giles, Chair of the Mitigation and Economy Sub-Committees, introduced Dennis Warr, Mitigation Supervisor, Recovery Task Force, who provided information on a recent trip to Slave Lake. Kelly Hansen, Economic Development Manager, also provided an update on the Small Business Workforce Support Program.

Kim Jenkins, Chair of the Rebuild Sub Committee, provided an update on the rebuild progress to date.

Chair Jeanette Bancarz, provided an update on the people pillar and support that is being provided to teachers in the community.

8. **Wildfire Recovery Team Update**

Dana Woodworth, Recovery Team Leader, provided an update on the tasks of recovery team to date.

Adjournment

As all scheduled business matters had been concluded, Chair J. Bancarz declared the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Chair

Chief Legislative Officer