

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
HELD MAY 13, 2014

Present: Deputy Mayor M. Fischer, Councillors D. Bachman, W. Brown,  
A. Campbell, S. Nolls & K. Sernecky

CAO G. Switenky  
Corporate Secretary C. Smith

Absent: Mayor D. Richards

Call to Order: Deputy Mayor M. Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

7(a) None

2. Agenda Approval

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED  
Unanimous

3. Delegation - 4:30 P.M. – Mark Pederson - Can Pak, Lee Penner - Director of Parks & Leisure Services & Grace Fix – Heartland Beautification Committee re: Composting

Mark Pederson, Lee Penner & Grace Fix entered the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Fischer welcomed M. Pederson, L. Penner & G. Fix to the meeting.

G. Fix presented Committee Members with a follow-up recap of the Stettler Curbside Composting Proposal that she had previously presented to Town Council on December 17, 2013.

G. Fix highlighted key points in the presentation as follows:

Why Compost? – To save space in our landfill, reduce our contribution to climate change and save our soil.

Why Curbside Pick-Up Instead of Neighborhood Bins?

In our Neighborhood Program:

1. The peak compost loads occur on dry sunny days. Neighborhood bin collection sites become overloaded and unsightly.
2. Residents use plastic bags to transport their yard waste and toss the bags into the neighborhood bins which contaminates the end product.
3. Neighborhood bins are too high.
4. Neighborhood bins are currently used by some non-Stettler residents.

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In a Curbside Program:

1. Residents will find it very convenient to have their yard waste picked up at the curb.
2. We can accept our kitchen waste with our yard waste and increase organic diversion from the landfill.
3. The resulting yard/kitchen compost is superior because of less plastic contamination.
4. The more convenient our program, the higher our diversion of residential waste from the landfill.

G. Fix reviewed some curbside compost collection options with projected net costs:

1. Current Neighborhood Compost Program - \$1.03/month
2. Year-Round Curbside Collection – Cancel Neighborhood Program - \$2.03/month
3. Summer Only Curbside Collection – Cancel Neighborhood Program - \$1.30/month

Roundtable discussion ensued regarding: the existing compost program, expected participation rates and acceptance of a new household curbside compost program with associated universal fees, the public's ability to do most of this composting themselves already (if they desire), plastic bag contamination, elimination of the popular but high maintenance yard waste bins throughout the community, increased landfill diversion amounts, convenience (or not), logistics of the collection program (bins, size, pick-up schedule), and certifications and workloads to manage the materials collected.

Discussion continued regarding the initial cost of providing 2200 residential collection bins/containers (240 litre non-vented bins at a cost of \$123,200 or 240 litre vented roll-out bins at a cost of \$140,800).

It was suggested that the current bi-weekly recycling curbside collection program could be enhanced to a weekly collection schedule (fees would also have to increase) which would likely result in some increased diversion from the landfill.

After considerable and healthy roundtable discussion Members of Committee mutually agreed that composting is a good idea, but they also felt that the cost of the bins is very expensive and the majority of the public may not be ready to accept this universal fee based level of service at this time. Committee's consensus is to firstly, educate the public to raise awareness of the environmental and community benefits of composting.

Delegation Members desire to get Council's permission to proceed with an awareness program regarding composting and also recommend that a survey be sent out requesting feedback and input from residents.

Deputy Mayor Fischer advised that this matter will be discussed further by Town Council to determine whether there is financial support for undertaking a survey process at this time.

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Moved by Councillor Nolls that the Committee of the Whole accept the Composting Report as presented for information purposes.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

Deputy Mayor Fischer thanked G. Fix, M. Pederson & L. Penner for their informative presentation.

G. Fix & M. Pederson departed the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

4. Policy II-2(d) re: Employee Health & Wellness

CAO G. Switenky advised that Administration has had requests from related community agencies like the Library and HYC to provide free memberships to their staff for Town of Stettler recreation facilities.

Currently, the Town provides SRC family memberships to our permanent full-time staff and a single membership to part-time employees as well as the volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Department membership is charged through our normal internal departmental budget process resulting in the County cost sharing in some of the volunteer Fire Department charges.

The challenge with this particular issue is that there are many non-profit groups that would benefit from the Town providing such at no cost. However, the loss of revenue could be quite substantial.

Options:

1. Continue Status Quo.
2. Expand to include associated groups such as the Library, HYC, FCSS, Lodge, etc. with the loss of revenue being absorbed by the Town.
3. Advise the various associated groups that they should budget and pay for these benefits through their budgets. Doing so would ensure that all municipalities funding the program would pay their share of employee benefits.

Discussion ensued regarding the setting of a precedent for all valued related community agencies. It was noted that this is currently an employee wellness benefit of employment with the Town. Other agencies need have their own wellness policy and pay their own costs.

The Committee of the Whole mutually agreed that there would be no change to Policy II-2(d), being the Employee Health & Wellness Policy at this time.

L. Penner, Director of Parks & Leisure Services departed the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

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5. 2014 Community Chip Seal Coordination

CAO G. Switenky explained that the County of Stettler has put together a chip seal program for several of their roads. 38<sup>th</sup> Street (Ring Road) and 57<sup>th</sup> Street (Tower Road) are two boundary roads that have been included for chip seal treatment in their tender. Historically the Town and County jointly fund boundary roads.

Chip seal is the application of heated asphalt oil, with a thin layer of small aggregate. Its purpose is to improve the wearing surface of the road and to seal the surface to prevent water from penetrating the surface.

The total project costs are expected as follows:

38 Street – \$74,000 plus GST.

57 Street - \$29,000 plus GST.

Cost sharing at 50%, we expect the Town's portion to be \$51,500 plus GST.

Administration is interested in extending the chip seal up to the rail tracks on Tower Road. We have plans to complete asphalt repairs on the failed sections of tower road within the Town's limits using funds already included in the 2014 Operating Budget. Administration supports that adding a chip seal layer to the entire road surface, after asphalt repairs are completed will help prevent water from penetrating the surface of the asphalt, extending the wear life of the road.

Expected costs to extend the chip seal to the rail tracks is \$12,500. This extra cost can also be covered utilizing existing 2014 road maintenance budgets.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of this request being well after the 2014 Capital Budget process, and the value of coordinating such program with County contractors.

Administration respectfully requests that Committee of the Whole recommend that Town Council agree to jointly fund the chip seal improvements to the Tower Road and Ring Road at an expected cost of \$51,500 from General Reserves.

Moved by Councillor Brown that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Town Council that Council agrees to jointly fund, with the County of Stettler, the chip seal improvements to the Tower Road and Ring Road at an expected cost of \$51,500 from General Reserves.

MOTION CARRIED  
Unanimous

6. Correspondence

a. None

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7. Additions

a. None

8. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Committee of Whole Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED  
Unanimous at 5:39 p.m.

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Mayor

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CAO