

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 9, 2012

Present: Mayor D. Richards, Councillors D. Bachman, A. Campbell, M. Fischer,
P. Simons, L. Thorogood & S. Wildeboer

CAO R. Stoutenberg
Assistant CAO G. Switenky

Absent: None

Call to Order: Mayor D. Richards called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30
p.m.

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

None

2. Agenda Approval

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. Delegations:

a. 4:30 P.M. – Aubrey Brown, Executive Director, Regional Board of Trade re: Global
Medics

Aubrey Brown, Executive Director of Regional Board of Trade entered the meeting at
4:30 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed A. Brown to the meeting.

A. Brown explained that there are approximately 65 rural Physician placement
vacancies available in Alberta at this time. Global Medics is a recruitment specialist
agency that is experienced in attracting Physicians to smaller communities. Global
Medics ensures that all Physicians being recruited are qualified to work in Alberta.

A. Brown explained that the Alberta Health Services Recruitment Physician Resource
Planner, Kelly Caughlin has reviewed and is recommending that we sign this referral
contract with Global Medics. K. Caughlin has renegotiated the contract from \$20,000
to \$15,000 per Physician. Global Medics has been actively forwarding leads to us.

It was acknowledged that the Global Medics standard contract is payable upon the
successful relocation and has some partial refund provisions should the Physician
decide to leave.

Councillor S. Wildeboer entered the meeting at approximately 4:40 p.m.

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Historically and cooperatively the Town of Stettler and the County of Stettler have each approved a \$22,500 relocation allowance per Physician to assist with settlement costs resulting in a total of \$45,000 available to the Physician. It was acknowledged that the standard relocation contract has some terms and conditions regarding the expectation of a commitment.

Discussion ensued regarding the immediate need for additional Physicians at one of the local clinics and ultimately the need for 4 more Physicians in Stettler to serve the community as a whole.

Discussion continued regarding whether the Global Medics one-time fee of \$15,000 would be deducted off the \$45,000 available to each Physician or is an additional cost to both municipalities. It was mutually agreed that the Town's (½) share of \$7,500 would be additional however the County of Stettler would need to be consulted regarding their commitment for an additional \$7,500.

A. Brown concluded that he would like at this time to request approval for:

The additional expenditure (as per the attached contract) of \$15,000 per Physician hired with the assistance of Global Medics to be charged equally in the amount of \$7,500 each to the Town of Stettler and the County of Stettler.

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Town of Stettler Council approve entering into a recruitment contract with Global Medics for a fee of \$15,000 per relocated Physician; to be charged equally in the amount of \$7,500 to the Town and County of Stettler. And for clarity purposes that this fee is in addition to the existing relocation allowance commitment of \$22,500 per Physician.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

A. Brown briefly updated Committee Members on a recent site visit from an interested Physician.

Mayor Richards thanked A. Brown for his informative presentation and for attending the meeting.

A. Brown departed the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

b. 4:45 P.M. – Lee Penner, Director of Parks & Leisure Services re: Memo & Policy – Minor Sports Facility Subsidy

Lee Penner, Director of Parks & Leisure Services entered the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Mayor Richards welcomed L. Penner to the meeting.

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CAO R. Stoutenberg explained that we are not here tonight to set user rates, rather to review our philosophy of subsidizing certain facilities for minor youth associations.

L. Penner explained that it is increasingly difficult to internally fund continual (costly) recreation facility upgrades. While exploring fees and rates over the last few years the PLS Department has found that most municipal minor sport facility subsidies (in other communities) are less than 50%.

L. Penner highlighted that current Town policies have the following philosophy:

The Town of Stettler strives to provide all facilities at no extra cost to taxpayers. This user pay system has provided excellent facilities available to Stettler Town and County users at reasonable rates. Rates are determined utilizing a simple formula where net facility cost is divided by projected use. Net cost is determined after other respective facility/program revenues are deducted.

In order to make facilities affordable to minor sports associations 50% of the calculated rate/fee is waived and assumed by the general tax base. The exception to this policy is the swimming pool where facility costs are simply too high, and therefore all rates must be set in relation to market reasonability and acceptability.

CAO R. Stoutenberg provided a historical perspective that a number of years ago, there was concern over the amount of tax funding required to support Town recreation programs and facilities. The most expensive being the arena and pool. The concerns came from both the County of Stettler and local citizens. The counter argument to this is that we need services and facilities to be an attractive and modern community.

In an effort to address their concerns, a policy was developed. The policy requires that adults pay 100% of Town facility costs and youths pay 50%. Also, it was decided to move minor sports organizations to parent run and to require that any Town program is paid 100% by the user.

He noted that non Town-owned facilities receive no operational funding or youth subsidy (Seniors Centre, Moto Cross Track, PAC, Ag. Grounds, Dance studios, Curling Rink and Golf Course). To recognize that some minor youth programs also use these facilities, the Town will occasionally provide equipment or assistance to support some of these non Town-owned facilities. It usually is through the supply of gravel, grading and the use of the floor scrubber, lift or other equipment.

Discussion ensued regarding the following decisions:

1. Level of facility subsidy provided to youth groups.
2. Level of facility subsidy, if any, to adults.
3. How to recognize the youth component of the other facilities (Golf Course, Curling Rink, Ag. Society, PAC, Moto Cross Track etc.) in a fair manner.

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Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty in separating youth and adult use within many non Town-owned facilities, and/or the general profit making expectation of many independent providers of youth programs. It was noted that all youth programs offered in Stettler are community based and most youth programs have significant participation from youth residing within the County of Stettler. All facility subsidies provided by the Town are given to not-for-profit local minor associations and therefore these subsidies directly support all participating youth residing in both the Town and the County of Stettler.

Discussion continued regarding the Town's ability to subsidize all minor youth programs to some degree or just (as is) the youth programs that utilize the Town-owned/tax sponsored facilities. It was mutually agreed that there are challenges associated with attempting to subsidize fairly all minor youth programs and that the status quo would be maintained at this time. Therefore the existing subsidy of 50% for minor youth programs within Town-owned facilities will be continued into 2013.

4. Discussion re: County of Stettler Funding of Town Recreation Facilities/Stettler Curling Club Seeking funding

CAO R. Stoutenberg highlighted that current annual recreation funding received by the Town from the County of Stettler is intended for youth recreational services provided by the Town and not for adults. The County of Stettler does however provide some basic flat funding to many recreation organizations/halls etc. located within the County, regardless of any youth component.

The Stettler Curling Club (located within Town limits) does not receive funding from the County of Stettler and has struggled financially for a number of years. It was noted that there has been a successful and vibrant youth curling program running in Stettler over the past few years.

CAO R. Stoutenberg noted that non Town-owned facilities receive no operational funding or youth subsidy (Seniors Centre, Moto Cross Track, PAC, Ag. Grounds, Dance studios, Curling Rink and Golf Course). To recognize that some minor youth programs also use these facilities, the Town will occasionally provide equipment or assistance to support some of these non Town-owned facilities. It usually is through the supply of gravel, grading and the use of the floor scrubber, lift or other equipment.

As in the previous Agenda topic discussion ensued regarding the Town's ability to subsidize all minor youth programs to some degree or just (as is) the youth programs that utilize the Town-owned/tax sponsored facilities. It was mutually agreed that there are challenges associated with attempting to subsidize fairly all minor youth programs and that the status quo would be maintained at this time.

Mayor Richards thanked L. Penner for his informative presentations and for attending the meeting.

L. Penner departed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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5. Memo re: Joint Town/County Meeting of October 17 from 3-5 pm

CAO R. Stoutenberg advised that it is the County's turn to host, chair and arrange dinner for the upcoming Joint Town/County Meeting on October 17th from 3-5 pm at the County Office.

It is important that Town Council formulate its thoughts/initial position on the various issues and that a member of Council is assigned to present/discuss particular items. Most often it will be the Councillor who has worked on the issue or committee and is most knowledgeable about such. The remainder of those in attendance can further support the position.

Discussion ensued respecting individual Agenda items:

County Issues on the Agenda:

1. Recreation
2. Ring Road
3. Stettler Waste Management Authority
 - Waste to Energy Agreement
 - SWMA Amending Agreement
4. Collaborative Governance Initiative Grant
5. In-Camera (possible health related issue)

Town Issues on the Agenda

1. SRC Updating
 - Seniors Facility/CIP Grant/Hiring of Consultant
 - Commitment for Library/Parking Lot Project
2. Fire Agreement – Section 14
3. Stettler Flying Club – Modified Agreement Request

6. AHS – A Special Invitation – October 30, 2012

Councillor P. Simons offered and it was mutually agreed that he will attend this meeting.

7. Discussion re: Tail Creek Snow Birds Request – Snowmobile Trails

Mayor D. Richards informed Committee Members the a local snowmobile group is very interested in exploring the opportunity of working with the Town to incorporate some legally approved (door to door) trails for snowmobilers to access food and lodging in Stettler.

This item will be discussed at a later date when the group is able to provide more information.

In good faith the group has offered the Town 4 free VIP tickets to attend the Alberta Snowmobile and Powersports show (Alberta Snowmobile Association) on October 26 – 28, 2012 in Edmonton.

It was mutually agreed that the tickets be forwarded to the Parks and Leisure Services Department for consideration of attendance, and if none, then returned to the group.

8. Correspondence

a. None

9. Additions

None

10. Adjournment

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO