

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Council Chambers, District of Hope Municipal Office
325 Wallace Street, Hope, British Columbia

Council Members Present: Mayor Victor Smith
Councillor Heather Stewin
Councillor Scott Medlock
Councillor Pauline Newbigging
Councillor Angela Skoglund

Council Members Absent: Councillor Crystal Sedore
Councillor Zachary Wells

Staff Present: Donna Bellingham, Director of Corporate Services
Branden Morgan, Deputy Corporate Officer/EA

Others in attendance: 1 member of the public and 1 media

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved / Seconded

THAT the June 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Moved / Seconded

THAT the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held June 12, 2023, be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

4. OTHER PERTINENT BUSINESS

(a) RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment 2023-2025 Strategic Plan

Superintendent Davy Lee was in attendance to discuss the RCMP Upper Fraser Valley Regional Detachment (UFVRD) 2023-2025 Strategic Plan with Council. Superintendent Lee advised that the goal is to gather input on priorities that have been identified by the municipalities and Indigenous communities in the UFVRD. He added that the information gathered this evening contribute to the formation of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

The following topics were discussed:

- From a safety perspective, what is the number one issue that your local RCMP needs to address?
 - Concerns regarding regular offenders and their release without

consequences.

- Ways that the Violent Repeat Offenders Program can address concerns in the community, with one community member currently being engaged through this program.
- The need to be more assertive when engaging with mischief offences that prevent the lawful enjoyment of facilities.
- The benefits of continuing to report all issues even though a direct result cannot be seen by the public, as it creates a history on the individual to show it is not an isolated incident.
- What does your local RCMP do well?
 - Levels of engagement with the community have begun to grow, with RCMP members attending important community events, such as the Rambo First Blood 40th Anniversary.
 - Timely and effective responses to local incidents such as break-ins.
- What could your local RCMP do better?
 - Increase visibility in the community as a regular presence will help to keep crime away and help the community feel safer.
 - Increase communication with the public after an incident has been logged, such as following up with the caller as the case progresses and letting them know the outcome, if possible.
 - The benefits of having members who live in Hope with regards to communication.
 - All cases that are assigned to a member from outside of the detachment are re-assigned to a local member at the conclusion of their shift in order to create continuity.
- What are one or two concrete actions your local RCMP could undertake in the next year that would make a positive difference in the community?
 - Working with Hope Crime Prevention to have a member working in the downtown office in order to increase visibility and community engagement.
 - Installation of cameras to monitor transactions and custody exchanges at the Hope Crime Prevention Office or a specific location.
 - Re-introduction of the DARE program in local schools as well as teaching regarding cyberbullying and other online issues.
 - The implementation of a school liaison program.
 - The implementation of a bicycle patrol program to increase visibility around town.

- What's one thing that your local RCMP and your organization could work on together?
 - Regular attendance at events as opposed to attendance only during crimes.
 - Cooperation on larger projects such as roadblocks and school zone speed enforcement.
 - Open-house events where members of the community can meet members of the local detachment and gain insight into how they operate.
- Do you have any advice for us on how to better communicate with people in your community – both to get our messages out, and to listen to your concerns.
 - Hosting community events such as Coffee with Cops, where the public has an opportunity to be introduced to members of the detachment.
 - Publishing member profiles in the Hope Standard for the community to see.
 - Releasing quarterly data in an effort to be more transparent, such as the number of RCMP members working in the District.
 - A Facebook page to allow for greater community engagement and release of news.

Superintendent Lee noted that Hope is the last municipal council within the UFVRD for him to meet with. He presented the same questions to each Council and general theme from all municipalities seems to be consistent so far, officer presence, communication and more visibility for traffic safety.

5. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

6. CLOSE

Moved / Seconded

THAT the June 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 27, 2023 in Council Chambers of the District of Hope, British Columbia.

Original Signed by Victor Smith
Mayor

Original Signed by Donna Bellingham
Director of Corporate Services