

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTIONS

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting held via Zoom at City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair; Councillor Susan Scott; and Councillor Kyle Sampson <3:04 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.>

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Lyn Hall <3:04 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.>; Councillor Garth Frizzell <3:04 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.>; Councillor Murry Krause; Ms. Maureen Connelly, Manager of Legislative Services/Staff Liaison; and Ms. Leslie Kellett, Legislative Coordinator.

A. COMMENCEMENT

The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Skakun, that the agenda for the May 19, 2021 Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

C.1 Minutes of the Intergovernmental Resolutions Committee Meeting held April 29, 2021

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Skakun, that the minutes of the meeting held April 29, 2021 for the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hall, Councillor Frizzell and Councillor Sampson joined the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

D.1 Review of a Proposed Resolution regarding Capacity in Federal and Provincial Court Systems for Submission to the 2021 UBCM Convention

The committee reviewed the resolution referred back to the committee by Council at the May 10, 2021 regular meeting.

Discussion commenced regarding inclusion of alternative coordinated initiatives that considers mental illness and addictions of offenders, ties them to their community and promotes rehabilitation and a crime-free lifestyle. A proposed alternate resolution was presented titled, "Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives."

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Scott, that the Committee APPROVES recommending to Council, that the following resolution regarding Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives be submitted to the 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention:

WHEREAS the Attorney General through the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) promotes public safety, justice, and respect for the rule of law by making measured charge assessment decisions and conducting fair and effective prosecutions and appeals;

AND WHEREAS Provincial Crown Counsel prosecutes all offences and appeals in British Columbia that arise under Canada's Criminal Code and provincial regulatory offences;

AND WHEREAS there is an increasing demand within the current system of justice resulting in major procedural delays, reduced public confidence, concerns about public safety and ongoing interactions with the criminal justice system by prolific offenders;

AND WHEREAS collaborative approaches that address root causes of crime, such as mental illness and addictions, create effective and targeted responses by providing offenders with supports, services and ties to their community and promotes rehabilitation and a crime-free lifestyle;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, through the implementation of coordinated initiatives such as community/integrated court and addiction treatment centres, First Nation's Health Councils and Integrated Case Assessment Teams, recognizes social and economic factors and the negative effects of reliance on established measures within the mainstream justice system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Attorney General improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, alternative coordinated and collaborative approaches to justice.

Carried Unanimously

The committee reviewed feedback received from UBCM recommending amendments to add clarity to the submitted resolution regarding “Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offenses.”

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the Committee APPROVES recommending to Council, that the following amended resolution regarding Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offenses be submitted to the 2021 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention:

WHEREAS the BC Crown Counsel Policy Manual's guidelines regarding charge assessment states that unless impracticable to do so, police will lay an Information charging a person with an offence only after approval of charges by Crown Counsel has been given;

AND WHEREAS police responsibilities regarding disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings is defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies, Crown Counsel's responsibility in accordance with the Crown Counsel Act, is to “examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate”;

AND WHEREAS the costs and hours required to prepare a fulsome disclosure before charges are approved by Crown Counsel, can result in delays in charges being laid;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the BC Prosecution Service to work with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices in order to reduce delays in charges being laid for the prosecution of criminal offences.

Carried Unanimously

D.2 Review Committee Report to Council regarding Update on Provincial Responses to the City's 2020 UBCM Resolutions

The committee deferred this item to a future meeting as the provincial response addendum to the 2020 UBCM resolutions have not yet been received.

D.3 2021 Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions Work Plan

The committee reviewed their 2021 Work Plan.

Moved by Councillor Scott, Seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions APPROVES the 2021 Work Plan as attached to the May 19, 2021 committee meeting agenda.

Carried Unanimously

E. OLD BUSINESS

E.1 Canadian National Railway

Mayor Hall provided an update on discussions that have occurred between the City and CN Railway regarding improved communication and advanced notice on railway work to be completed within the City of Prince George and projects that may have an impact on the City's budget.

Councillor Frizzell provided information regarding the work of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as it relates to railway safety. Discussion commenced regarding future advocacy work to support federal funding of railway crossings within municipal boundaries.

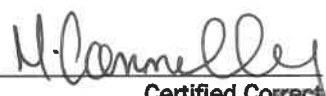
The committee has deferred to the October 2021 committee meeting an update on the communication between CN Rail and the City and preparation of a report back to Council in follow-up to the resolution from the March 8 regular Council meeting.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair



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