



Fraser Valley Regional Library

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE: 34589 Delair Road, Abbotsford, BC Canada V2S 5Y1
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APPROVED

(Motion #07.01.24/01)

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FVRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

FVRL Administrative Centre
34589 Delair Road, Abbotsford, BC

MINUTES

Attendees from the Board

Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley
(Chair)
Councillor Doug Bing, District of Pitt Meadows
Councillor Ernie Daykin, District of Maple
Ridge (departed at 11:20 am)
Director Bill Dickey, Fraser Valley Regional
District
Councillor Krista Engelland, Corporation of
Delta
Councillor Mike Forrest, City of Port
Coquitlam (departed at 11:20 am)
Mayor Judy Forster, City of White Rock
(arrived at 9:10 am)
Councillor Barbara Gard, District of Kent
Councillor Dave Loewen, City of Abbotsford
(alternate)
Councillor Gayle Martin, Greater Vancouver
Regional District
Councillor Bob Perry, Village of Harrison Hot
Springs
Councillor Heather Stewart, District of Mission
(alternate)
Mayor Wilfried Vicktor, District of Hope
Councillor Grant Ward, Township of Langley

Absent

Mayor Clint Hames, City of Chilliwack

Attendees from Staff

Saul Amdursky, Chief Executive Officer
Louise Broadley, Deputy Manager—The
Langleys & White Rock
Pat Dawson, Deputy Manager—NorthWEST
Irene Geng, Executive Assistant to the CEO
(Recorder)
Scott Hargrove, Senior Manager—IT
Earla Legault, Deputy Manager—Upper
Fraser
Grace Makarewicz, Library Manager—The
Langleys & White Rock
Rob O'Brennan, Director of Public Services
Mary O'Callaghan, Director of Finance
Rita Penco, Library Manager—Delta
Stu Rosenberg, Library Manager—Mission
David Thiessen, Library Manager—Upper
Fraser
Lubbert van der Laan, Director of Corporate
Services

CUPE Local 1698 Representative

Laurie Dyck

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- 1.00 **Call to Order** The regular Board meeting scheduled for November 29, 2006 was postponed to December 13, 2006 because of hazardous travel conditions caused by a snowstorm.
- Mayor Peter Fassbender called the regular December 13, 2006 meeting of the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board to order at 8:58 a.m. He welcomed Councillor Heather Stewart, District of Mission, and Councillor Dave Loewen, City of Abbotsford, attending the FVRL Board meeting in their roles as alternates.
- 2.00 **Approval of Consent Agenda** It was **MOVED** Councillor Ward, **SECONDED** Councillor Forrest, **THAT** the consent agenda be approved as circulated. 06.12.13/01
Consent Agenda Approved
- CARRIED**
- 3.00 **Approval of Agenda** It was **MOVED** Councillor Engelland, **SECONDED** Councillor Ward, **THAT** the agenda be approved as circulated. 06.12.13/02
Agenda Approved as Circulated
- CARRIED**
- 4.00 **NEW BUSINESS**
- 4.01 **Proposed 2007 Board Meeting Dates** It was **MOVED** Director Dickey, **SECONDED** Councillor Engelland, **THAT** the regular 2007 meetings of the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on the following dates:
January 10
January 24
February 28
March 28
April 25
May 23
June 27
July 25
September 19
October 24
November 28
and **THAT** the Board's Annual Planning Day be held Wednesday, November 7, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 06.12.13/03
2007 Board Meeting Dates
- CARRIED**

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- 4.02 ***Borrowing Bylaw for 2007***
MOTION
- It was **MOVED** Councillor Ward, **SECONDED** Mayor Vicktor, **THAT** the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Public Services, the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance, the Board Chair, and the Board Treasurer be empowered to sign on behalf of the Fraser Valley Regional Library such bank instruments as to cause the temporary borrowing from the Royal Bank of Canada, Abbotsford Branch, of periodic sums of money not to exceed in the aggregate the sum of \$500,000. This is provided that the sums of money borrowed are based on revenue itemized in the 2007 budget that is not yet received but due and payable by December 31, 2007.
- 06.12.13/04
2007
Borrowing
Bylaw

CARRIED

Because Mayor Fassbender needed to participate in a radio talk show interview and since the Board Vice Chair was delayed in traffic, he asked Director Dickey, as Board Treasurer, to chair the Board meeting temporarily.

- 4.03 ***2007 Tactical Plan***
- Saul Amdursky, Chief Executive Officer, provided an overview of the 2007 Tactical Plan, describing the process involved in the plan's development and how all aspects relate to FVRL's mission, vision, and values. The greatest area of the plan to work on, in his view, is the measures for successful implementation.

Councillor Forrest requested that the Tactical Plan include a measure pertaining to promotion of library services for preschoolers and day cares.

Mayor Forster commended FVRL staff for the Tactical Plan, complimenting the efforts that establish clear accountability and measures of success. She viewed the plan as being very action-oriented, with an impressive list of actionables.

Councillor Daykin suggested that, with regard to finances and budgeting, local governments would appreciate longer term planning than simply one year at a time.

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Mary O'Callaghan, Director of Finance, explained that FVRL would do so if it wasn't prevented by the current funding formula.

It was **MOVED** Mayor Forster, **SECONDED** Councillor Ward, **THAT** the 2007 Tactical Plan be received.

06.12.13/05
2007
Tactical
Plan
Received

CARRIED

It was **MOVED** Councillor Engelland, **SECONDED** Mayor Forster, **THAT** the 2007 FVRL Tactical Plan, along with a covering letter from CEO Saul Amdursky, be sent to FVRL member councils/boards to be included on their council/board agendas so that FVRL members understand what FVRL has developed and is achieving.

06.12.13/06
2007
Tactical
Plan To Be
Shared With
Councils

CARRIED

Vice Chair Mayor Forster, having arrived in the interim, assumed the chair from Director Dickey until the return of Mayor Fassbender from his radio interview.

4.04 2007 Budget

Mary O'Callaghan, Director of Finance, presented a PowerPoint overview of the proposed 2007 FVRL budget, and answered questions related to it.

Mayor Fassbender returned to the meeting and assumed the role of Chair.

Mayor Fassbender explained the context of the proposed budget, pointing out that assessments for shared services are based on FVRL's funding formula whereas each community has control of its own local costs and is free to address local issues as it sees fit. He suggested that the cost per taxpayer is a valuable perspective in light of the overall budget.

Mayor Vicktor requested that, at its January meeting, the Board receive a comparison that would show how the 2006 budget would have changed if the surplus reserved for shared services would be returned to FVRL members instead. He added that he didn't expect that strategy would save huge amounts of money

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but pointed out that municipalities are absorbing costs that are greater than ever before.

Mayor Fassbender noted that, if the surplus is taken away from shared services, then the money for shared services purposes would need to come another way—likely through municipal contributions or surpluses.

Mayor Fassbender stated that Board members need to realize the impact of the course of action they choose. If Board members are concerned that shared services need to be cut back at the regional library level, then they also must define the sacrifices they are prepared to make. If they take away the funding allocated for shared services surplus, then they will have to come up with more money for shared services. He also cautioned the Board about saying one community is more efficient than another but, rather, to recognize that all are doing the best job they can.

Mary O'Callaghan pointed out that, when the Board changed policy to allow paying out part of the surplus to FVRL members, the Administrative Centre budget increased.

Councillor Loewen noted that Abbotsford Libraries have the lowest FTE in the system and that he would rather see money go to local staffing than to regional staffing. He also suggested cutting back on library materials.

Councillor Bing stated that Pitt Meadows Council already had deliberated the FVRL budget and approved Scenario 2 upon realizing that FVRL's materials are only half of the Canadian average for libraries. Being only half of the Canadian average is not acceptable to Council and Pitt Meadows supports FVRL's goal to be on par with the rest of Canada.

Councillor Daykin stated that Maple Ridge has completed its budget work and recognized that most of the increase is outside of its control. Maple Ridge also values the library and recognizes the shared benefits of being part of FVRL, as well as the quality of service.

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Mayor Fassbender reminded the Board of its resolve at the November Planning Day to be a mission-led Board. At a budget meeting the reality of that comes to bear and communities legitimately look for ways to cut back on their budgets. He advocated that FVRL be an important discussion at council/board tables and that communities recognize the significant value and benefits that libraries offer, as well as the costs. Communities need to decide if they are prepared for the cost to get the value and, if not, then need to look at the alternative.

Councillor Gard asked which of the shared services are the “icing” and which are the “cake.”

Mary O’Callaghan reiterated her standing invitation to Board members to tour Administrative Centre to see for themselves what is accomplished here, and maintained that shared services at Administrative Centre are not “icing.” In fact, FVRL’s library services could not be provided without these shared services, and little in FVRL’s budget is “extra.”

Lubbert van der Laan stated that services at FVRL’s Administrative Centre would need to be replicated in each of FVRL’s member communities if they were on their own and that, by sharing these services, FVRL members benefit from significant cost savings.

Mayor Fassbender reiterated the questions, “Do we believe being part of FVRL is a value? What is that value? What are we prepared to contribute to get the benefit? If I’m not part of FVRL, what can I deliver to my community on my own?”

Councillor Ward stated that FVRL libraries must be held to a high level of quality—quality that is obvious in FVRL’s staff—and FVRL Board members’ first responsibility is to FVRL, not specifically to their individual councils. He urged Board members to make the Board work so well that FVRL is sustainable and fits FVRL’s values. Then Board members can go to their councils as fervent advocates for FVRL. He added that Langley Township is FVRL’s third largest in population and largest

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in the number of branches and, therefore, pays the largest assessment. Langley Township Council knows it must pay that and is prepared to go to its citizens to say that FVRL is a good system. To shut down the library would have the citizens up in arms because the citizens value the library. Langley Township Council is comfortable with Scenario 3 of the proposed 2007 budget and wants to lay the groundwork of a sustainable library system in the Fraser Valley. He reiterated his earlier statement: that FVRL Board members must represent FVRL first.

Councillor Martin declared that, on behalf of the 155 residents of the Greater Vancouver Regional District who she represents, she is happy with any of the three budget scenarios.

Councillor Stewart commented that, rather than a “cake and icing” analogy, she views FVRL’s library services as “bricks and mortar” and the “mortar” is the shared services delivered at FVRL’s Administrative Centre.

Mayor Forster agreed with Councillor Stewart’s bricks and mortar analogy. She suggested the Board consider creative ways to generate revenue, and cited some recent examples of how White Rock generated revenue from user groups. She encouraged the Board to be innovative and entrepreneurial.

Mayor Vicktor stated that he does not question the value of the library. His concern focuses on what his community can afford.

Mayor Fassbender encouraged Board members to connect with FVRL’s senior management if they had questions or wished further clarification on the proposed 2007 budget. Then he reminded them that, to impact the shared services portion of the budget, the Board has two only options: to reduce staffing or to reduce library materials.

5.00

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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6.00	AROUND THE TABLE	The Board opted to pass on providing local reports.	
7.00	QUESTIONS	There were no questions.	
8.00	In Camera Session	There was no <i>in camera</i> session.	
9.00	Next Regular Meeting	The next regularly scheduled meeting of the FVRL Board will be held on: January 10, 2007 9:00 am-12 noon Administrative Centre 34589 Delair Road, Abbotsford, BC This first meeting of 2007 will feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official Board portraits—individual and group;• Orientation to FVRL Board;• Election of officers;• More 2007 budget discussion if desired.	
10.00	Adjournment	It was MOVED Councillor Gard, SECONDED Councillor Ward, THAT the regular Board meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.	06.12.13/07 Meeting Adjourned