

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FRASER-FORT GEORGE REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 IN THE BOARDROOM, 155 GEORGE STREET, PRINCE GEORGE, BC.

Directors Present: Director J. Atkinson, Chairperson
Director D. Alan
Director K. Dunphy
Director B. Empey
Director A. Kaehn
Director J. Kirk
Director V. Mobley
Director C. Ramsay
Director G. Runtz (remote)
Director K. Sampson
Director B. Skakun
Director O. Torgerson
Director S. Yu

Directors Absent: Director L. Beckett

Staff Present: C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Connelly, General Manager of Legislative and Corporate Services
J. Gloger, Manager of Legislative Services
K. Jonkman, General Manager of Community and Development Services
S. White, General Manager of Financial Services
L. Zapotichny, General Manager of Environmental Services

Minutes Recorded and Produced by: B. Bowes, Clerk Typist III/Reception

Media: There were no media in attendance.

1. Call to Order

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Regional District acknowledged the unceded ancestral lands of the Lheidli T'enneh, on whose land we live, work and play.

The Chairperson proceeded to do a roll call of Directors to confirm those attending remotely and those attending in person in the Boardroom.

2. Adoption of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Ramsay

THAT the agenda for the October 17, 2024 Regional Hospital District Board Meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 September 12, 2024 Regional Hospital District Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by Sampson
Seconded by Skakun

THAT the Minutes of the Regional Hospital District Board meeting held on September 12, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson advised that on October 1, 2024 themselves, the Acting Chair, and C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, were notified by Premier Eby that the addition of a helipad will be added to the construction of the Acute Care Tower at the University Hospital of Northern BC.

The Chairperson also advised that themselves, the Acting Chair, and S. White, General Manager of Financial Services, attended the Regional Hospital District Joint Fall Meeting on October 7, 2024.

5. Reports

5.1 General Disbursement Schedules for April to June 2024

A report was presented regarding General Disbursement Schedules for April to June 2024.

Discussion commenced.

Moved by Kaehn
Seconded by Kirk

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding "General Disbursement Schedules for April to June 2024" be received for information.

CARRIED

5.2 2024 Year to Date Capital Spending Report

A report was presented regarding the 2024 Year to Date Capital Spending Report.

S. White, General Manager of Financial Services, provided a brief overview of the report and responded to a query from a Director regarding the expenditures of previous years.

Discussion commenced regarding *Hospital District Act* requirements for contributions by Regional Hospital Districts, opportunity for implementing contribution limits, history of past contributions to capital projects and the potential of engaging a third party for advice on prioritizing projects and understanding the value of each project in the hospital environment.

C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to queries from Directors regarding potential impacts should projects not proceed due to insufficient funding and noted that the capital planning process undertaken by Northern Health is overseen and funded by the Ministry of Health.

Moved by Mobley
Seconded by Dunphy

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding "2024 Year to Date Capital Spending Report" be received for information.

CARRIED

5.3 Temporary Borrowing Resolution for 2025

A report was presented regarding Temporary Borrowing Resolution for 2025.

C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to queries from Directors regarding the voting entitlement for the subject temporary borrowing resolution, utilization of temporary borrowing, the cost of the borrowing at commercial interest rates versus Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) rates, and the process of borrowing from the MFA.

S. White, General Manager of Financial Services noted that the Regional District has not utilized temporary borrowing in recent history due to close management of cash flows and holding reserve balances to fund the Acute Care Tower project.

Moved by Skakun
Seconded by Empey

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding "Temporary Borrowing Resolution for 2025" be received for information.

CARRIED

Director Ramsay left the Boardroom at 10:38 a.m. and returned at 10:41 a.m.

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 31 of the Hospital District Act, the Board may by resolution borrow for purposes other than capital expenditures, by way of temporary loan, such sums as the Board may deem necessary to meet current operating expenditures for the year, including the amounts required for principal and interest falling due within the year upon any debt of the Board;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 25(6) of the Hospital District Act, member municipalities and the Province are not required to make payment from taxation revenues of amounts requisitioned by a Regional Hospital District until August 1 of each year;

AND WHEREAS estimated operating expenditures to a maximum amount of \$750,000 must be paid before payment of such revenues is due;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of the Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District borrow pursuant to Section 31 of the Hospital District Act a sum not exceeding \$750,000 for the purpose of paying the above-mentioned operating expenditures and further that the borrowing may include the use of a bank overdraft.

CARRIED

5.4 Minor Capital and Building Integrity Grants

A report was presented regarding Minor Capital and Building Integrity Grants.

Discussion ensued regarding placing a maximum or cap on funds for non-capital items and how to manage future budgets to limit the RHD's funding contributions.

Moved by Mobley
Seconded by Dunphy

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding "Minor Capital and Building Integrity Grants" be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Alan

THAT the release of the 2024 Minor Capital Grant of \$1,100,000 to the Northern Health Authority be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by Kaehn
Seconded by Kirk

THAT the release of the 2024 Building Integrity Grant of \$100,000 to the Northern Health Authority be approved.

CARRIED

5.5 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 349, 2024 – Prince George Surgery Centre Equipment

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 349, 2024 – Prince George Surgery Centre Equipment.

C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to a query from a Director regarding Northern Health acquisition of private clinics and the provision in the Memorandum of Understanding regarding future disposal of equipment.

Moved by Empey
Seconded by Skakun

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 349, 2024 – Prince George Surgery Centre Equipment” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Sampson
Seconded by Kirk

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 349, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 349, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5.6 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 350, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034106 Replacement

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 350, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034106 Replacement.

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Ramsay

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 350, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034106 Replacement” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Dunphy
Seconded by Mobley

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 350, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Moved by Kaehn
Seconded by Kirk

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 350, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

Director Sampson left the Boardroom at 10:47 a.m. and returned at 10:48 a.m.

5.7 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 351, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034409 Replacement

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 351, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034409 Replacement.

Moved by Empey
Seconded by Skakun

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 351, 2024 – UHNBC Ultrasound N0034409 Replacement” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Sampson
Seconded by Skakun

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 351, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 351, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5.8 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 353, 2024 – Data Storage Device Replacement FFGRHD

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 353, 2024 – Data Storage Device Replacement FFGRHD.

Discussion ensued regarding the expectations of funding from the Regional Hospital District and requests from Northern Health regarding items that are not considered capital in nature.

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Ramsay

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 353, 2024 – Data Storage Device Replacement FFGRHD” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Mobley
Seconded by Dunphy

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 353, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third readings.

DEFEATED

Directors Mobley, Sampson, Skakun, and Yu - Opposed

5.9 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 354, 2024 – Mackenzie and District Hospital Primary Care Clinic Renovations

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 354, 2024 – Mackenzie and District Hospital Primary Care Clinic Renovations.

Moved by Dunphy
Seconded by Mobley

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 354, 2024 – Mackenzie and District Hospital Primary Care Clinic Renovations” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Ramsay
Seconded by Torgerson

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 354, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

Moved by Ramsay
Seconded by Alan

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 354, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5.10 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 – UHNBC DI D670 SPECT Upgrade

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 – UHNBC DI D670 SPECT Upgrade.

Discussion ensued amongst Directors regarding a lack of information from Northern Health on funding requests, the need for a structural review of the funding model, and concerns should the contribution percentage for this project be decreased.

C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, and S. White, General Manager of Financial Services, responded to queries from Directors regarding the transfer of medical equipment between hospitals in the Northern Health region and the possible actions from Northern Health in response to a decrease in the RHD’s contribution percentage for a capital expenditure request.

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding “Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 – UHNBC DI D670 SPECT Upgrade” be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Kaehn
Seconded by Kirk

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 be now introduced and read for a first time.

CARRIED

Directors Mobley, Sampson, and Skakun - Opposed

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Ramsay

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 be given second reading.

CARRIED

Directors Mobley, Sampson, and Skakun - Opposed

Moved by Skakun
Seconded by Mobley

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 be amended by striking 40% from the Schedule "A" under "Total RHD Share of Project Costs (2024)" and replacing it with 20% and amending the dollar amount under "Total RHD Share of Project Costs (2024)" and "RHD 2024 Request Bylaw No. 355" from \$122,800 to \$61,400.

DEFEATED

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 be given third reading.

CARRIED

Directors Mobley, Sampson, and Skakun - Opposed

Moved by Ramsay
Seconded by Dunphy

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 355, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

Director Mobley – Opposed

5.11 Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 356, 2024 – UHNBC Fire Alarm System Replacement

A report was presented regarding the Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 356, 2024 – UHNBC Fire Alarm System Replacement.

C. Calder, Chief Administrative Officer, responded to a query from a Director regarding the connectivity of the new Fire Alarm System with the system in the future Acute Care Tower.

Moved by Kaehn
Seconded by Kirk

THAT the report dated October 7, 2024 regarding "Proposed Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 356, 2024 – UHNBC Fire Alarm System Replacement" be received for information.

CARRIED

Moved by Yu
Seconded by Alan

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 356, 2024 be now introduced and given first, second and third reading.

CARRIED
Director Skakun – Opposed

Moved by Empey
Seconded by Kaehn

THAT Fraser-Fort George Regional Hospital District Capital Expenditure Bylaw No. 356, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED
Director Skakun – Opposed

6. New Business

Future Considerations

Discussion ensued regarding giving Northern Health clear direction on the Regional Hospital District's expectations for requests, working with the Union of BC Municipalities and other Regional Hospital Districts on advocacy for an overhaul of the *Hospital District Act* and provide as a suggested topic at the 2025 Electoral Area Directors Forum and 2025 North Central Local Government Association Convention.

Moved by Sampson
Seconded by Skakun

THAT the Board directs Administration to return a report at a future Regional Hospital District Board meeting regarding the 2025 Budget that provides options for the Board to reduce the total major project and major equipment expenditure and contribution levels, so as to balance the mega contribution the Board has made to the new Patient Care Tower, while still meeting the mandate that the Regional Hospital District Board sets out.

CARRIED
Directors Kaehn, Dunphy, Empey – Opposed

Moved by Sampson
Seconded by Skakun

THAT the Board directs the Chair, Acting Chair and Administration to prepare an advocacy plan for the review and modernization of the Hospital District Act.

CARRIED

7. Adjournment

Moved by Torgerson
Seconded by Ramsay

THAT the meeting be adjourned - 11:55 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair

General Manager of Legislative and
Corporate Services