



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING COMMITTEE

March 7, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, Upstairs Boardroom

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the Upstairs Boardroom at City Hall. The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chairperson: Councillor S. Morgan,
S. Anderson,
J. Carr,
D. Fetaz,
R. Gervais,
C. Scott, and
D. Wohlgemuth.

The following Committee members were absent:

Mayor M. Heyck (ex-officio),
L. Archer,
C. Correa,
R. Sexton, and
C. Steed.

The following members of Administration were in attendance:

M. Auge,
C. Vaughn, and
C. Dubuc.

Call to Order

1. Councillor Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Agenda

3. S. Anderson moved,
D. Wohlgemuth seconded,

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

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Approval of the Minutes

4. C. Scott moved,
R. Gervais seconded,

That the Minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2017 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Introductions

5. Roundtable introductions were made for the benefit of new members.

Update on Transportation Related Projects funded by GNWT

6. Committee was updated on the status of the various projects listed in the City's successful \$75k Funding Proposal to the GNWT for Greenhouse Gases Reduction Initiatives in the Transportation Sector. Most items have either been procured or are in the process of being procured/completed, and the RFPs for studies have all been awarded. All projects should be completed by end of March 2018 since the funds need to be spent before the end of the GNWT fiscal year.

Update on Projects Approved in City Budget

7. Committee was brought up-to-date on the CEP-related projects that have been approved by City Council in the 2018 Budget;
 - a. Design for the City Hall/RCMP/JTFN Biomass Boiler (\$130k): A Service-Level Agreement (SLA, similar to an MOU) is being drafted by DND, since they have the most restrictions out of the three parties involved. The RCMP are generally supportive but still figuring out how and when they want to be involved with the project. RFPs should be going out this spring to try to have a completed design by February 2019 and the goal is for construction to start in the summer of 2019.
 - b. LED interior lights for City Facilities (\$100k): Administration has been consulting with Ryfan Electric, to get an updated inventory and an estimate of the work required to complete the transition. J. Carr advised that Administration should make sure to consider the option of retrofitting the current fixtures instead of changing them completely, since it can easily cut the price in half. C. Scott mentioned that Administration should also ensure that all exterior light fixtures are Dark Sky Compliant. D. Wohlgemuth recommended that the City incorporate motion sensors for exterior lights when switching to LEDs to maximize the energy and costs savings.
 - c. Waste Audit & Strategic Plan (\$50k): A draft of the report has been received and is currently being reviewed by Administration. The consultants are planning to present the report to Council at the end of April or early May. Once the report gets approved for information by Council, Administration mentioned that it would be useful to receive feedback from the Committee as they start drafting the implementation plan. R. Gervais advised that the implementation plan should reference the estimated GHG reductions



- associated with recommended waste reduction actions as a new Low Carbon Economy funding program for communities to reduce their GHG emissions is likely to be taking applications as soon as July 2018, and eligible projects include waste reduction.
- d. CEP Communications (\$20k): Administration mentioned that the CEP infograph was just redone and should be finalized within two weeks, and is to be followed by a short video ad. Administration is also planning signs to advertise what energy saving or GHG reductions strategies each building/facility currently has in place.
 - e. Weight Out Station at SWF (\$300k): Committee was advised that while this was not a CEP project, this will allow the City to measure more efficiently and accurately the waste coming in and out of the SWF, in order to better track waste-related GHG reductions.
 - f. Cardboard Ban: Committee was informed that there has been a commitment made from the City to move forward with this initiative should the results of the Waste Audit be consistent with it. The intent would be to decrease the amount of cardboard going through the waste stream by way of financial penalties. Administration confirmed that for now, the plan was still to ship the recycled cardboard south, but there could be potential in the future to use it as a biomass fuel.

Status of Proposals

8. Committee was advised that all three Expressions of Interest (EOI) submitted to NRCAN at the end of 2017 received a positive response; meaning that Administration now has to submit actual proposals, which are due in by May 17, 2018. Administration advised that Committee members could facilitate the process by passing along studies or examples from other part of the NWT for these types of projects. The three projects are:
 - City Hall District Wood Pellet Boiler – Construction Phase,
 - SWF Boiler Retrofit for different feedstock (e.g.: cardboard) - Pilot Project, and
 - Used Vegetable Oil Energy Recovery Demonstration - Pilot Project, on which C. Scott noted that even if used vegetable oil does not prove to be a viable fuel source, it could still be useful to separate it from other waste in order to compost it, as it is a great source of nutrients.
9. Committee was also informed that Administration has recently submitted an EOI to NRCAN regarding the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Demonstration Program (EVID), but hasn't heard back yet. J. Carr noted that the Arctic Energy Alliance has done an in-depth financial analysis/report on their electric vehicle pilot project.

Action: J. Carr to send Administration copies of the Arctic Energy Alliance's electric vehicle demonstration project report since the full analysis may not be available on their website.

Other Upcoming Funding Opportunities

10. C. Vaughn advised Committee that he recently participated in a webinar for another promising NRCAN Funding Program; the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities: Capacity



Building Stream. The focus of the program is on indirect projects that contribute to energy efficiency and a reduced reliance on diesel. Administration is currently considering which project(s) should be proposed for this program.

11. Administration noted that a Revenue Specialist should very soon be hired by the City, and that Committee should be planning on taking advantage of their expertise to look at future viable projects.
12. J. Carr advised Committee that a joint press release from the Government of Canada and the GNWT was published earlier this morning; involving over \$570 million available just for the NWT. This would include \$8 million for Yellowknife's Public Transit and \$208 million to support GHG reductions. R. Gervais reminded Committee that most of that money already has been allocated to different projects by the GNWT, based on the NWT Energy Plan.
13. R. Gervais advised Committee that there's another \$175 million, under the Low Carbon Economy Fund (federal fund being allocated through the GNWT), that will go towards projects for more efficient and reliable energy (independent of Arctic Energy Alliance). Eligible projects go beyond energy generation projects (e.g.: could be waste-related or incentivize behavioural change). The GNWT may be taking applications as soon as July 2018. The program would last at least 4 years; it could potentially include multi-year funding.
14. Committee noted that it should perhaps be the role of this Committee, and/or the City (including the new Revenue Specialist), to publicize or educate the community about those funding opportunities, and look for partnership opportunities with community organizations rather than focusing only on in-house projects for City facilities. It was also mentioned that providing support to schools for new programs, or adding modules to existing courses (e.g.: electric vehicles maintenance module to trades programs at Aurora College) would soon be very useful due to the progress being made on those types of projects because of the funding available.

Emerging Approaches to Sustainability Management

15. The Chair advised Committee that Council has been exploring more thorough and innovative approaches to sustainability. Administration has been receiving support and training from FCM in regards to integration of sustainability and climate actions into the everyday running of city programs, facilities, and planning/decision-making. Council had a workshop on January 27th, 2018 about its Strategic Priority #4: Sustainability and the importance of having a global vision in the decision making process. The potential tools that were discussed included:
 - An Asset Management Planning By-law/Policy: Administration would be required to consider every project/decision in terms of the long-term investment and multi-departmental implications,
 - Sustainability Performance Indicators/Citizen Dashboard for the Website (e.g.: Edmonton): Would allow the City to hold itself more accountable to the Public, and
 - CLIC tool for long-term sustainable planning: Would rapidly calculate the total costs of planned projects while considering materials, energy use, maintenance, servicing, etc.



16. Committee was informed that Yellowknife is one of six communities to have been chosen by the Quest Canada Initiative for the Smart Energy Community Scorecard pilot project. The goal is to find better and fairer ways of measuring, improving and comparing the energy efforts of Canadian municipalities. Administration mentioned that the Committee's input will be beneficial during this project.

Community and Territorial Initiatives

17. C. Scott gave an update on the Car-Share Cooperative, an initiative supported by Ecology North. The aim is to acquire the first vehicle by summer of 2018, with a goal of six vehicles in the fleet within two to three years, and the hope that most of the vehicles are electric vehicles. The Chair mentioned that Council has passed a formal motion directing Administration to work with the Cooperative to ensure the success of the program.
18. Committee was notified that a draft of the GNWT Waste Resources Management Strategy has been made public for consultation and input. Administration has looked at it and briefed Council; noting that the GNWT is putting an emphasis on public awareness campaigns to help people modify their behaviors.

Role of CEP Committee During Implementation Phase of Community Energy Plan

19. Committee brought up the possibility to organize some sort of information sessions, or luncheons, open to the public and focused on specific projects and energy related topics. Topics of interest brought up by Council and Committee members include electricity/energy costs, waste-to-energy projects, LED lighting retrofits, net metering, and more.

Meeting Schedule for 2018

20. Committee was reminded that they are expected to meet four times a year and that scheduling ahead the other meetings might be helpful to members. It was proposed that the Committee meet again in May or early June, a good timing for bringing forward input for the Waste Audit Implementation Plan, then in September, to plan for the 2019 City Budget, and a fourth time in December, after the municipal election.

Adjournment

21. C. Scott moved,
J. Carr seconded,

That the meeting be adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CD/SM