

Mayor McMyynn opened the Special Meeting of Council at 11:00 hours on January 23, 2023, Midway Council Chambers, 661 Eighth Ave., Midway, BC.

We acknowledge that our gathering takes place on the unceded and traditional territory of the indigenous peoples of that region as well as the Metis people whose footprints have marked these lands.

Present: Mayor McMyynn
Councillors Pownall, Willsey, Metcalf
Councillor Dunsdon absent

Staff: Tami Peters, Deputy Clerk

Gallery: None

Introduction of Late Items – None

Adoption of Agenda

Moved/Seconded that the January 23, 2023, Special Meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Delegation – MLA Russell and management from Community Futures Boundary – Impact of Vaagen Fiber Mill layoffs

Mayor McMyynn welcomed MLA Russell, Sarah Dinsdale, Constituency Assistant and management from Community Futures Boundary, which included Sandy Elzinga Community Economic Development Manager and Jennifer Wetmore, General Manager. Joining online were Larry Olsen, Regional Manager REO and Kathleen Van Ekris, Community Adjustment Manager southern Region

- Opening comments – MLA Roly Russell
- **Round Table Introductions – As above**
- Identify challenges & Opportunities – summary of discussions
Long Term Plan for Community
Need Community direction and what type of support is needed
WorkBC team-looking at geographical breakdown of where workers are living
Looking for other economic drivers

Ideas:

Cogeneration Plan – 90 million in funding announcement
Airport development
Tourism
Parkview Manor expansion – construction jobs
Finger jointing – mill ends
Call Centres
Utilizing old growth timber
Value added logging
Hydrogen fuel Plan

Community Forest is a vital part of the mill closure
Wood lot management purchase
OIB as a timber purchaser for timber sales
Fiber Pricing

Tasks at hand –

- more tenure to nations and small mills
- Community Futures to pull ideas together
- Community Development visioning
- Helping small business diversification
- Food supply -vertical growing (Ok Falls)
- We have the workers for small business development.

A development of diversification plan is first step:

What does Midway need to remain resilience, this needs to be driven by Elected Officials and Community
Community futures offer business loans, business coaching and are a WorkBC. Resources related to small business or employment opportunities.

WorkBC connects job seekers and employers – helping people find jobs, explore career options and improve their skills, and helping employers find the right talent and grow their businesses.

- Supports available:
 - a) Displaced workers (WorkBC, resources, training programs etc)
 - b) Community Transition Supports (REDIP, ETSI-BC, Industry & Manufacturing Projects)
- Next Steps

A motion from Council is required for funding to pursue funding for development of an economic diversification plan for Midway.

Mayor McMyynn thanked MLA Russell and the management from Community Futures Boundary.

Delegation leaves at 12:05 pm

After council discussion it was:

Moved/Seconded that a letter of intent be forwarded to pursue government funding to support development of an economic diversification plan for Midway.

Carried
004-2023

Staff to forward letter of intent with motion to MLA Russell's office and Community Future Boundary

Moved to adjourned at 12:35 hours

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer