



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2008

January 17 Board Meeting Highlights

Regional District Considers Wind Power; Financing Approved for New Trucks for Hixon and Salmon Valley Fire Departments; Building Permits at a 10 Year High

The Regional District of Fraser Fort George had two items on its agenda dealing with the issue of wind power. Representatives from Natural Power Consultants Ltd made a presentation regarding the proposed Mount George Wind Park project. The project, located about 35 kilometres south east of Prince George could generate up to 250 mega watts. The project is undergoing an environmental assessment and pending a successful outcome and an agreement with BC Hydro, the project could be operational in 2010 or 2011. The representatives estimated that the project could create 50-70 jobs during construction and about 15-20 long term jobs.

The Board also received a staff report asking to consider the use of windmills on private property. The report was brought forward after staff received numerous inquiries from power companies and individual land owners that are investigating the possibility of wind power as an alternative energy source.

The Board directed staff to bring back an amendment proposal for Zoning Bylaw 833 which would provide some guidance for the installation of wind power structures on private lands.

Financing Approved for New Trucks for Hixon and Salmon Valley Fire Departments

The fire departments in Salmon Valley and Hixon will be receiving new fire trucks. The Board approved financing arrangements to assist the departments in obtaining the new equipment. The Salmon Valley Fire Protection Service will be getting a new pumper truck at a cost of just under \$300,000. The Board agreed to utilize \$100,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, with the balance to be financed over a five-year period. The Hixon Fire Protection Service will be getting a new fire truck for just under \$220,000, with \$180,000 coming from the Capital Reserve Fund and the balance to be financed over a five-year period.

Building Permits at a 10 Year High

The Board received a report highlighting that a total of 539 permits, valued at \$30,975,934 have been issued from January 1 to the end of December 2007. 93 single-family dwelling permits valued at \$21,230,000 have been issued, compared to 84 dwellings last year. Permits are at a 10 year high. Building permits are required for construction throughout the Regional District.

Community Grants

The Board approved Community and Recreation Grants to the following:

- Ness Lake Bible Camp for \$1500 towards the purchase of a new canoe

For further information, please contact
Reneé McCloskey
Manager of External Relations
Regional District of Fraser Fort George
(250)960-4453