

Spotlight

March 2015

WKBRHD Adopts 2015 Budget

The WKBRHD Board adopted its 2015 budget on March 25th. The plan will see a 4.2% increase in taxation and a \$1.5 million contribution to reserves. The reserve fund currently sits at \$7.8 million. In the past, the fund has enabled the WKBRHD to contribute to such projects as the first floor renovation at Kootenay Lake Hospital.



Board Tours Hospitals

Prior to their Board meetings on February 25th and March 25th, directors of the WKBRHD toured Kootenay Lake Hospital (KLH) in Nelson and Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital (KBRH) in Trail, respectively. The tours enabled the Board to gain a better understanding of the needs of each facility and to view how the WKBRHD's funding contributions have been used for capital projects and equipment.

At KLH, the Board was shown the vast improvements that have been made to the emergency department and the sidewalks leading into the hospital. The Board also learned of numerous upgrades needed at the facility: bathroom upgrades are required to increase space and improve accessibility; the oncology department needs to be relocated to reduce congestion and increase efficiencies; ambulatory care would ideally be located on the first floor; the removal of a modular unit is planned to relocate the hospital entrance; the existing generator needs to be replaced with two new units; and the original 1956 windows should be exchanged for energy efficient glass.

The Board also toured the laundry, which has served the region since 1998. The 21 staff in the department service 28 different sites. In 2014, the WKBRHD Board co-funded a \$325,000 hydraulic press which saves energy and reduces drying time. KLH staff have also taken steps to separate dirty laundry from clean linens, which is an important infection control measure.

The **KBRH tour** was timely in that several of the items shown to the Board were up for funding consideration at that evening's meeting.

The Board saw the existing sewer and electrical system components and the laundry facility, all of which need upgrades. IH staff also pointed out sustainability issues in the way the pharmacy, ER and ambulatory care departments are arranged. The importance of efficient, effective patient flow was emphasized.

Chair Marguerite Rotvold said it was "beneficial for the Board to view issues and items that are on their capital funding request list."

All of the proposed projects were approved at the Board meeting that night (*see project list below*).



Interior Health staff showing WKBRHD Board members components of KBRH's electrical system.

Although the infrastructure of these 1950's era facilities is aging and requires upgrades, the health care situation in the WKBRHD was summarized by Jane Cusden, Acute Health Services Director at KBRH: "We do deliver fantastic care in the bricks and mortar that we have."



Spearheading the Arrow Project

The Board is requesting Interior Health staff to attend an upcoming WKBRHD Executive Committee meeting to discuss the Arrow Lakes Hospital Emergency Room upgrade, specifically: 1) design costs; 2) project timing and Interior Health's prioritization of and commitment to the project; and 3) risk assessment.



2015 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 27	Grand Forks, Art Gallery	6 p.m.
June 24	Nakusp, Emergency Services Building	6 p.m.
October 28	Kaslo, JV Humphries School	6 p.m.

The public is encouraged to attend these meetings.

Spotlight

Your Tax Dollars at Work

At its March 25th meeting, the WKBRHD approved the Interior Health Authority's list of capital funding requests for 2015/2016.

The Board is funding 40% of the cost of these projects, totaling \$2,301,660.

Here is the list of projects which will be funded in 2015/2016:

PROJECT	FACILITY	WKB SHARE
Emergency Power System	Kootenay Lake Hospital	\$660,000.
Electrical Upgrade	Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital	\$258,800
Diagnostic Imaging Space renovations	Kootenay Lake Hospital	\$234,000
Water Boilers & Tanks Replacements	Boundary Hospital, Grand Forks	\$138,560
Sewer System Replacement	Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital	\$120,000
Laundry Access Improvements	Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital	\$38,000
Medication Room for ER	Castlegar & District Health Centre	\$24,000
Telephone Infrastructure	Boundary Hospital, Grand Forks	\$44,000
Physio Monitoring Systems	Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital	\$174,000
Ultrasound	Castlegar, Trail, Nelson	\$171,200
Minor Equipment	various	\$439,100

What do you think?

Would you be in favour of the Province of BC implementing a consumption tax that would be targeted solely for health care? If so, how much would you be willing to pay?

Submit your comments to awinje@rdck.bc.ca

Chair at the Table

On April 15th, Chair Rotvold and Secretary Stuart Horn will attend the CAOs'/Chairs' meeting with Interior Health in Kelowna. This is an opportunity for the Chair to raise issues of particular concern to the WKBRHD at the IH table.

The Board presented the following issues for the Chair to raise:

- Catchment areas for health care facilities—how are they determined and defined. This is important for determining how many patients access services at the different health care facilities. The Board suggested that the expertise of the health care professionals at the individual sites be used.
- How can the WKBRHD be proactive rather than reactive regarding funding and planning for health care and capital projects?
- Transportation—the centralized model of health care will not work well unless patients have ready access to affordable transportation.
- Population/demographics—the number of residents in some areas can fluctuate substantially on a seasonal basis.



Remembering Diane Gagnon

The Board learned of the passing of Interior Health employee Diane Gagnon. Ms. Gagnon had been a nurse for several years in Trail before becoming the administrator at Kootenay Lake Hospital (KLH). She was also responsible for the New Denver, Kaslo and East Shore facilities. She was instrumental in planning and securing funding for the new emergency room at KLH.

The Board held a moment of silence to remember and honour Ms. Gagnon and sends its deep condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.



Spotlight is a publication of the West Kootenay-Boundary Regional Hospital District. For more information about meetings or the Board, please call Anitra Winje at 250.352.8166 or visit <http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/wkbr-hospital.html> to view agendas, minutes, newsletters and more.