



CAO Report – January 24, 2022

On behalf of staff I would like to thank Council for your time over two very full days on January 18 and 19 to engage the general and capital budget preparations. The clear direction from Council on many areas gives staff the clarity we need to see a lot of progress in 2022.

A number of large capital projects are anticipated from the rebuild of Giants Head Road with associated water separation, to the replacement of a large portion of a water main at Canyon View Road and associated repaving there. We also will be building our new organics processing facility at the landfill, mostly funded by grant funding.

In terms of operations, we look forward to implementing our new development services software system which will improve customer service and our own internal file management. The Memorial Park playground will be replaced this spring, and the Downtown Neighbourhood Plan finalized.... The creation of a new Waterfront Master Plan... the updating of many bylaws.... And of course a possible substantive new shift in the way we regulate short term accommodation in the District. It is going to be a busy year, and we are excited about the progress that will be made in 2022.

The pothole situation is very bad this year! We want to reassure Council and the public we are aware of this. The weather we are currently experiencing is, unfortunately, a recipe for potholes. Of course the ideal solution for potholes is to cut out the broken asphalt, replace the base gravels and reseal the road with hot mix asphalt. We have had a number of comments from the public requesting this type of road treatment; unfortunately, at this time of year hot mix asphalt is unavailable so we need to turn to cold mix asphalt.

We are carefully using our current stock of cold mix on the worst potholes and given the current demand for cold mix everywhere causing supply shortages, it will remain difficult to obtain any more right now. In the meantime, where a larger hole appears we attempt to mark it with a cone or sign until we are able to repair the pothole. Depending on weather (and the year) our road repair efforts ramp up in April and May at which time the weather allows us to make a lot of progress quickly. In the meantime, residents can report a pothole by calling the Public Works Office at 250-494-0431 or send an email to works&infrastructure@summerland.ca.

FortisBC continues their substation rebuild that's happening on Giant's Head road near Hillborn st. They are expanding the substation footprint to about double the size and reconfiguring the transmission system which will ultimately end up with Summerland having a refurbished transformer servicing us at that location. Right now we service about ¼ of our customers from the this substation – and FortisBC will have some scheduled community wide outages this year to complete the work.

Finally, I wanted to share the good news that the Funder has reviewed our reapplication for the scope change for our solar project and their technical review committee has confirmed that this is a minor scope change which allows us to retain all the allocated grant funds and proceed with the project. We are working hard to prepare the Request for Proposals for the project which will be released in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer