



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### District of Summerland – November 28, 2023

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**Committee of the Whole** – Council received third quarter progress reports on each of their strategic priorities. Council heard that new legislative changes announced by the province will require changes to the District’s Official Community Plan and certain bylaws, which involves significant new work for staff in the coming months.

**Delegation – Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Species Society** – Council heard a presentation summarizing this year’s activities to help control invasive plants. Specific concerns were raised by Council on the prevalence of the Tree of Heaven, with the request that the group assemble a proposal for Council’s budget discussion on how to deal with the issue.

**Delegation – UNISUS School** – Representation from the school presented several positive activities and community initiatives they are involved in. A specific request for wayfinding signage to the school was discussed by Council but ultimately denied. Council noted that the current bylaw is designed to avoid sign pollution and good options are available for navigation on smart phone devices and computers to assist any prospective visitors.

**Trial 4-Day Compressed Work Week-** Currently the District is conducting an 18-month trial for a compressed work week where Municipal Hall extends its customer service hours in the morning and evening each day and closing Mondays to accommodate the measure. Council heard that the trial is going well with positive customer feedback about the longer service hours. Staff retention and attraction numbers have also improved.

**Recreation Centre Next Steps** – With the results of the referendum, Council discussed next steps for the recreation centre. It was noted that the federal government has yet to make any decision on the District’s \$25m grant application to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program, and that the roof needs immediate repair. Council provided staff with the following direction: 1) proceed with basic repairs on the roof, 2) bring forward costs for known mechanical issues for 2024 budget discussions, 3) Mayor

will write the federal Minister indicating that we remain interested in the grant funding, and 4) staff seek the perspective of Council's Recreation and Parks Committee.

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda** – Two items were removed from the consent agenda by Council. First, Council discussed correspondence from MLA Ashton pertaining to an omnibus bill moving through the Legislature (Bill 45) that appears to constrain the powers of local government to dismantle homeless encampments. Council expressed concern and acknowledged that UBCM is lobbying the government for more time to consult about changes. Secondly, the procurement update report was discussed, with Council concerned about increased costs for animal control. The discussion will continue in the budget planning process.

**Note:** These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037.



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