

Mayor's Report, December 9, 2019

On Tuesday, November 26, I attended the Utility Rates open house where staff presented proposed water, sewer, and electrical utility rate increases following Council discussions earlier in November. For those who missed the open house, tonight's agenda includes the proposed 2020 rates and other topics related to utility rates.

Budget work continued Thursday November 28, this time at the RDOS meeting, and there is another full-day budget meeting scheduled for this Friday, December 13.

Friday, November 29 was, of course, the 32nd annual Festival of Lights. I joined Santa and Mrs. Claus in the parade before heading to the stage for the 7 pm countdown to Light Up. Estimates are that 11 to 12,000 people attended the event this year, even though the weather was quite chilly. On behalf of Council, thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for organizing this event each year and to the generous sponsors who make it possible. Also thanks to all the District staff for their hard work and role in making it all come together. An event this large impacts every department in some way including Electrical, Works, Parks, Municipal Hall, Bylaw, Fire and RCMP.

Saturday, November 30, the Fire Department hosted the 32nd annual Toys for Tots and Teens fundraising events at Second Home. Thanks to Allison and the staff at Second Home for the delicious breakfast served by the District fire crews. The event was very successful, raising \$4,675 for tots and teens in our community.

Tuesday, December 3 I attended the Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting in Kelowna.

- The 14th year of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant program is now open for applications. This year, the OBWB is prioritizing collaborative projects that provide water benefits across multiple jurisdictions. The Board voted to add \$50,000 to the grant funding this year, bringing the total amount available to \$350,000 for 2020.
- OBWB Directors enjoyed a presentation by the Central Okanagan Land Trust, primarily about the Setback Dike Project of the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative. This project focused on relocating a 475m section of the dike to restore hydrological functions and connectivity and provide improved spawning, rearing and holding habitat for native fish species. The Mission Creek Restoration Initiative includes many partners; it covers a total of 12 km of the channel.
- The OBWB now has two Directors representing Okanagan Nation Alliance; it is good to have their voice at the table again.

The following day, December 4, CAO Haddad and I were invited to attend a workshop in West Kelowna hosted by the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program. This was the initial information session and workshop for the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to identify ways to improve and coordinate policy and planning processes to protect and restore the environmental, cultural and economic values of Okanagan Lake. The Workshop was attended by planners, provincial staff, and Syilx people and we heard from speakers on ranging from a call for increased protection in riparian areas, to reintroducing salmon in Okanagan Lake, to including natural assets in local government asset management plans.

Later on December 4, the District held a Community Climate Action Plan Open House to review the draft Community Climate Action Plan that was created following input from residents and local stakeholders.

Approximately 50 members of the community attended and provided feedback on the plan. Staff will return to Council on January 13 to review the plan in detail and seek direction before requesting council to consider adoption.

Councillor Holmes and I attended a full day of RDOS committee meetings and a Board meeting on December 5. Councillor Holmes has written notes on the meetings; they are available on the back table and with the online agenda.

On Friday, December 6, CAO Haddad, Fire Chief Noble and I travelled to Kamloops to attend an Emergency Management BC Workshop organized and hosted by the Southern Interior Local Government Association executive. EMBC staff was looking for input and feedback on the proposed changes to the Emergency Management Legislation ... and they got lots of that! This Workshop was attended by elected officials, fire and emergency management staff, EMBC, and FLINRORD staff.

Yesterday I played the role of a Who in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". The event was the first of what is hoped will be an annual event, and all proceeds went to the Summerland Food Bank and Resource Centre.

Mayor Toni Boot