



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### District of Summerland – January 20, 2026

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**Delegation – Summerland Arts Council** – A representative from the Summerland Arts Council presented information about its 2026 strategic outlook noting that strides have been made in organizational restructuring while successfully maintaining operations with the help of financial support from the District. The Arts Council is optimistic in the organization's future and requested feedback from Council and ideas to support the organization's viability.

**Capital Projects Update** – Council received an update on two ongoing Capital Projects: the Wharton Street Revitalization and the Primary Clarifier. As of January 20, 2026, the Wharton project was 94% complete and remained within budget, with most major infrastructure and surface works finished. The Primary Clarifier project was 54% complete, tracking below budget with work progressing on concrete structures and upcoming mechanical installations. Staff continue to manage public communication, monitor budget performance, and apply best-practice project management to keep both projects on schedule.

**Giant's Head Elementary School Playground** – Council agreed to enter into a Use Agreement between the District of Summerland and School District 67 to continue to allow public access to the Giant's Head Elementary School playgrounds. The agreement provides the District a non-exclusive license to occupy, maintain, and insure the playgrounds for one year beginning February 1, 2026, with the option to extend the term for up to five additional years. With the recent closure of the school, Council sought to continue to provide the opportunity to keep the school's playgrounds open for the community to use as these outdoor facilities were deemed a valuable recreation asset for Summerland families.

**Downtown Summerland Parking Feedback** – Staff presented Council the feedback from downtown businesses, employees, and patrons regarding the proactive enforcement of existing time-limited parking in Summerland's downtown. Staff explained that the enforcement efforts had been effective in increasing parking availability for customers, especially during construction, but also raised concerns about insufficient parking duration, employee parking needs, and the impacts of sidewalk patios on available stalls. Staff outlined several potential adjustments, including converting some 2-hour stalls to 3-hour stalls and creating additional full-day parking areas to better support both patrons and employees. After listening to the feedback presented, Council resolved to adjust the timed parking in the downtown area from 2 hours to 3 hours to alleviate some of the noted concerns.

**Downtown Patio License – Fee increase** – Council endorsed increasing the Downtown Patio License fee to \$1,100 to make the program cost-neutral to the District. Following a review of the three-year Downtown Patio License program, Staff reported that participating businesses had generally responded with positive feedback. Sidewalk patios had occupied eight on-street parking spaces over the past two

years, prompting some concerns from nearby businesses about reduced parking availability. Staff reported that the actual District cost for installing and removing patio infrastructure was approximately \$1,100 per season per patio, far exceeding the existing \$300 fee.

**Appointment of the Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officers for 2026 General Local Election** - Under the *Local Government Act* municipalities are required to appoint a Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief Election Officer(s) in preparation for the 2026 General Local Election. The Corporate Officer was appointed Chief Election Officer, with the Deputy Corporate Officer and Corporate Services Coordinator appointed as Deputy Chief Election Officers. General Voting Day will be on Saturday, October 17, 2026. For more information on the 2026 General Local Election, visit <http://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections>.

**Delegation – Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS)** –RDOS representatives gave a presentation on the RDOS’s 2026 Budget which outlined their commitment to maintaining high service levels while keeping costs affordable for residents. It showed that the overall RDOS budget has increased to \$115.8 million, driven by higher operational expenses, capital projects, and municipal debt repayment. The report also highlighted a 4.88% tax requisition increase after non-market growth, along with detailed summaries of new capital projects, staffing additions, and program change requests across departments. Additionally, grant-in-aid decisions were summarized and noted that Summerland’s portion of the tax requisition rose by \$97,005, representing an 8.40% increase.

**OCP and Zoning Bylaw Amendment Application – 17013 Sanborn Street** – The District is in receipt of an application to amend the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw to bring 17013 Sanborn Street into the Urban Growth Boundary and redesignate the land for medium-density residential use. A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday February 10, 2026 at 6pm at Municipal Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 13211 Henry Avenue, Summerland, BC. Any person who believes their interest in the property may be affected can read more about the proposal and how to provide feedback by visiting the District’s website.

**7311 Hillborn Street – Non-compliance with District Building Bylaws** – Council received an update on the ongoing non-compliance issues at 7311 Hillborn Street, where multiple agricultural buildings have expired building permits or were constructed without required approvals. All affected buildings had been posted with “Do Not Occupy” notices, and a Notice on Title had already been registered due to the outstanding violations. Staff informed Council that enforcement measures that have taken place to bring the property into compliance and outlined of next steps for enforcement, as directed by Council at the March 25, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, which include the disconnection of water and electrical services if compliance was not achieved should the property not be brought into compliance by April 1, 2026.

**2025 Year in review Planning and Development Report** – Council received for information the 2025 Planning and Development Year-in-Review. Staff outlined that overall development application volumes had declined compared to previous years, while pre-application activity and major policy planning work—particularly the multi-phase Official Community Plan update—had increased. Despite fewer applications, the department managed a heavy workload that included complex development reviews, committee support, and significant public engagement, all during a year of staffing transitions. 2025 had the highest construction value on record at nearly \$100 million, along with notable



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progress on several major development projects across Summerland. Bylaw Services experienced substantial growth in enforcement files—particularly traffic and Good Neighbour complaints—and business licensing saw increases in both short-term rentals and overall licensed businesses.

**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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