



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – August 19, 2025

Giant's Head Elementary School Grounds & Playgrounds – Council resolved to direct Staff to negotiate a lease agreement or memorandum of understanding with School District 67 to take on responsibility, liability, and maintenance of the Giants Head Elementary School playgrounds for one year and report back to Council with the agreement at a future date. The Staff report outlined the current condition of the playground amenities and the broader grounds area, potential community uses, and maintenance requirements. One consideration was that assuming responsibility for the playgrounds only could minimize costs and risks. School District 67 has indicated interest in formalizing this arrangement through a lease or memorandum of understanding.

Capital Projects Update – Council received the Major Capital Projects Update report for information, which outlines progress on three major infrastructure projects: the Wharton Street Revitalization, Prairie Valley Road and Watermain Upgrades, and the Primary Clarifier. Staff have implemented regular reporting and communication strategies to keep Council and the public informed, including a dedicated website for the Wharton project. Each project is progressing within its approved budget, with Prairie Valley nearing completion, Wharton Street at 30% completion, and the Primary Clarifier in its early stages. While some disruptions have been noted—such as parking and traffic impacts—staff continue to respond proactively to community concerns. All these projects are currently on schedule and on budget and reflect Council's strategic priority to protect and enhance core infrastructure and essential services.

2026 Budget Timeline - Council has approved the 2026 Financial Plan timeline, outlining the key dates and process for developing the District of Summerland's general and utility budgets, with an amendment to host the Utility Budget open-house in person rather than virtually. Utility budget discussions will begin in late fall, followed by a new feature of an in-person open house on November 13 to gather public input regarding the proposed budgets. General fund budget deliberations will take place in December and January, with an in-person open house scheduled for January 14, 2026. Final adoption of the budget is set for March 3, 2026, with tax rate deliberations to follow in April 2026. This timeline ensures compliance with the *Community Charter* and provides multiple opportunities for public engagement throughout the budgeting process.

Water Utilities Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-017 – Council adopted Water Utilities Amendment Bylaw No. 2025-017, which introduces a 1.0% water rate increase effective September 1, 2025. This adjustment follows Council's earlier decision to stagger rate increases for the 2025 fiscal year, with the majority implemented in January and the remainder now taking effect. The additional revenue, estimated at \$13,400, will be directed to the water capital reserve to support long-term asset management. The timing of the increase was chosen to offer financial relief to water users during the peak summer months. This

bylaw aligns with Council's strategic priority to provide good governance and maintain essential infrastructure.

Servicing Officer Establishment Bylaw No. 2025-018 - Council adopted Servicing Officer Establishment Bylaw No. 2025-018, officially designating the Director of Works and Infrastructure and the Director of Development Services as servicing officers for the District of Summerland. This designation aligns with recent amendments to the *Local Government Act*, Planning and Land Use Management Regulation 15/2025, which came into effect in February 2025. Servicing officers are now authorized to require landowners to provide portions of land for highway use or sustainable infrastructure as a condition of building permit issuance. This bylaw enhances the District's ability to manage growth and infrastructure needs effectively. The adoption supports Council's strategic priority to provide good governance.

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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