



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – January 23, 2023

Development Variance Permits – In committee of the whole, Council discussed delegating to staff the authority to approve minor development variance permits. Council had previously agreed in principle with the concept to support efficient processing of applications and reduce red tape. Council received a briefing on what other municipalities have done to implement similar improvements, in line with recent provincial “Bill 26” amendments. A draft bylaw will return to Council, with changes that could cut processing times in half.

Delegation – Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) – The Manager of Finance for the RDOS presented on the Regional District budget. Council heard that the RDOS does not levy taxes on municipalities; rather, those taxes are requisitioned by the Province on behalf of the RDOS with the District of Summerland collecting the funds, given that residents of Summerland are also RDOS residents. Residents can expect to see on average a \$7.81 (annual) increase per residential property in 2023 based on the draft budget.

Recreation Centre Project Update/Referendum Timeline – It is Council’s intent to understand the full cost picture for a project of this size to reduce uncertainty. At Council’s direction, staff came forward with additional detail on other indirect (but related) costs if the project moves forward. Several areas were outlined including off-site improvement costs and the demolition costs for the existing building if abandoned. Staff also recommended that the referendum be delayed until the result of the District’s application to the UBCM Strategic Priorities Fund for \$6 million are understood. This information impacts the amount of borrowing that would be required and therefore the referendum question. Council directed staff to return once the grant decision is known, targeting a referendum for later in the year.

Council’s Strategic Priorities (2022-2026) – Council formally approved their Strategic Priorities which will guide the overall direction for the municipality from 2022-2026.

The CAO thanked Council for clarifying the priorities this early in the mandate which provides staff the direction needed to make progress quickly. The document attaches a detailed workplan with many actions, including accountable departments and target dates for completion of each item. The overarching priorities are:

- 1) To Protect and Enhance Core Infrastructure and Essential Services
- 2) To Provide Good Governance
- 3) To Build and Adaptable and Affordable Community
- 4) To Enhance Our Quality of Life

Council directed staff to communicate the priorities through a news release, podcast, the District's website, Facebook posts, an all-staff meeting, a column in the Summerland Review, and through the District's newsletter.

UBCM Grant Application – Council directed staff to submit a grant application in the amount of \$150,000 for to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation. The application will include a bundle of projects in the immediate vicinity of Giants Head Mountain where catchment and drainage systems have been frequently overwhelmed by rain events in recent years. The application aligns with Councils strategic priority *“To Build an Adaptable and Affordable Community”* with its focus on climate adaptation.

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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