



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – May 26, 2026

Committee of the Whole – Development Cost Charges (DCC) and Amenity Cost Charges (ACC) Engagement Results – Council received a report summarizing public and stakeholder engagement on proposed updates to the District’s DCC and ACC bylaws and approved proceeding with development of a DCC Bylaw using a phased assist factor approach. Feedback indicated general support for increasing DCC rates, but concerns about implementing significant increases all at once, with a preference for gradual phase-in and delaying consideration of an ACC bylaw. Council endorsed a phased assist factor beginning at 50% and reducing annually by 10% to a minimum of 1%, balancing the need to fund infrastructure growth while limiting impacts to developers and taxpayers. The bylaw is proposed to take effect January 1, 2027. The updated DCC bylaw will support long-term infrastructure planning by ensuring that new development contributes appropriately to growth-related costs.

Delegation – Okanagan Basin Water Board – Council received a presentation from the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) providing an overview of its role in supporting regional watershed management and highlighting its 2026–2030 Strategic Direction. The presentation outlined key initiatives, including invasive mussel prevention, milfoil control, water conservation programs such as Make Water Work, and grant funding opportunities that support local projects. Council was advised of the importance of regional collaboration in addressing water supply, quality, and long-term sustainability challenges across the Okanagan.

Delegation – Ebus Service – Council heard from a local advocate encouraging public support to expand Ebus service to Penticton, noting there was currently no service south of the Connector, including Summerland. Council passed a resolution directing staff to write a letter of support advocating for Ebus service in Summerland, with a proposed stop seen as improving access to comfortable coach bus travel with amenities such as seatbelts and onboard washrooms. Council also directed that Destination Summerland be copied on the letter to help strengthen advocacy efforts.

Official Community Plan Update – Second Reading as Amended - Council considered administrative updates to the proposed Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 2026-008 and approved second reading of the bylaw as amended, incorporating revisions based on feedback from the Agricultural Land Commission and other stakeholders. Key updates included refining land use designations, improving clarity of policies and mapping, and adjusting the Urban Growth Boundary to align with provincial agricultural requirements. A Public Hearing will be held on June 16, 2026 at 6pm in Council Chambers to gather community feedback on the proposed OCP, which will guide long-term growth, land use, and infrastructure planning in Summerland. The updated OCP reflects extensive public engagement and inter-

agency review, supporting a balanced approach to housing, agriculture, environmental protection, and economic development.

Junior Hockey Advertising – Council approved the request from Summerland Junior Hockey Society to expand advertising opportunities within the Summerland Arena and approved the proposal to permit the Society to sell additional advertising at agreed-upon locations. Council directed staff to prepare a bylaw amendment establishing a fee of \$100 per year per advertising location and authorized the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute a three-year advertising agreement on behalf of the District. The initiative is expected to generate a significant revenue stream for the Junior Hockey Society while providing the District with modest additional revenue without added operational costs. Council recognized the program as an opportunity to support local junior hockey, enhance community partnerships, and contribute to youth development and community vibrancy in Summerland.

Licence of Occupation – Summerland Jets Hockey Team Portable – Council approved a licence of occupation agreement for the Summerland Jets junior hockey team to formalize use of the arena portable by the Summerland Jets junior hockey team. The agreement provides the Jets with use of the portable for an initial five-year term, with an option to extend for an additional five years, under a nominal fee while outlining responsibilities for maintenance, insurance, and improvements. Council also authorized the Mayor and Corporate Officer to execute the agreement and acknowledged plans for potential expansion of the space, including an additional portable and covered walkway funded by the team. This decision supports the successful launch and long-term sustainability of junior hockey in Summerland, while strengthening community use of the arena and supporting youth sport and engagement

Grant Opportunity – 2026 Build Communities Strong Fund – Council directed staff to proceed with submitting grant applications for the 2026 Build Communities Strong Fund for key infrastructure projects under the Direct Delivery stream. The applications will focus on major priorities including upgrades to the water supply intake and conveyance system, water system separation infrastructure, and the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre Replacement. Council further directed staff to manage the grant application process and confirmed that, if successful, the District will fund any required cost overruns. These applications position the District to secure significant federal funding to support critical infrastructure improvements, enhance system reliability, and reduce long-term financial impacts on local taxpayers.

Capital Projects Update – Council received the Capital Projects Update report for information outlining progress on key infrastructure projects in the community. Council was advised that the Victoria Road and Watermain Upgrades project is underway and on track for completion in summer 2026, while the Wastewater Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier project is approximately two-thirds complete with completion anticipated later in 2026. Both projects are currently progressing within approved budgets and timelines, with active oversight, contractor coordination, and regular reporting in place to manage risks and respond to construction impacts. Council acknowledged the importance of these projects in maintaining essential infrastructure and supporting long-term service delivery, noting that updates will continue as the projects advance.



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Prairie Valley Road Paving – Council approved proceeding with road structure repairs and overlay paving on Prairie Valley Road, following confirmation that sections of the road require more extensive reconstruction than originally anticipated. The updated project includes excavation and replacement of failed base and sub-base materials, followed by a full overlay to improve long-term durability and provide a consistent driving surface. To support the expanded scope, Council also directed staff to bring forward a financial plan amendment to address an additional funding requirement of approximately \$267,000, with consideration to draw from the Capital Works Reserve. This investment reflects Council’s commitment to maintaining critical transportation infrastructure and ensuring safe, reliable road conditions for residents and road users.

2026 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests – Council directed staff to request meetings with key Provincial Ministers at the 2026 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention to advocate on priority issues affecting the community. The approved topics include dam safety and funding, healthcare services such as a community paramedic, transportation safety along Highway 97, agricultural and water management challenges, and the aggregate mine application approval process. Council also included additional advocacy priorities related to infrastructure capacity, housing growth pressures, and provincial supports for agricultural communities. These meetings will provide an opportunity for Council to raise Summerland’s key concerns directly with senior provincial decision-makers and strengthen collaboration on critical infrastructure, safety, and service delivery priorities.

Rise and Report from the May 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole – Water Allocation – Drought Conditions – At the May 13, 2026 Committee of the Whole, Council passed a resolution establishing water allocation limits for agricultural, parks, and related uses will remain at 640 mm, and 1,381 mm for greenhouse uses, both with targeted reductions of 20% under the Drought Response Plan. Council also approved a one-time adjustment for 2026, excluding water used prior to the Thirsk Dam stopping spill from annual allocation limits, helping provide flexibility to users early in the season. Staff were directed to continue monitoring spring freshet conditions and report back with further recommendations once reservoir levels stabilize. These measures aim to balance water conservation with agricultural and community needs during ongoing dry conditions.

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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