



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## District of Summerland – July 7, 2026

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**Committee of the Whole – Council Strategic Priorities** – Council received the quarterly Strategic Priorities Update for information, providing an overview of progress on key initiatives aligned with Council’s 2022–2026 Strategic Plan. The report highlighted ongoing work across departments to advance Council’s priorities, while noting that the update process allows for adjustments in response to changing community needs and emerging issues. Council also acknowledged that regular reporting supports transparency, accountability, and alignment between Council direction and day-to-day operations. This update ensures the community remains informed on how the District is progressing toward its long-term goals.

**Delegation – Okanagan Regional Library** – Representatives from the Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) presented to Council an update highlighting the library’s role as an essential community hub supporting literacy, education, and social connection. The presentation noted that ORL provides a wide range of services, including job search support, technology assistance, newcomer programs, and free access to computers and meeting spaces, helping residents of all ages and backgrounds. Council was advised that libraries also play an important economic and social role, with high daily usage, strong participation in programs, and over 330 local jobs supported across the region. The report highlighted the value of regional collaboration in delivering equitable services to both urban and rural communities, as well as the importance of the library as a welcoming and inclusive space.

**Capital Projects Update** – Council received an update on current Capital Projects outlining progress on major infrastructure investments underway in the community. The report highlighted that the Victoria Road and Watermain Upgrades project is substantially complete, coming in under budget and ahead of schedule..

**Public Art Policy** - Council adopted the new Public Art Policy, establishing a clear and transparent framework for the acquisition, installation, maintenance, and management of public art within the District, with one minor amendment which was to include that a Public Art Plan will be reviewed and endorsed by Council (section 7 of the policy). The policy supports local cultural expression and ensures that public art aligns with the community’s identity, while introducing processes for reviewing proposals, managing donations, and overseeing long-term stewardship of artwork on District property. Council also endorsed the creation of a Public Art Reserve Fund and the development of supporting tools and an inventory of public art, strengthening future planning and investment in cultural assets. This initiative enhances public spaces, supports the local arts community, and contributes to the overall vibrancy and cultural identity of Summerland.

**Septage Facility Liner** – Council approved proceeding with the installation of liners for the septage receiving basins at the Summerland Sanitary Landfill to address environmental concerns and restore facility operations. The project will enable the safe reopening of the septage facility which has been closed since 2025. This work represents a timely, cost-effective solution that supports environmental protection, regulatory compliance, and improved service for local septage disposal needs.

**Agricultural Waste Exemptions** - Staff presented a report on Agricultural Waste Exemptions outlining considerations related to allowing agricultural organic waste to be disposed of at the landfill free of charge. The report highlighted that while some agricultural materials are already accepted without fees, expanding exemptions would create administrative challenges in verifying load origins and could result in lost revenue. Council was advised that the District currently recovers only a portion of composting costs through tipping fees and sales. The report also noted that agricultural burning is not currently a significant concern locally, reducing the need for additional incentives tied to waste disposal. Council directed Staff to prepare an amendment to the Fees and Charges Bylaw to amend the fee for the acceptance of all organic materials, with the exception of agricultural materials, to \$30.00 per tonne.

**Notice of Motion from the May 26, 2026 Regular Council Meeting (C. Patan) – Bulk Water Station** - Council directed staff to investigate the feasibility of a year-round bulk water transfer station within the District of Summerland. The review will examine potential locations, capital and operating costs, and a user-pay fee structure, while also exploring opportunities for cost-sharing with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen. The initiative aims to provide a reliable source of treated drinking water for rural residents, reduce pressure on shared groundwater resources, and improve drought resilience. Council noted that a bulk water station could support communities such as Faulder and Meadow Valley by enhancing water security and offering an alternative to private wells during periods of limited supply or poor water quality.

**Rise and Report – Build Strong Communities Fund** - Staff presented a Rise and Report from the July 7, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting. Council approved a resolution authorizing staff to submit an application to the Province's 2026 Build Communities Strong Fund for the Water System Separation Diversion Pipeline Pre-Work project, with a maximum grant request of \$3 million. Council also approved funding the District's 60% share of the project through the Growing Communities Reserve and Water Capital Reserve and directed staff to bring forward a Financial Plan Amendment Bylaw. The project supports Council's strategic priority of protecting and enhancing core infrastructure and essential services while pursuing external funding opportunities to reduce reliance on property taxation.

**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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