



**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT**  
**REGULAR MINUTES**

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE  
 VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Barbara Roden  
 Councillor, Jessica Clement  
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport  
 Councillor, Doreen Lambert

CAO, Daniela Dyck  
 CFO, Yogi Bhalla  
 DPW, Brian Bennewith

**EXCUSED:** Councillor, Jonah Anstett

Media – 1  
 Public – 3

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Roden called the Regular Meeting of Council for Tuesday November 12, 2024, to order at 6:00 pm.

*“Mayor and Council wish to acknowledge that the meeting today is held within the traditional territory of the Niaka’pamux people.”*

Mayor Roden expressed her condolences at the passing of Premier John Horgan.

**1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

N/A

**2. MINUTES**

2.1	<b>Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, October 28, 2024</b> M/S Davenport / Lambert <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, October 28, 2024 be adopted as presented</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-165
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**3. DELEGATIONS**

3.1	<b>Mohammad Hasani, Quality Manager, Dawson Road Maintenance – Dawson’s Winter Maintenance Plans and Activities in the Ashcroft Area</b> <b>Chris Rottluff, Manager of Operations addressed Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staffing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staffing levels are much improved over last year, currently short-staffed by only two people.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Equipment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All equipment is in working order and prepared for the season.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Brine Application:</b></li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brine is being applied; effective in reducing morning frost.</li> <li>○ <b>Effectiveness Duration:</b> Typically lasts a few days, as long as roads remain dry.</li> <li>○ <b>Southern Limit of Brine Application:</b> Spences Bridge.</li> <li>○ <b>Temperature Threshold:</b> Brine is effective down to -9°C (Ashcroft-Lillooet region) but not below this due to road temperatures. At higher elevations brine is applied to -6°C as road temperatures are always colder causing the brine not to be effective at lower temps.</li> <li>● <b>Shareholders Meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions are ongoing about reinstating the shareholders meeting. Mohammed is taking the lead on this initiative.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>New Developments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No new updates; the crew has completed winter operations training.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Shift Changes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Last year's shift schedule was effective and will likely continue.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Leadership:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kyle remains Foreman for Ashcroft.</li> <li>○ Amanda Murrell is the Superintendent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Road Cameras:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Placement decisions for cameras are ongoing; there is a need for additional cameras in the southbound direction, especially in Spences Bridge.</li> <li>○ Council advocacy could help secure additional camera placements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Brining Tank Location:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Located in Clinton; other locations in the region are not ideal due to proximity to the river and railway.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

*All questions and comments will be addressed through the Chair and answered likewise. Please state your name and address prior to asking a question or commenting, no more than 2 minutes per question.*

Comment – Would appreciate public input prior to delegation departure.

**5. BYLAWS/POLICIES**

5.1	N/A	
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**6. STAFF REPORTS**

<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		
6.1	<p><b>CFO Report – Preliminary Budget Discussions – Motion to move to Committee of the Whole</b></p> <p>Purpose: Begin discussion of Council priorities for 2025 budget.</p> <p><b>M/S Roden / Clement</b></p> <p><i>THAT, Council moves to a Committee of the Whole Meeting to enable informal 2025 budget priority discussions.</i></p> <p>Deputy Mayor, Councillor Clement assumed the Chair, and invited CFO Bhalla to begin the discussions.</p> <p>CFO Bhalla opened discussion beginning with cost pressures cautioning Council they remain focused on the impacts of an inflationary environment</p> <p><b>Cost Pressures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although inflation rates are down, actual costs remain high.</li> <li>• <b>BC Hydro:</b> Significant rate increase of over 12% without public consultation.</li> <li>• <b>Fortis:</b> Approximate rate increase of 4%.</li> <li>• <b>TNRD (Thompson-Nicola Regional District):</b> Projected 10.61% increase for Ashcroft.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor Roden explained this would cost the average household approximately \$27.</li> <li>○ Councillor Lambert questioned the large increase, which encompasses services like libraries, the film commission, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>WorkSafe:</b> Increase of 3.94% on all wages.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget Priorities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parks &amp; Recreation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heritage Park                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ REDIP grant for Heritage Park project has been submitted and is pending approval.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Downtown walking trail initiative:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proposed route from Heritage Park to the river, accessible for all mobility levels (paved, wayfinding signage, benches).</li> <li>▪ If REDIP funding is denied for Heritage Park, consider pursuing active transportation funding to construct trail.</li> <li>▪ Possible use of property on 3rd Street as a trail rest area with a bench overlooking the river.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Mesa Park improvements:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plan needed if other grant funding is not sourced; council direction required.</li> <li>▪ Irrigation installation required prior to tree planting; project requires planning and budget allocation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-166



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Safety:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FireSmart posting to go live next week.</li> <li>○ Fire Tender: Discussion ongoing with TNRD. Projected cost \$300,000</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Storm Drainage:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Completing final specifications; development sparked requirements for a 1/100-year storm event engineering assessment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Sewage Treatment Plant:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planned upgrades; a costly project with engineering involvement led by Brian.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Reservoir Upgrades:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Second reservoir in North Ashcroft to improve fire flow; another high-cost project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Risk Mitigation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fire mitigation plan completed after the 2021 fire: Seeking funding or considering setting cash aside for this purpose.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transportation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Traffic calming: Vision Zero grant application for safety measures.</li> <li>○ Road reserves: Need for replenishment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Constraints:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital projects limit the budget for additional, non-essential items.</li> <li>• Mayor Roden emphasized the importance of visible, community-enhancing projects like parks/recreation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grant Funding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question on availability of infrastructure funding: Most grants are highly competitive and oversubscribed.</li> <li>• Director Bennewith explained the planning process for large infrastructure projects, CFO Bhalla noted that asset-focused inflation rates exceed CPI.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFO Bhalla emphasized prioritizing one visible community project while continuing to build reserves and address infrastructure deficit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion to move back to regular meeting</b>  <i>M/S Roden / Lambert</i>  <i>THAT, Council adjourns the Committee of the Whole Meeting and return to the Regular Meeting of Council for Tuesday November 12, 2024.</i>          Councillor Clement noted her term as Deputy Mayor has completed and Councillor Davenport is the Deputy Mayor until October 31, 2025.  <b>Mayor Roden assumed the Chair</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-167</p>
6.2	<p><b>CAO Verbal Report</b>  <b>1. Property Acquisition Update</b></p>	



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	<p>Purchase contract for North Ashcroft Reservoir property is with the Lawyers and sellers do not have any concerns. Anticipated closing date is on or before January 31, 2025.</p> <p><b>2. HARS – Interview with EMCR/Health</b> Ashcroft was once again asked to participate in a brief meeting with EMCR to discuss the impacts of extreme heat and how our HARS program addresses these events. We discussed lessons learned, successes and challenges stressing that consistent messaging and communication is the key to protect residents.</p> <p><b>3. New Building Inspection Agreement</b> The new agreement is ready for signature. The recently expired agreement was established in 2009 and has not had an increase throughout its duration. TNRD has proposed an increase of 25% which equates to \$1100.00. The Village does not have the capacity to assume building inspection services and the proposed new rate is a fair fee for service.</p>	
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
6.3	<b>BEO – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report – July-September 2024</b>	

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

<b>FOR ACTION</b>		
7.1	<p><b>Ashcroft &amp; Area Community Resource Society Christmas Hamper Fund – Request for Cash Donations</b> M/S Lambert / Clement <i>THAT, the Village of Ashcroft provide a grant in aid in the amount of \$500 to the Ashcroft &amp; Area Resource Society Christmas Hamper Fund.</i> It was noted that the organization is solely dependant on cash donations and not collecting donation of food items.</p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-168
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>		
7.3	<b>TNRL – Launches New Streaming Service Through “Kanopy” – A premier video streaming service for libraries in North America</b>	
7.4	<b>TNRD – New myRegionView – more advanced and enhanced version available</b>	
7.5	<b>School District No. 74 – Co-Chairs Elected for Board of Education – Trustees Larry Casper and Carmen Ranta</b> Direction to staff - send letter to all trustees that have been appointed to SD#74 Board and other external board positions.	
7.6	<b>CN – Information on CN’s Certified Rail Ready Site Program - BC</b>	
7.7	<b>TNRD – News Release – Board Elects Chair</b>	
7.8	<b>BC Hydro ReGreening Program Update</b>	

## 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	<b>Motion Tracker</b>	
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**9. NEW BUSINESS**

9.1		
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**10. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES, COTW, and COMMISSIONS**

10.1		
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**11. COUNCIL REPORTS**

11.1	Mayor Roden CP Holiday Train Nov 18, 2024, at approximately 8:45 Congratulated CFO Bahlla for a successful Asset Management presentation at the recent SILGA workshop Commented that the Seniors Bazaar was very nice	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	
11.3	Councillor Clement	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert	

**12. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING**

*Motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1*

12.1	<b>N/A</b>	
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**13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING**

13.1	<b>N/A</b>	
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**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Roden adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7:12 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of  
the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
Council held Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

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Daniela Dyck,  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Barbara Roden,  
Mayor