



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

REGULAR AGENDA

FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

Please be advised that the HUB Online Network will record and broadcast or live stream today’s Council meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 25, 2024 M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 25, 2024 be adopted as presented.</i>	P. 1-4
2.2	Minutes of the Public Meeting held Wednesday, March 27, 2024 M/S <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Public Meeting of Council held Wednesday, March 27, 2024 be adopted as presented.</i>	P. 5-10

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1		
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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.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1		
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	CAO Report – 2024 SILGA Convention Gift Basket Request Purpose: To seek Council’s direction regarding the preferred gift basket option and the allocation of budget for the 2024 SILGA Convention	P. 11-13

	M/S	
6.2	<p>CAO Report – Water Conservation Measures Purpose: This report aims to enable Council to deliberate on the existing drought conditions, reduced snowpack levels, and declining water table conditions. It provides an opportunity to consider the possibility of implementing State 2 water conservation measures starting May 1st instead of Stage 1, in alignment with the Water Conservation Bylaw #799, 2018 objectives for water conservation efforts.</p>	P. 14-16
	M/S	
6.3	<p>CFO Report – S.168 Council Remuneration & Expenses Purpose: For Council to approve the report as requested.</p>	P. 17-18
	M/S	
FOR INFORMATION		
6.4	<p>CAO Report – Farmer’s Market Update Purpose: To provide Council with a summary of the meeting between the business owners and the Farmers Market organizers which addressed the concerns raised regarding access and safety during the farmers market road closures.</p>	P. 19-20
6.5	<p>CFO Report – 1st Quarter Finance Update Purpose: For Information</p>	P. 21
6.6	<p>DPW Report – 1st Quarter Public Works Update Purpose: To provide Council with a first quarter update from the Public Works department.</p>	P. 22-24
6.7	<p>BEO Report – 1st Quarter Bylaw Enforcement Update Purpose: To provide Council with detail updates and status of the bylaw files for the first quarter of 2024</p>	P. 25-26
6.8	<p>EDT Report – 1st Quarter Economic Development & Tourism Quarterly Update Purpose: To provide Council with a status update regarding Economic Development & Tourism position</p>	P. 27

7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Food – A Presentation on Land Use Planning for Agriculture Invitation: Presentations to be held either virtually or in-person between April 2024 to June 2024 Purpose: Is Council inclined to invite the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to make a presentation?</p>	P. 28
	M/S	

FOR INFORMATION		
7.2	Town of Osoyoos – Letter re: Resolution Legislative Changes	P. 29-31
7.3	Interior Health Newsletter – Pregnancy Triage Clinic expands Services for Kamloops Residents	P. 32-33
7.4	CN Right-Of-Way Notice of Annual Vegetation Management	P. 34-36
7.5	Ashcroft Art Club Annual Show and Sale April 19-21, 2024	P. 37
7.6	Bonaparte First Nation Press Release: Bonaparte First Nation (St'uxwtews Pesuten Heritage Society) awarded contract for Hat Creek Ranch and McAbee Fossil Beds effective April 2024 – March 31, 2030	P. 38-39
7.7	School District No.74 (Gold Trail) – News Release: Ernie Gran Appointed as Secretary-Treasurer	P. 40
7.8	NDIT – Community Marketing Grant #9060-40 Approval Letter	P. 41

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	Task Manager – Motion Tracker <i>For Information</i>	P. 42
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10.1	Street Safety Working Group Notes – March 28, 2024	P. 43
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
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	M/S <i>THAT, Council moves to a Closed Meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1(m) a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.</i>	
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13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1		
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14. ADJOURNMENT



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT

MINUTES

**FOR THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT
6:00 PM ON MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024**

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor, Jessica Clement
 Councillor, Jonah Anstett
 Councillor, Nadine Davenport
 Councillor, Doreen Lambert

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

EXCUSED: Mayor, Barbara Roden

 Media – 1
 Public – 1

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor, Jessica Clement called the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Ashcroft for Monday March 25, 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 Nlaka’pamux people.”

1. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

2. MINUTES

2.1	Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held Monday, March 11, 2024. M/S Anstett / Davenport <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held Monday, March 11, 2024, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-54
2.2	Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 11, 2024 M/S Davenport / Anstett <i>THAT, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 11, 2024, be adopted as presented.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-55

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1		
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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.

There were no comments or questions received from the public.

5. BYLAWS/POLICIES

5.1	N/A	
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6. STAFF REPORTS

REQUEST FOR DECISION		
6.1	<p>CAO Report – TNRD Proposed Housing Needs Report Collaboration Purpose: Request Council’s approval for Ashcroft to join a collaborative effort with the TNRD and fellow member municipalities to lower the expenses associated with producing an updated Housing Needs Report required by the province due by the end of 2024.</p> <p>M/S Davenport / Lambert <i>THAT, Council authorizes the Village of Ashcroft to engage in a collaborative initiative with the TNRD and participating member municipalities to secure a consultant for the updating of Ashcroft’s Housing Needs Report, in accordance with the province’s mandated requirement by the end of 2024.</i></p>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-56
FOR INFORMATION		
6.2	<p>CAO Report – TNRD Geographic Information System (GIS) Position Update Purpose: To provide Council with a progress report in regard to the status of the TNRD GIS shared position previously agreed upon by Council.</p> <p>CAO Dyck elaborated briefly on the GIS position update noting the Agreement was emailed to Council for information and transparency. CFO Bhalla who has assumed GIS responsibilities advocated for Ashcroft’s participation in the shared service as during emergency situations his focus will be finance in the EOC operations and he won’t be able to focus on GIS and mapping.</p> <p><i>For Information</i></p>	
6.3	<p>CAO Report – Heritage Park Status of Grant Funding Application Purpose: To provide Council with an update regarding the grant application that was submitted to the Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure program (REDIP) for the purpose of revitalizing the front end of Heritage Park.</p>	

	<p>CAO Dyck noted everyone’s disappointment in not being approved for funding but reiterated that staff will be meeting with REDIP to assess the application and learn how it can be improved for better success at the next intake. The landscaper has been advised so that he is able to fill Ashcroft’s allocated time with other contracts this season. He is confident the application will be successful at a future date and has already reserved a space for the project for next year in his schedule.</p> <p><i>For Information</i></p>	
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7. CORRESPONDENCE

FOR ACTION		
7.1	N/A	
FOR INFORMATION		
7.2	BC Transit Update – Electrification Program	
7.3	SD#74 Board Bulletin	
7.4	Northern Interior Community Association (NICA)	
7.5	Rotary Club – Citizen of the Year Save the Date	
7.6	CFSUN- The Leading Edge – March 2024	
7.7	Ashcroft Canada Community Building Fund Spring Letter-2024	
7.8	Min. of Municipal Affairs – Preparing for Potential Drought Conditions	
7.9	TNRD – Board Approves 2024 Budget – News Release	
7.10	TNRD – Hospital Board Approves Budget – News Release	
7.11	BC Interior Community Foundation – Annual Communication	

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1	<p>Task Manager – Motion Tracker</p> <p><i>For Information</i></p>	
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9. NEW BUSINESS

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

10.1	<p>Para Transit System – Minutes for March 20, 2024 M/S Anstett / Lambert <i>THAT, the Minutes for the Para Transit System meeting for Wednesday March 20, 2024, be received and filed.</i></p>	<p>CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-57</p>
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11. COUNCIL REPORTS

11.1	Mayor Roden	
11.2	Councillor Anstett	



11.3	Councillor Clement – Report HAWC Meeting – noting the good news of a physician arriving in Ashcroft.	
11.4	Councillor Davenport	
11.5	Councillor Lambert Noted – The Thompson View Monor Society (TVMS) is moving forward with their 29-unit expansion now that they have confirmation of the grant funding approval. TVMS is meeting next week, regrettably, Councillor Lambert is unable to attend the meeting; however, Councillor Anstett (her alternate) will be attending the meeting in Councillor Lambert’s absence.	

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	M/S Clement / Lambert <i>THAT, Council move to a Closed Meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1(c) employee relation, (e) Acquisition of land and (l) municipal objectives.</i>	CARRIED Unanimous R-2024-58
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13. RESOLUTIONS RELEASED FROM CLOSED MEETING

13.1		
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14. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor, Clement adjourned the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Ashcroft on Monday March 25, 2024, at 7:05 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, March 25, 2024.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor

MINUTES for the PUBLIC MEETING

held Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Ashcroft Community Hall

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

CAO, Daniela Dyck
CFO, Yogin Bhalla
DPW, Brian Bennewith
Fire Chief, Josh White
Mike Knauff, TNRD Emergency Management
Emily Branch, TNRD Environmental Services

Media – 1
Public – 42

The Public Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm with an address from Mayor Roden, welcoming all attendees. Following this, some house keeping matters were addressed, and an overview of the evening's agenda was shared with the audience before the initial presentation. Mayor Roden introduced Mike Knauff and Emily Branch as guest presenters from Emergency Management and Environmental Services representing the TNRD. Mr. Knauff was invited by Mayor Roden to begin the evening with his presentation.

Emergency Management – Mike Knauff

Mike began his presentation with an overview of what Emergency Management looks like in British Columbia (BC) followed by an explanation of organizational structure (org chart) for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC).

- Mike explained that during an event the EOC activates and acts as a conduit between the local government, residents, and the provincial government. In addition, the EOC provides mapping services, entry permits to the fire zone in consultation with BC Wildfire providing the resident has a valid reason to return to their property such as feeding livestock etc. the EOC receives requests for support from community and residents and if unable to resolve the issues forwards them to the PREOC (Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre)
- PREOC is a direct line of support to government for accessing necessary resources.

Staffing and Support

- TNRD has a department head and one full-time staff with some administrative support; Kevin Skrepnek (Director of the EOC) assumes approximately 50% of responsibilities and Mike assumes the remainder.
- Other TNRD staff are seconded to the EOC during a State of Local Emergency when the EOC is activated. These positions are defined in the org chart and include logistics, planning, information, finance, etc.

Legislation and Adaptation

- Legislation is periodically refreshed, necessitating adaptation in emergency response strategies.
- State of Local Emergency grants special powers and emphasizes prioritizing public safety over firefighting tasks (handled by BC Wildfire)

Collaborative Efforts

- Emergency Management involves cooperation among various ministries and agencies.
- Mike noted trust is crucial among staff, agencies, and jurisdictions.

Emergency Response Overview

- Explanation of Evacuation Orders and procedures

Individual Preparedness

- Encouragement for individuals to be prepared with grab-and-go bags.
- Mention of Temporary Access initiatives focusing on critical components like livestock safety
- Community Engagement
- Mike concluded with an emphasis on neighborhood preparedness and FireSmart initiatives (neighborhoods helping each other), the importance of disseminating validated information, and community-led recovery efforts.

Questions and discussion from the floor:

Gloria Mertens

Does the TNRD respond to train and other incidents in their EOC response plan?

Yes, but the function would be determined by the type of event. Ex: trains are required to have spill response plans; however, if water systems is impacted site response may fall elsewhere.

Leanne Davis

Comment – Grab and go bags are essential, it is also imperative that vehicles have adequate fuel during an evacuation.

Kevin Beenham

Wondered if the TNRD can be proactive with those that are choosing to shelter in place and not evacuate during an order, and stress that no one is coming to help if the fire moves in their direction?

Mike noted he is unaware of anyone being removed from an evacuation zone while on their personal property. However, if minors or disabled persons are involved these would be removed by RCMP.

Is the TNRD completing risk assessments o Ministry and Crown Lans as required under the new legislation, and what will be done with the assessments once they are completed?

The risk assessments will be driven by grant funding.

Cam Tedford

Concern raised regarding areas that only have one egress, how are these people helped during an emergency?

TNRD is undergoing a process for route planning, there are 11 pans in the RD and 5 have been updated. Goal is to complete the remaining 6 this year. Areas with one way in, one way out often use other tools in the toolbox for evacuation such as helicopters. The response initiated during such an emergency will be determined during the event like the Hwy 8 evacuations during the 2021 atmospheric river. Mike noted communication is the key in any emergency response event.

Environmental Services – Emily Branch

Emily began her presentation with a discussion on the Mandatory Recycling Material Bylaw, which applies to all landfills in BC. Disposal bans, deemed effective in reducing landfill waste, are only enforced in areas where recycling infrastructure is established.

- It was noted that currently, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) averages 639 kg of waste per person per year and aims to reduce this to 500kg /person/year by 2028. To achieve this, a phased implementation strategy was proposed.
- The implementation plan includes public education, mock ticketing, and full enforcement, primarily targeting commercial haulers. Haulers will be ticketed if 10% or more of their load comprises corrugated cardboard. The focus is on mitigating landfill intake rather than penalizing haulers.
- The solid waste management plan has been expanded to include additional materials outlined in the BC Recycling Regulation. Stakeholder consultation, including surveys, was undertaken to inform decision-making.
- The initial three-phase implementation plan was condensed to four months. Under the new program, a 10% threshold is set, with possible ticketing for exceeding this limit.
- A list of banned items was provided, with the implementation plan mirroring that of corrugated cardboard. Emphasis was placed on education rather than punitive measures.
- Examples of educational materials and warning stickers were shared during the meeting. It was highlighted that in Ashcroft, the Return-it program is operational, and a list of free recycling items was presented.

Emily's presentation concluded with a commitment to further educate stakeholders and ensure compliance with the Mandatory Recycling Material Bylaw.

Questions and discussion from the floor:

John Roberge

Wondered if the Village is considering a recycling collection program for residents unable to get to the Eco Depot?

The Village is not considering a recycling collection program, the garbage truck does not have the capacity to collect recycled materials without contaminating them.

Wondered where the recycling is shipped once received at the Eco Depot?

Distributed under the Stewardship Recycle BC accepts most plastics, glass, cardboard, paper etc. Recycling is no longer shipped overseas.

Cam Tedford

Commented that he recently started a new business venture which requires the disposal of yard waste, this is free for homeowners to haul to the eco depot but costs businesses such as his \$90/ton. Wondered if there is an option to make this more affordable?

TNRD does not subsidize recycling commercial entities only residents. Commercial service providers collect a fee for service that should include the disposal costs.

Concern raised regarding used motor oil – eco fee is applied at purchase. Wondered if commercial enterprise can recycle?

Currently TNRD is only able to accept residential used oil. Eco Depot does not have capacity to accept industry used engine oil for recycling. There has been a contractor monopoly for used oil collection, new contractor in the region is reducing costs and TNRD is working towards no service fee.

Strategic Plan 2024-2026 – CAO, Daniela Dyck

Daniela began the presentation of the new strategic plan with a review of the process undertaken during the development phase of the plan including council, staff, and public input sessions. Daniela explained that the new plan is guided by core values and is not project specific; however, projects are itemized within

each core value. In addition to the core values, it was noted that there are some carry over projects and ongoing initiatives that remain as part of the strategic structure which include Water to AIB, Para Transit Committee, Inter-Community Bylaw Enforcement, Accessibility Committee, and Economic Development and Tourism,

The core values in the strategic plan are:

1. Effective Governance, Public and Inter-Governmental Relations
2. Enhancing Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture and Amenities
3. Safety and Protection
4. Managing Infrastructure and Assets
5. Community Planning and the natural Built Environment
6. Upholding Fiscal Responsibility and Promoting Transparency
7. Excellence in Service Delivery

Priority project for the 2024-2026 include but are not limited to:

1. Review and update of OCP and Zoning Bylaws
2. Branding
3. Policy Review Committee
4. Water to AIB
5. Street Speed, Safety and Parking
6. Fire-Smart
7. North Ashcroft Reservoir
8. Water Conservation Measures
9. Herbicide review

It was noted that items identified during the strategic planning process although not itemized in the strategic plan do fall within the core values and a master list is kept at the office. The items will be addressed as funding becomes available or Council moves a wish list item to a priority item.

In summary, the strategic plan is a guiding document that provides direction to Council, staff and the community as we continue to work towards a vibrant and sustainable community.

Questions and discussions from the floor:

Andy

Wondered why Ashcroft hasn't implemented a FireSmart program sooner?

We are looking forward and implementing now.

Jim Duncan

Commented it would be nice to have doors installed in the change room washrooms.

On the "to do" list prior to opening for next season.

Muriel Scallion

Commented on the wonderful job being done by PW cleaning up the streets (sweeper).

Kevin Beenham

Commented regarding water collection, could the Pegasus tower be reactivated for fire suppression or irrigation purposes?

We can have unpotable water flowing through the infrastructure that delivers potable water to residents.

John Roberge

Raised concern about garbage strewn about the arena parking lot and tossed cigarette butts. Additional concern about dry vegetation and debris on the riverbanks which are a fire concern.

As previously advised, garbage can, and ashtray have been ordered and partially received at PW for installation. As for dead vegetation removal along the riverbank, DFO does not permit us to do so. PW does try to maintain as far as is reachable.

Morgan Simpson

Wondered if the Village has a long-term plan for underground infrastructure replacement. Noting it seems repairs are completed on an as needed basis.

The Village pipes are in relatively good shape, we respond to breaks when leaks are identified. Engineers are currently modelling Ashcroft's water and sewer infrastructure which will provide a broader scope of the situation. Asset management plan will be expanded to include pipes.

Travis Storkan

Concern regarding limited contact with the Village in regard to a skills park previously discussed during the Tail Plan implementation.

If recreation is the "fluff" when will more options for recreation be provided? Recreation attracts tourism, families and adds to the quality of life.

The village recognizes that recreation is a vital part of the community and our quality of life, it was referred to as "fluff" for lack of a better word simply to say that essential services must remain as the priorities. The Village continues to pursue recreational enhancements as grant opportunities arise.

Larry Van Least

Wondered when/ if the Village had plans to open the land above the Mesa for development?

Although the Village does own some of the land above the Mesa, these parcels will require geo technical surveys and the Villages priority has been to enable private property development as a priority, noting there are several empty lots available in the Mesa and in North Ashcroft.

Can the Village look at getting Hospital lands back from IHA for parking or other projects?

Mayor Roden confirmed she has a meeting scheduled to discuss the hospital lands with a representative from IHA in the lands/property department.

Jim Duncan

Comment that the skate park is being well used and he has heard comments of visitors appreciating the park as they were using it.

Mrs. Roberge

Wondered why the lights are on at the arena 24/7 if we are trying to conserve costs?

Lights are on a photosynthesis timer and should turn off and on automatically. PW will look into this.

Water Conservation – CAO, Daniela Dyck

Daniela noted that water conservation is a strategic priority and with the ongoing drought, low snowpack, faster spring snowmelt and reduced precipitation water conservation measures must be considered.

Further discussions included suggestions that the village and residents can do to reduce water consumption.

On the Village these items include:

- Amend Water Conservation Bylaw.
- Consider implementing Stage 2 Water Restrictions May 1st.
- Encourage drought resistant landscaping.
- Encourage removal of invasive trees (Siberian Elm, Tree of Heaven)
- Encourage removal of Cedar trees/hedges.
- Reduce irrigation on public property.
- Provide water conservation kits.
- Water conservation public education.
- Implement water metering program (when grant funding is available).

For residents these items include:

- Reduce lawn watering.
- Hand water gardens and planter boxes (hose and nozzle).

- Reduce length of showers.
- Wash full loads of laundry only.
- Run full dishwashers only.
- Wash vehicles, RV's, boats only when necessary.

Daniela brought attention to last year's low river levels, noting that the pumps supplying water to the treatment plant struggled during this period. To address the issue, a submersible pump was rented and supplied water to the village for over three months. As a precaution, the village then acquired a backup submersible pump to ensure continuous water provision. While reducing water consumption may not directly impact river levels, it does alleviate strain on the system, leading to reduced maintenance and operational costs.

Being a desert community, Ashcroft boasts some of the lushest lawns in the region, often featuring vegetation more suited to rainforests than our arid climate. Attendees were encouraged to reconsider their water usage habits as we collectively adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

Questions and comments from the floor:

How low can the river water level be before the pump doesn't work?

If the river drops 6-8 inches it will become challenging; however, it was noted that the Village purchased an additional submersible pump that can be placed in a deeper part of the river and supply sufficient water to the water treatment plant.

Andrew

Does Council have authority over private property to remove dead trees?

The only tool we have is Bylaw enforcement, if dead trees are on private property, the BEO can ask for them to be removed.

Once FireSmart program is established there maybe some opportunity for support in the future.

Comment regarding a green waste disposal bin to be placed in the community may help with debris removal.

Cam Tedford

Commented on egress concerns at end of Evans Road. Can the Village address a secondary road access/
Can be discussed with t Ashcroft Terminal.

Jack Jayes

Comment regarding tipping fees and utilities.

New Resident

Commented she purchased her home because of the privacy that the cedar hedge offers and noted that wooden fences burn too.

Fire Chief White commented that cedar trees burn much hotter and are more volatile than a wooden fence. The fence may burn, but it won't be the same threat as the cedars.

The Public meeting concluded at 9:15 pm. Mayor Roden thanked everyone for attending the session and their active participation during the question and comment opportunities. Mayor Roden also thanked Mike Knauff and Emily Branch from the TNRD for joining and providing such valuable information.

The foregoing is the writer's interpretation of the discussions held and approved by Council.

Daniela Dyck, CAO

Barbara Roden, Mayor

TO: Mayor and Council

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

FROM: Daniela Dyck, CAO

SUBJECT: Southern Interior Local Government Association – Gift Basket Request

RECOMMENDATION:

To be determined by Council

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's direction regarding the preferred gift basket option and the allocation of budget for the 2024 SILGA Convention

Respectfully Submitted by:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

Each year, the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) requests member municipalities and regional districts to donate a gift basket that showcases the unique characteristics of their respective communities. These baskets serve as door prizes during the convention, sparking conversations among attendees as they explore the contents.

Last year, Council approved a gift basket valued at \$100. This year, administration presents two suggestions within the same budget:

1. **Wine and Cheese Basket:** Includes swag items and locally sourced products such as a charcuterie board, two wine glasses, one bottle of wine, and cheese and crackers.
2. **Gardener's Delight Basket:** Comprises seeds, bedding plants, and gardening items.

The proposed options align with SILGA's tradition of showcasing community uniqueness. The Wine and Cheese Basket reflects regional flavors and hospitality, while the Gardener's Delight Basket highlights a connection to nature and Ashcroft's exceptional produce and growing season, resonating with a broader audience.

Options for Consideration:

1. Maintain the \$100 budget and choose between the Wine and Cheese Basket or the Gardener's Delight Basket.
2. Allocate additional funds beyond \$100 to enhance the chosen basket's contents or consider other thematic variations.

CONCLUSION:

The donation of a themed gift basket to the SILGA Convention presents an opportunity to showcase our community's distinctiveness. Council's decision will guide administration in preparing a memorable and representative contribution.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

The chosen option will impact the budget allocation for the gift basket donation. Administration will ensure compliance with approved budgetary limits.

Attachment Listing

SILGA Request

From: southern interior local government <yoursilga@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:00 AM
To: recipient list

Subject: 2024 SILGA Convention Gift Baskets

Good morning everyone,

Each year at the convention, we like to showcase the unique characteristics of each of the SILGA communities with gift baskets. These baskets are used as door prizes during the convention and often start a conversation around the table when the basket goodies are opened.

If your community can send a basket with one of the delegates attending the convention, the SILGA board would really appreciate it.

Thanks, Alison

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Alison Slater, BComm, CFP, ARCT
General Manager
PO Box 27017 Cityview PO
Kamloops, BC V2E 0B2
250-851-6653
www.silga.ca

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Daniela Dyck, CAO
SUBJECT: Water Conservation Measures

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation

PURPOSE:

This report aims to enable Council to deliberate on the existing drought conditions, reduced snowpack levels, and declining water table conditions. It provides an opportunity to consider the possibility of implementing Stage 2 water conservation measures starting May 1st instead of Stage 1, in alignment with the Water Conservation Bylaw #799, 2018 objectives for water conservation efforts.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

As per the Water Conservation Bylaw #799, 2018, the Village of Ashcroft enforces Stage 1 water conservation measures annually, commencing on May 1st. These measures are essential for responsible environmental management, especially given current conditions such as reduced snowpack, lower water table levels, and ongoing drought. Taking these factors into account, certain Council members wish to review the advantages of initiating Stage 2 water restrictions from May 1st. In addition to this report, this concept was presented at the Public Meeting held on March 27th for public input and questions.

PROPSAL:

In consideration of the above noted environmental factors, the Council is asked to consider the implementation of Stage 2 water conservation measures, effective May 1st. The current Stage 1 water conservation measure permits irrigation of lawns gardens etc. every other day (odd/even as per address numbers), while Stage 2 measures entail a reduction in watering frequency for residents, limiting the use of sprinklers or irrigation to twice per week. Additionally, hand watering of designated areas such as flower and vegetable gardens, planters, and shrubs is permissible; however, watering of lawns or grass is prohibited.

Copied below are the Stage 2 measures as cited in the bylaw:

STAGE 2 WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

- a. During Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures, no person shall use a watering system to water a lawn, garden or landscaped area on a property except:
 - i. At premises with even numbered civic address, on Wednesdays and Saturdays between 6:00 am and 9:00 am as well as 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm for hose supplied sprinklers or between 12:00 am and 6:00 am for underground automated sprinkler systems.
 - ii. At premises with odd numbered civic addresses, on Thursdays and Sundays between 6:00 am and 9:00 am as well as 8:00 pm and 11:00 pm for hose supplied sprinklers or between 12:00 am and 6:00 am for underground automated sprinkler systems.
- b. During Stage 2 Water Conservation Measures, the following uses are permitted:
 - i. Hand watering of flower gardens, vegetable gardens, decorative planters, shrubs or trees. Drip irrigation or micro sprinkler irrigation for watering flower gardens, vegetable gardens, decorative planters and shrubs or trees is also permitted. Hand watering of lawns or grass is not permitted.
 - ii. Watering of public sports fields, school yards, public parks and cemeteries.
 - iii. Filling and maintaining of private pools, spas, hot tubs and ponds.
 - iv. Prevention or to control fires.
 - v. For health and safety of any person.
 - vi. Uses authorized by a permit issued by the CAO, Public Works Foreman or Designate (Schedule 'B').

RATIONALE:

1. **Regional Context:** The Village of Ashcroft is not alone in contemplating stricter watering regulations for the 2024 season. Several communities within the regional district are also considering similar measures. While reducing water consumption may not significantly impact downstream communities, it will mitigate strain on the water treatment plant, thereby reducing maintenance costs and preserving operational efficiency.
2. **Village Perspective:** As stewards of Ashcroft, we are dedicated to leading by example in reducing water consumption within the Village. Despite the Stage 2 water conservation measures permitting irrigation for fields, school yards, parks, and cemeteries, the Village will adhere to the same constraints imposed on residents. While this may result in parks displaying a golden hue rather than lush greenery throughout the summer, it underscores our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and reinforces our resilience in the face of change.
3. **Business Impact:** Concerns often arise regarding the operational viability of certain businesses during periods of water restrictions. However, unless stricter regulations become necessary, all businesses will continue to operate as usual. It should be noted, that all businesses are obligated to comply with the same irrigation restrictions imposed on all other water users. This ensures

equitable treatment across the community while upholding our collective responsibility towards water conservation efforts.

4. **Environmental Considerations:** Ashcroft, being Canada's only true desert, warrants a re-evaluation of its landscape practices. Currently, many properties boast lush lawns and non-native vegetation, which are incompatible with the arid climate. As the community progresses towards FireSmarting initiatives, it becomes imperative to align landscape practices with the realities of climate change. Embracing water conservation measures not only aligns with environmental sustainability but also fosters resilience against climate-related risks.

CONCLUSION:

The adoption of Stage 2 water conservation measures for this year represents a proactive step towards fostering environmental sustainability and climate resilience within the Village of Ashcroft in consideration of the ongoing drought conditions. By reducing water usage, the community not only conserves a precious resource but also contributes to the maintenance of critical infrastructure and the protection of private property. As stewards of the community, it is our duty to prioritize water conservation initiatives that safeguard natural resources and promote sustainability. In this time of climate change it is important for Council to demonstrate proactive leadership in addressing water scarcity challenges while fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among residents and businesses alike.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Environmental Stewardship

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Yogi Bhalla, CFO
SUBJECT: s.168 Report on Council Renumeration

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

PURPOSE: Approve report as requested

Respectfully Submitted by:



Yoginder Bhalla,
Chief Financial Officer

Approved for Submission to Council:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND: Section 168 of the Community Charter requires that at least once a year, a Council must prepare a report separately listing Council remuneration, expenses and contracts.

DISCUSSION. The listing is attached and is similar to that contained in the SOFI report which follows later in the year.

SUMMARY: NA

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Financial stewardship

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing:

Excel Table

Report on Council Remuneration and Expenses
 For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2023
 Pursuant to the *Community Charter Section 168* :

Name	Position	Remuneration	Expenses	Benefits¹
Roden, Barbara	Mayor	15,185	4,138	139
Anstett, Jonah	Councillor	8,215	5,609	139
Clement, Jessica	Councillor	8,215	4,789	139
Davenport, Nadine	Councillor	8,215	4,002	139
Lambert, Doreen	Councillor	8,215	1,785	139
Total		48,047	20,323	697

Notes:

1. The Benefit expense is the premiums paid for an accident insurance policy for members of Council while they are performing their civic duties.

Presented to Mayor and Council at the Regular Meeting held on:
 Monday April 8, 2024.

Certified correct:



Yoginder (Yogi) Bhalla
 Chief Financial Officer

TO: Mayor and Council

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

FROM: Daniela Dyck, CAO

SUBJECT: Farmers Market Railway Avenue Access - Update

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the meeting between the business owners and the Farmers Market organizers which addressed the concerns raised regarding access and safety during the farmers market road closures.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

At the February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council, Council directed staff to facilitate a meeting between the organizers of the Farmers Market and the business owners who are directly impacted by the road closure. Below, is a summary of the conversation.

MEETING SUMMARY:

CAO, Daniela Dyck welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance in addressing concerns vital to the ongoing success of the business community and the farmer's market.

During the discussion segment, the following points were raised by the business owners:

- Access to the store front and garden is restricted during market hours, causing inconvenience when returning from art shows and transporting large items from the back parking spaces to the front. The participant emphasized that while this is not a regular issue, as a taxpayer, access should not be hindered.
- Visibility of artwork in windows and garden access is obstructed by vendor tents, although the business owner supports the Farmers Market it was requested that vendor tents not be set up in front of the storefront and garden as it obstructs the view of the displays. However, utilizing the space as a seating area with tables and chairs for market patrons to enjoy their purchases is welcome.

- Concerns were raised about potential impediments to First Responders' (fire truck) access due to vendor tents in front of buildings, compounded by road closures.
- There was concern raised about potential insurance issues related to restricted fire truck access during market hours.

In response to these concerns, it was noted by the Farmers Market organizers:

- Road closures are essential for pedestrian safety, particularly for children, due to ongoing issues with vehicle speeds on Railway Ave.
- Additional concerns included motorcycles bypassing barriers and disregarding road closure signs.
- The market's location on the road instead of the park or boardwalk addresses accessibility concerns for wheelchair users, stroller users, and others.

RESOLUTIONS:

- Consensus was reached to maintain the road closure.
- Owners requiring access to private property during market hours are encouraged to contact Market organizers (Alex or Chantal) in advance. Upon arrival at the market locate one of the organizers and request access which will be promptly facilitated by removing barriers.
- Vendor tents will be positioned on the Heritage Park side of Railway Ave to avoid obstructing window displays and first responder access to structures. Overflow vendor setups will be limited to specific areas at the north and south end of the block. Tables and chairs may be set up in front of the business and garden area.
- The Market will consult with their insurance provider regarding incidents during market hours on business property and share relevant information with the group.
- On days when the Village hosts events coinciding with the market, market hours may adjust to align with the event to minimize road closure duration.

Next steps include the distribution of the draft meeting minutes to all attendees via email for review and edits. Once approved by all participants finalized minutes will be distributed for future reference.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Support for Business and Economic Development/Tourism

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Yogi Bhalla, CFO
SUBJECT: Financial Update

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

RECOMMENDATION: None

PURPOSE: For information

Respectfully Submitted by:



Yoginder Bhalla,
Chief Financial Officer

Approved for Submission to Council:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND: The audit is nearing completion, utilities were billed in early February and the discount deadline was March 31st carried forward to April 2 as the 31st fell on the long weekend.

DISCUSSION:

Utility Collections: Our financial situation is progressing well, with utility collections within usual norms.

2024 Utility Invoiced:	\$1,265,496
Balance outstanding as of April 3 rd :	\$168,816
% Outstanding:	13.34%

Tax Collections: The tax receivable balance after collecting Rogers outstanding taxes is at \$102K which is also at typical levels for this time of year.

Audit: The work on the audit is nearing completion, completing the Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) in -house avoided considerable consulting expenses.

Treasury: Our liquidity and investment revenue continues to track well and will continue to help offset expenses and build reserves.

The initial public budget session is scheduled for April 8th followed by the statutory townhall presentation scheduled for May 13th. The auditor will also present to council at 5:00 on April 22nd.

SUMMARY: Our finances continue to show steady improvement.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives Financial stewardship

TO: Mayor and Council

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2024

FROM: Brian Bennewith, DPW

SUBJECT: Public Works Operational Update – First Quarter, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a first quarter update from the Public Works department.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Approved for Submission to Council



Brian Bennewith,
Director of Public Works



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

Below is an update of public works operations for the first quarter of 2024.

Arena:

The arena season has ended, and overall, it was successful with the arena operating seven days a week. Despite some downtime on Saturdays, which was either utilized for private rentals or left vacant due to TCMHA cancellations, the season proceeded well. The recent addition of an electric ice surfacer in mid-December 2023 has noticeably enhanced ice surface cleanliness with its prewash capabilities. Efforts to train new employees in ice plant/building maintenance for Ice Facilities Operators certification are ongoing, along with plans to send an employee for Refrigeration Operators certification, a requirement for the Chief Plant Operator position. Summer plans include conducting annual plant maintenance and installing doors in charge rooms leading to bathroom stalls.

Sewer Treatment Plant:

The audit of our sewer treatment plant has been finalized, and we have received a report from Urban Systems. Despite the plant's construction in 1975, ongoing maintenance and upgrades have prevented immediate issues. However, we are focusing on addressing concerns such as the removal of grit and materials from the headworks due to the aging system and difficulties in finding parts for repairs. We have tasked Urban Systems with preparing a report and plan for potential grants this fall to cover the cost of

replacing this unit. Additionally, efforts are underway to replace aging air lifts and UV disinfection lighting in the plant.

Lift Stations:

The construction of Lift Station #1 has been completed, and it is now operational. However, we are currently addressing two deficiencies, which Urban Systems is actively working to resolve. It can be challenging to bring contractors from out of town back for warranty issues on minor items. To address power supply needs, we are repurposing the old generator from #1 lift station with modifications for installation at #2 lift station. Additionally, a new generator is being installed at #4 lift station. Once these installations are complete, only #3 lift station will require backup generation. Piping repairs are also scheduled for completion at #4 lift station due to wear on the discharge lines. The funding for these upgrades is primarily covered by leftover funds from the #1 lift station upgrade.

Sewer Collection:

Our current focus in Sewer Collection involves our crews conducting mains flushing operations. This has been a learning experience as several crew members are new to this task. Flushing has been completed in Mesa Vista and Downtown areas, with North Ashcroft scheduled for flushing next. So far, no issues have been reported during these operations.

Reservoirs:

Cleaning of our reservoirs is necessary to facilitate work on the main line and hydrant flushing. Given the limited time frames available for reservoir maintenance without disrupting service, we are engaging contractors to perform live cleaning. This approach eliminates the need to drain and shut down reservoirs, allowing our crews to allocate time to other projects. As previously mentioned, the acquisition process for #3 reservoir land is ongoing. Upon completion, we can proceed with twinning this reservoir to increase our capacity for fire protection and future development needs.

Water Distribution:

Once the reservoirs have been cleaned, we will begin scheduling Uni-Directional flushing of our water system to clean our mains. Additionally, Urban Systems is conducting a modeling report on North Ashcroft to determine water flows, system pressure, and hydrant delivery. This initiative will provide us with accurate information regarding our water delivery for future development planning.

Water Treatment Plant:

The overall operation of our plant and High Lift Station remains satisfactory. Recently, we underwent a Re & Re process for one of the pump ends on our High Lifts due to a loss of 20 liters per second of pumping capacity, indicating wear in the pump. This particular pump's end has been in service prior to the installation of the treatment side and has endured recent high turbidity events. You may have observed our crews working along the river's edge earlier this year; this effort aimed to ensure the proper protection of our piping infrastructure for intake pumps. Recently, divers conducted an inspection and cleaning of the upstream submersible pump cage and screens. During this inspection, they noted an angular deflection leading to a gap of approximately 1.5 inches between the cage and casing piping. We hope this issue does not result in operational problems. However, we plan to address this during low water levels

in February next year, as the warm winter this year caused water levels to rise early, preventing a timely inspection and cleaning of the downstream intake cage by divers.

Streets and Roads:

Over the past two years, we have undertaken significant paving projects throughout Ashcroft, taking advantage of the presence of a large paving company in our area. However, this year, our focus will be primarily on essential patching due to time and crew availability constraints. Line painting is scheduled for either May or June, and it is crucial to ensure the maintenance of our current lines, crosswalks, and parking stalls. The estimated cost for these activities this year is close to \$15,000. Additionally, dust control measures are planned for the end of May or early June to preserve road quality throughout most of the summer, with an associated cost escalation estimated at \$12,000. Our street cleaning efforts have been highly active over the past week, and we anticipate completion within the next week or two.

Pool:

During the winter months, our crews completed various minor maintenance tasks in the filter room, including replacing chlorine feed lines and installing a new chlorine feed pump. They also installed new support brackets, painted the ladies' change room, added an infant change table to the men's change room, stripped and waxed the lobby floors, and refinished the diving board. The deep end of the pool is scheduled for repainting once overnight temperatures stabilize adequately for painting and curing. We have advertised positions for lifeguards, swim instructors, and head lifeguards, with the application deadline set for April 15th.

Parks:

In the coming weeks, our crews will focus on park clean-up and initiating irrigation systems. The washrooms at Heritage Park are now open until Thanksgiving weekend. Unfortunately, we did not secure a grant for Heritage Park upgrades this time, so we will maintain regular upkeep. We are awaiting news on a grant application for a makeover at Mesa Vista Park. In the interim, we will plan tree placements for those received through the BC Hydro grant. Legacy Park is set to open on May 1st for the 2024 season.

Fire Hall Renovation:

We are currently focusing primarily on addressing deficiencies and completing the final installations. Although there are several outstanding issues, we have a completion schedule set for late April or early May. We are also resolving discrepancies found in the drawings during this process.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING

DATE: April 8, 2024
FROM: Reggie Amyotte, BEO
SUBJECT: Quarterly Report

RECOMMENDATION

For information

Purpose:

To provide Council with detail updates and status of the bylaw files for the first quarter of 2024.

Prepared by:



Reggie Amyotte,
Inter-Community Bylaw Enforcement Officer,

Approved for submission to Council:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Discussion:

The activities and complaints of the first quarter of 2024, show that we continue to have dog complaints, but barking issues rather than dog attacks have been prevalent. The unsightly files that still existed at the end of the last quarter in 2023 were brought forward and will be pursued in April to coincide with clean up and fire smart initiatives.

In February, I attended a Zoom Lunch and Learn session that emphasized converting conflicts into cooperation.

As noted by the information listed in the attached table, 18 complaints were resolved during this year's first quarter. I have changed the Bylaw Actionable Items Table to break down the bylaw related complaints rather than including them in the **Other** heading, added the headings **Zoning** and **Noise**, and separated the **Fire Pit Inspections & Renewals** from the complaints graph. As you can see the inspections have increased in the last month.

Conclusion:

The LGCEA conference is in May and as opposed to last year's event, I will walk in with a year's worth of knowledge and will be better prepared to understand and relate to the topics taught. Going forward, I hope to be able to better explain the bylaws in a simple enough way for the residents to understand and encourage compliance. The goals has always been to promote compliance, prioritizing understanding of the bylaws, issuing tickets is used as a last resort tool towards compliance.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Bylaw Compliance

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing

Bylaw Actionable Items table

Bylaw Actionable Items Table

Task	Jan-24			Feb-24			Mar-24		
	Carried Over	New	Resolved	Carried Over	New	Resolved	Carried Over	New	Resolved
Dog Complaints	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	3
Unsightly Complaints	5	1	1	5	1	2	4	1	0
Watering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Licence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derelict Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Zoning	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Noise	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire Hazard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoor Burning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	0
TOTAL	8	7	6	9	4	6	10	6	6
Fire Pit Inspections & Renewals		3						10	

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING

DATE: April 8, 2024
FROM: Margaret Moreira, EDTC
SUBJECT: Economic Development & Tourism Quarterly Report

RECOMMENDATION

To receive and file

Purpose

To provide Council with a status update regarding Economic Development & Tourism position

Prepared by:



Margaret Moreira,
Economic Development & Tourism Coordinator,

Approved for submission to Council:



Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Discussion

1. Grant writing and reporting:
EDTC has been busy writing NDIT grant applications, submitted between January and March as well as three grant reports in February.
2. Continuing to work with Yolo Nomads to create a landing site that will connect our community with people wanting to leave the big city. This marketing strategy will be incremental over the next three years with focus on investors for year one, resident attraction in year two and tourism in year three. We are hoping for a site launch by end of April.
3. Website update:
The Village website is getting a makeover with a shop local landing page. EDTC is working with Marian Lowe, of Design CO Create, to make the website easier to use and adding a Shop Local landing site to support local businesses.
4. InDesign Courses:
Currently learning InDesign to create marketing materials inhouse. By doing these ourselves, we're saving money and still making things look professional.
5. Museum Display:
Working on completing the new "Films in Ashcroft and Area" display at the museum for opening day on May 6, 2024.

Strategic/Municipal Objectives

Legislative Authority

Financial Implications

Attachment Listing



Ministry of
Agriculture
and Food

DATE: March 22, 2024

SUBJECT: A PRESENTATION ON LAND USE PLANNING FOR AGRICULTURE - INVITATION

Dear Local Government Council or Board,

With increasing pressures on provincial farming areas and the importance of agricultural land use planning in the province, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry) staff are pleased to offer interested Councils and Boards an opportunity for a Ministry staff delegation presentation on agricultural land use planning and the legislative tools available for consideration by local government elected officials.

The presentation:

- Will consist of a slide-deck that provides an update on the current economic and socio-economic state of the agricultural sector in B.C. and discusses available land use planning tools local governments can use to help ensure farmers can continue to farm successfully in the province;
- Are approximately 15 minutes in length. Ministry staff are available for questions following the presentation; and
- Are intended for local government Council, Board or Committee regularly scheduled meetings.

TIMELINE: Given available Ministry staff resources, presentations are anticipated be held either virtually, or in-person, between **April 2024 to June 2024** at the convenience of each local government. Other dates are potentially available.

NEXT STEPS: Please reach out to myself Jeff Weightman, Acting Director, Land Use and Geospatial Unit, Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch at Jeffrey.Weightman@gov.bc.ca to discuss further details and confirm presentation dates and times.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Weightman
Acting Director, Land Use and Geospatial Unit
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food

NOTE: Please place this letter for consideration on your next Council or Regional District Board

February 29, 2024

Via Email

UBCM Member Municipalities

Dear UBCM Members:

Re: Support for Resolution

I am writing to you on behalf of Osoyoos Town Council to request your support for our proposed resolution on legislative changes regarding personal and defamatory attacks on municipal leaders at the upcoming SILGA Convention, in advance of the UBCM Convention this fall.

Municipal leaders across the province are facing increasing levels of personal and defamatory attacks, which not only impact our ability to effectively serve our communities but also have a negative impact on the overall functioning of local government. It is imperative that we address this issue and advocate for legislative changes that provide better protection for municipal leaders.

At the February 27, 2024, Regular Open Council Meeting, Town Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas Local Governments recognize the importance of fostering respectful and constructive dialogue within the community; and

Whereas personal and defamatory attacks on local government leaders, including both senior staff and elected officials, undermine the integrity of the democratic process and create a hostile working environment, and

Whereas current legislative and legal frameworks, including those of WorkSafeBC and Workers Compensation Act, do not provide adequate protection against such attacks, thereby hindering the ability of local government leaders to carry out their duties effectively,

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks on local government leaders; and

Further be it resolved that these changes should aim to strengthen protections for local government leaders against unfounded, defamatory and malicious accusations while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency;

Further be it resolved that UBCM is encouraged to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

Together, we can work towards creating a safer, more respectful environment for all municipal leaders to effectively carry out their duties on behalf of their communities. We look forward to and appreciate your support on this matter.

Attachments:

ToO Background Information SILGA Resolution

Yours truly,



Sue McKortoff
Mayor

c: Town Council
R. Risling, CAO
Brianna Hillson, Director of Corporate Services
Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Legislative Changes - Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Municipal Leaders

Background Information:

There has been a concerning rise in the frequency and severity of personal and defamatory attacks directed toward municipal leaders (including Council members and staff). These attacks are often through various channels, including social media, and create a hostile working environment and hinder the ability of municipal leaders to carry out their duties effectively. The repercussions of defamatory personal attacks extend beyond the municipal realm and can detrimentally affect Council members who are working professionals by impacting their livelihood. The damaging effects of the personal attacks are not confined to professional settings; they often infiltrate into the personal lives of both staff and municipal council members, including incidents outside of business hours.

Pregnancy triage clinic expands services for Kamloops residents

March 28, 2024



People who are pregnant will have increased access to prenatal and postpartum care services in Kamloops, thanks to joint funding being provided to the First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic from the Ministry of Health and Interior Health.

“The expansion of the innovative and team-based services provided by First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic are needed to meet the needs of expectant families in Kamloops and surrounding communities,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “The enhanced funding demonstrates our continuing commitment to bolster maternal and newborn health by expanding access to vital prenatal and postpartum care services.”



Working in partnership, the Ministry of Health, Thompson Region Division of Family Practice, local maternity care providers, and Interior Health have addressed potential service gaps to help First Steps continue to provide essential maternity care for patients in Kamloops and the Thompson Cariboo region.

The vision for this service is to deliver team-based care, including midwives, physicians and nurse practitioners, who work together to support families through early pregnancy. Interior Health will employ a registered nurse, nurse practitioner and medical office assistant at First Steps which will now allow the clinic to follow maternity patients up to 30 weeks of their pregnancy. This is an extension from the previous service, which was up to 20 weeks. First Steps services will also expand to include postpartum care up to six weeks after birth.

“Stabilizing high-quality, team-based care for pregnant and postpartum patients is the goal of all partners engaged in the First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic,” said Susan Brown, Interior Health president and CEO. “Through collaborative efforts, we are committed to providing expectant individuals and new parents with the necessary care and support during such a significant time in their lives.”



Opened in September 2023, the First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic provides prenatal care for unattached and some attached patients in their early pregnancy. People who are newly pregnant without a care provider can call or text the First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic at 250-318-3821 to access care. The clinic has seen 395 maternity patients in five months of service and is estimated to serve approximately 800 patients per year.

“We want to be here for people at such an important and vulnerable time,” said Joanna Norman, head of the First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic. “With this funding in place we will be able to care for many more patients seeking prenatal and postpartum care in the community.”

The First Steps Early Pregnancy Triage Clinic is located in Tudor Village at 1315 Summit Drive, Kamloops. It is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Laura Hammer
Vegetation Manager

Box 8100
Montréal, Québec Canada
H3C 3N4

Boite 8100
Montréal, Québec/Canada
H3C 3N4

April 3, 2024

RE: CN RIGHT-OF-WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Dear Mayor,

CN remains committed to running its railway sustainably, as well as building a level of trust and collaboration with the communities in which we operate.

To that end, we are reaching out to advise you of our vegetation management activities in your area between April and October 2024. A regularly updated schedule is available at: [CN.ca/vegetation](https://www.cn.ca/vegetation)

Vegetation management is necessary to comply with rules and regulations set by Transport Canada and enhances the safety of motorists and pedestrians at crossings.

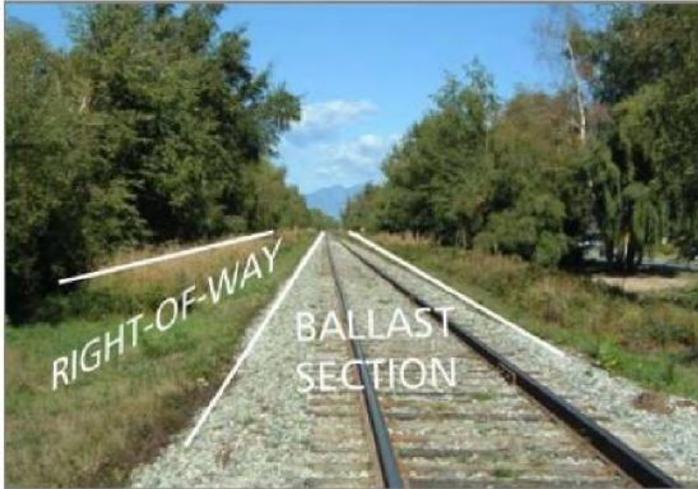
CN's annual vegetation management program is designed to mitigate potential risks to railway operations by managing weeds, and other undesirable vegetation. This program is critical to ensure safe operations and contributes to the overall safety of your community.

Management Strategies

CN manages vegetation using both chemical and mechanical methods. We are sensitive to concerns your community may have regarding chemical vegetation management and at CN, we strive to safeguard our neighbouring communities and the environment.

The track infrastructure is composed of two main sections, the 24-foot ballast section (which is primarily gravel and supports the track structure) and the right of way portion (which is the area outside of the ballast section to the CN property boundary). The use of pesticides is intended within the area to which the pest management plan applies.

The 24-foot ballast section and the areas around signals and communications equipment that are critical for safe railway operations will be managed using chemical methods. Application in these safety critical areas is done by spray trucks or spray trains with downcast nozzles that spray a short distance above the ground surface with shrouded booms, specially designed to limit the chemicals from drifting. The right-of-way section is maintained using mechanical control methods such as mowing, or brush cutting and may be chemically treated to control noxious or invasive weeds or brush.



CN will use chemical control techniques on the ballast section and specific locations of the right of way throughout the network for safety reasons. Furthermore, when chemicals are applied via spray train or truck, additives called surfactants are included to make the chemical work better.

CN has retained professional contractors qualified to undertake this work. They are required to comply with all laws and regulations applicable to CN. In addition, the contractors will ensure that vegetation control is performed with consideration of the environment and in accordance with the highest industry standards. **Inquiries**

Should your community have any noxious weed removal requests, we ask that you contact CN's Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or fill out the form at [CN.ca/vegetation](https://www.cn.ca/vegetation) before June 1, 2024 with the specific information and location. CN will make every effort to include those locations as part of our 2024 Vegetation Management Program. All notices sent after the above-mentioned date will be included in the 2025 Vegetation Management Plan.

We look forward to working with you and answering any questions you may have regarding our vegetation control activities in your community. Please find attached the notices CN is publishing in local papers to advise the public. We would kindly ask that you post copies on your community's website and at City Hall or other central locations for a wider distribution.

For any questions or more information, please contact the CN Public Inquiry Line by telephone at 1888-888-5909, or by email at contact@cn.ca.

Please also find a list of FAQs regarding the program that may be of further assistance at www.cn.ca/en/vegetation. Best regards,

Laura Hammer, Vegetation Manager



ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Each year, CN is required to manage vegetation on its right-of-way. Managing this vegetation contributes to mitigating fire risks and enhances the efficiency of inspection of track infrastructure.

To ensure safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual vegetation management program on its rail lines in the province of British Columbia. A certified professional (Davey Tree Expert Company Ltd., 1-800-465-6367) will apply herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 24-foot graveled area/ballast). The use of pesticides is intended within the area to which the pest management plan applies. All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments, and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from April to October 2024.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation for more information or to make an inquiry, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA

Ashcroft Art Club

56TH ANNUAL

ART
& SALE

APRIL 19 - 21, 2024

Opening night Friday

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. (adults only)

Saturday & Sunday

Noon - 5:00 p.m. open to all ages

501 BRINK ST., ASHCROFT

St. Alban's Anglican Church Hall

or online at

www.AshcroftArtClub.com

Press Release

Cache Creek, March 2024

Bonaparte First Nation (St'uxwtews Pesuten Heritage Society) Awarded contract for Hat Creek Ranch and McAbee Fossil Beds

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport has announced, the St'uxwtews Pesuten Heritage Society, a nonprofit organization led by the Bonaparte First Nation has been awarded the Management and Operations of Historic Hat Creek Ranch and McAbee Fossil Beds contract, effective April 2024 -March 31 2030.

This news has sent ripples of excitement into the community, as it represents an opportunity to integrate Bonaparte First Nation's and neighboring sister nation's cultural awareness into each site.

"We are looking forward to partnering with surrounding communities to benefit the region through increased Tourism traffic. What a great opportunity to share and come together to make the locations a Cultural and Historical destination site."

Kukpi7 Frank Antoine (Chief)

Bonaparte First Nation wishes to thank all those involved in the process and those jumping on board!

2024 is full of excitement and opportunities – "Sharing, to keep the communities moving forward."

Bonaparte First Nation
Chief & Council

"The St'uxwtews Pesuten Heritage Society led by Bonaparte First Nation was selected as the new site operator of Historic Hat Creek Ranch

Provincial Site and McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage site for its strong cultural and historic connections to both the ranch and fossil site, as well as for their dedication to collaboration in supporting these provincial treasures. I look forward to Bonaparte First Nation and its society showcasing the important Indigenous history of these sites. This work is vital in fostering greater understanding, appreciation and respect for B.C.'s diverse and unique history.”

The Honourable Lana Popham
Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

Media Inquiries contact:

Debra Arnott

250 457 7132



School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)

Our Goals: Success ♦ Reconciliation ♦ Team ♦ Communication ♦ Sustainability

NEWS RELEASE

Ernie Gran Appointed as Secretary-Treasurer School District No. 74 (Gold Trail)

Gold Trail School District (No.74) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ernie Gran to the position of Secretary-Treasurer effective May 1, 2024.

Ernie brings a breadth of financial management and human resources experience over 10 years within government and post-secondary sectors, including Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Government of Nunavut, in addition to recent teaching at several BC post-secondary institutes. He has a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Athabasca University in Alberta, and holds a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation.

The district sincerely thanks the outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, Trudy Rasmuson, for her service over the past three years and wishes her all the best in her retirement. We look forward to welcoming Ernie Gran to Gold Trail.

04 April 2024

Gold Trail respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we gather is the unceded and traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux, St'at'imc and Secwépemc First Peoples.



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April 3, 2024

Village of Ashcroft
PO Box 129
Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0

Attention: Mayor Barbara Roden

**Subject: Community Marketing
Marketing Initiatives Program
Northern Development Project Number 9069 40**

Northern Development Initiative Trust was created by the Province to be a catalyst for central and northern B.C. to grow a strong diversified economy by stimulating sustainable economic growth through strategic and leveraged investments.

We are pleased to advise you that the Marketing Initiatives application from the Village of Ashcroft for the 'Community Marketing' project was approved for a grant up to \$8,838 from the Cariboo-Chilcotin/Lillooet Regional Development Account on March 26, 2024.

This approval is open for a period of twelve months from the date of approval, during which we expect a funding agreement signed with Northern Development and the project commenced. Our staff will be in touch with you regarding the funding agreement. It is important to note that the agreement must be signed prior to starting the project and expenses incurred prior to signing the agreement will not be reimbursed. Grant funds must be used in accordance with the budget in the signed agreement. No changes in the budget or scope of the project may be made without prior written approval from Northern Development.

We wish you every success and look forward to seeing the positive impact your project has on the local economy.

Sincerely,
Northern Development Initiative Trust

c: Daniela Dyck, Chief Administrative Officer, Village of Ashcroft
Margaret Moreira, Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator, Village of Ashcroft

Actionable Motion and Task List Tracker 2024

MARCH

Motion No.	Motion	Staff Responsible	Comments	Time line	Status
2024 MOTIONS					
R-2024-02	THAT, Council supports the submission of a grant application to UBCM under the Community Resiliency Investment Program – 2024 FireSmart Community Funding stream in the amount of \$200,000 and further that Council supports the program throughout its duration.	CAO	A grant application be submitted to UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program 2024 FireSmart Community Funding stream	Working with Kamloops Forest Service and funding agency to determine costs and finalize the application.	completed
R-2024-56	THAT, Council authorizes the Village of Ashcroft to engage in a collaborative initiative with the TNRD and participating member municipalities to secure a consultant for the updating of Ashcroft's Housing Needs Report, in accordance with the province's mandated requirement by the end of 2024.	CAO	CAO Dyck to work with TNRD to collaborative this initiative		completed



STREET SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Working Group - Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 10:30 am

In Attendance: Mayor, Barbara Roden
Councillor, Doreen Lambert
Daniela Dyck, CAO
Brian Bennewith, DPW

1. Discussion

The inaugural meeting of the Street Safety working group marked the commencement of their efforts. Seeking to grasp the full extent of the project, members embarked on a comprehensive community tour, directing their attention to various aspects such as posted speed signs, parking challenges, and pedestrian safety measures.

Identified focal points for initial concern include:

- Government St.
- Hill Street
- Tingley St
- Elm St
- Parking concerns along 3rd Street
- Mesa Vista Drive
- Crosswalks

Concluding their tour, the group convened on 3rd Street to address specific parking issues voiced by a local business. During this session, the working group engaged in a collaborative brainstorming session aimed at generating potential solutions to the identified challenges.

2. Next Steps

Examine the digital street map in detail, specifically focusing on speed signage placements, and evaluate whether any adjustments are warranted. Additionally, deliberate on the recommendations proposed during the recent tour of Ashcroft.

3. Date for Next Meeting

To be determined

4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am