



THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF ASHCROFT
COMMUNITY FORUM
MINUTES

FOR MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM – Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor, Barbara Roden
Councillor, Jonah Anstett
Councillor, Jessica Clement
Councillor, Nadine Davenport
Councillor, Cam Tedford

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

EXCUSED:

Public – 1
Media – 1

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Roden called the Community Forum for Monday April 13, 2026, to order at 7:00 pm.

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

2. ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

N/A

3. PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 BUDGET

Mayor Roden welcomed everyone to the Community Forum meeting and handed the meeting over to CFO Bhalla inviting him to begin his 2026 budget presentation.

CFO Bhalla noted this is the third public budget meeting and the final opportunity for residents to provide feedback and input on the proposed 2026 budget and project list.

- Presented a PowerPoint overview of the proposed 2026 budget and upcoming projects
- Confirmed Council is seeking input and feedback on proposed initiatives
- Noted ongoing pressures from commodity price increases, supply chain disruptions, inflation, and global uncertainty (including impacts of conflict in the Middle East)



- Advised these factors are not significantly impacting the current budget at this time due to controlled spending measures
- Confirmed proposed tax increase remains at 3.5% over the previous year's taxes (not in addition to BC Assessment increases)
- Reported Water/Sewer/Garbage rates have increased by only 5% over the past five years
- Provided a breakdown of how property taxes are calculated, including the Village's portion and noted the Village's portion of the taxes are only 50% the remaining taxes collected are forwarded to other levels of government such as School District, Regional District, Police, BC Assessment Authority and Municipal Finance Authority

Capital Projects and Initiatives

- Water Meter Program: Indoor meters to be installed where feasible; outdoor meters permitted where physical limitations exist
- Property owners requesting pit meters will be responsible for the cost difference (approximately \$10,000)
- FireSmart program to continue – CRI funding application to be submitted
- Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) upgrades underway, funded through COVID savings and reserves
- Planning for future garbage truck replacement through reserve contributions
- Economic Development/Grant Writer position funded through Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT)
- Inter-Community Bylaw Enforcement service – ongoing shared service with Clinton and Cache Creek
- Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP): projects include doors and EV purchase
- North Ashcroft reservoir project subject to grant funding; potential need to reassess if funding does not keep pace with inflation

Financial Context

- Noted provincial deficit of approximately \$13 billion
- Projects categorized as critical, high, medium, and low priority
- Highlighted projects currently underway and to be reassessed throughout the year
- Estimated grant funding: \$888,000; additional \$192,000 identified

Planning and Governance

- CFO Bhalla noted that two other open meetings have been held as Council worked through the budget process
- New ideas arising after budget adoption will be added to the project list and considered in future planning cycles to support balanced decision-making

Financial Position

- Village remains debt-free
- Strong financial management and treasury position
- Book value of assets approximately \$19 million (cost less depreciation)



- Estimated replacement value exceeds \$70 million
- Total reserves approximately \$5.5 million, with 80% restricted
- Noted that, given its size, the Village is asset-heavy
- Overall financial position remains strong compared to similar municipalities

CFO Bhalla concluded his presentation and invited comments and questions from Council, participants online and members in the gallery.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

The following process will be followed during Public Comments and Questions:

- Individuals must state their name and address for identification purposes;
- Public Input shall be addressed through the Chair and answers given likewise;
- Input should be limited to 2 minutes per question or point each and respect equal opportunity for other community members in the gallery.

Warren Wall, 1314 Heustis Dr

- **Q:** In regards to the garbage truck replacement project, how much is set aside annually, when do we anticipate purchasing and receiving delivery of the new truck?
- **A:** Approximately \$350,000 has been set aside in reserve. Timing will depend on the procurement process (RFP or RFQ) and the equipment selected. Once ordered, delivery is typically around three months, but may take up to a year.

Councillor Tedford

- **Q:** With the Province in a deficit position, is there an opportunity for federal funding to support the twinning project?
A: Yes. The funding stream applied to includes a federal component, with a significant portion potentially coming from federal sources.
- **Comment:** Noted that while asset values have depreciated from approximately \$70 million to \$19 million, this reflects a favourable position from a business perspective and demonstrates strong asset management and long-term stewardship by the Village.

Mayor Roden thanked CFO Bhalla for his presentation and fiscal prudence in maintaining Ashcroft's excellent financial position.

5. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED MEETING

M/S Roden / Clement

THAT, Council adjourn to a closed meeting to discuss an item under the Community Charter Section 90.1

- *(c)labour relations or other employee relations*



- *(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality*

6. TERMINATION

Mayor Roden adjourned the Community Forum for Monday April 13, 2026, at 8:16 pm.

Certified to be a true and correct copy of
the Minutes of the Community Forum
held Monday, April 13, 2026.

Daniela Dyck,
Chief Administrative Officer

Barbara Roden,
Mayor