

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: February 24, 2025	
To: Council	From: Department Heads
Re: Departmental Updates	

CORPORATE OFFICER:

General:

- Attended the Emergency Management Indigenous Engagement event on February 10th.
- Facilitated a Board of Variance Hearing on February 11th. A minor variance to permit an increase to an accessory building's height on Barkley Rd was approved by the Board.
- Provided Election Official training to the scheduled by-election staff on February 13th.
- Handled a number of development and land use inquiries.
- Conducted two Advanced Voting Poll opportunities on Saturday February 15th and Wednesday February 19th, 2025 (both 8am to 8pm). Between the two polling dates, a total of 157 ballots have been cast. During media interviews, electors were encouraged come out and vote on General Voting Day, March 1st, from 8am to 8pm. Preliminary results will be published (barring any unforeseeable circumstances) that night as soon as they are available.
- Volunteered at this year's (11th Annual!) Family Fun Night event. As usual the event was extremely well attended. Thank you to all who helped make this community event a success.
- As of Friday, February 14th, there have been 84 Business Licence Renewals which is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total business licenses expected by the deadline in May.



PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Roads:

- Staff are preparing ditches and drywells for the upcoming snow melt.
- New maximum height warning signs were installed on the Welcome Archway.
- 70% Load Restrictions have been placed on select local roads.
- A portion of Dixon Creek Rd. was closed on Friday the 21st due to hazardous conditions. This closure was communicated to all emergency response agencies, the website, e-news and Ministry of Transportation.

Parks:

- Rink and warming hut have been well received by the community. Note that the warming hut is locked nightly and the rink lights shut off at 9pm. The rink itself is not locked.

Environmental Services:

- Staff have completed the necessary repairs on the 2008 F550 dual-bin garbage truck so that it is operational should it be needed.

Utilities:

- The approved SCADA system implementation has been contracted to Exceed Electrical. Equipment has been ordered and installation forthcoming.
- Annual Back-up Generator maintenance inspections have been completed for Spruce Wells, SAWRC and Septage Receiving.
- Received a warning letter from MOE regarding the non-compliance of the Downtown wastewater treatment facility.
- Attached 2024 Utility Department update for information.

Facilities:

- Business Centre Unit #4 construction contract has been awarded to Juniper Home Consulting Inc from Barriere. Renovations are now underway with a projected completion date in May.

FIRE CHIEF:**Fire Dept:**

- Calls: Rural Rescue – Team worked cohesively to extricate a single person from a single vehicle roll over.
- Calls: Public Service - Electrical issues found
- Fire Burning Permits: Individuals are taking advantage of good venting and burning brush piles – this helps with wildfire mitigation
- Training: 1001 Testing in place

FireSmart:

- 5 members attended Local FireSmart Representative course (online)
- Participated at Family Fun Night with FireSmart promotional material & activities
- 'The Test' Clearwater was a success, lots of people attended the event

Weather:

- Interior: A continued warm up will bring mixed precipitation (Rain & Snow) for the Interior.
- Dry January and Dry February, so far: Snowpack continues downward trend relative to normal.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**Finance:**

- Budget process will be a primary focus for Council once the by-election is complete and the new Mayor and member of Council are determined. A memorandum is on the agenda regarding setting a first workshop date.

Governance:

- Planning is underway for a Council Orientation workshop that should occur as soon as the new council members are determined through the by-election. A memorandum is on the agenda regarding setting a workshop date.
- Agreements / Contracts:
 - Trails Stewardship Agreement – Should be on March 10, 2025, Agenda
 - Community Hall Lease Agreement – actively being worked on
 - CN Rail – reviewing proposed CN draft agreement

- Policies / Bylaws:
 - Focus will be on further Asset Management policies and Financial policies next.

Administration:

- Wayfinding Strategy grant from ETSI-BC: The Chamber has started a donation campaign from corporate sponsors for the project.
- Attended the LGMA CAO Forum in Victoria from February 17 to February 20.
- Attended the Indigenous Engagement for Emergency Management dinner social, which received lots of praise from the attendees. Great job everyone that helped put the evening together!

Information Technology:

- The District wide Phone System was swapped over on February 6, 2025. A few kinks remain to be ironed out, but overall, the performance has improved.
- The main office internet service by Mascon has started to have severe issues since the minus 20C started early February. We're working with their technicians and our IT consultants to determine the root cause of the continued issues that cause the internet service to go offline for up to 30seconds at a time.

**submitted for information*