

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: July 12, 2021	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Bob Payette, CAO
Re: Administrative Updates	

CAO UPDATE:

Community Relations:

- Regarding the road right of way and surveying location behind Chevron property, survey was completed, next step is to have the land appraised.
- Met with Mr. Blair Gray GM with Community Futures, gave him a tour of what is happening in the District.

Development Projects:

- Work continues with developers in LCIP. Fort Modular has completed their site preparations and we are now working on the Development Permit (DP) application. Lot 2, Mr. Ken Maher, has now submitted his DP. Staff will review the application, send out referrals and set a date for Council to receive the application, likely in Aug. Mr. Maher will be present for Council's consideration of his Development Permit.
- DW 3 We are now moving towards connecting the new well into the water system, also required to purchase a new PLC (control panel) for Dw2 & DW 3, as the PLC started to fail in the last few weeks, added this expense to the project as a change order, approximately 50K increase to the project, Gas tax funded.
- Building permit applications are at 39 total for 2021, with 8 new housing starts.
- Dickson Creek project received another positive step with a support letter of consultation with Simpcw that was submitted to the Province. The overall boundary expansion application will now go through the provincial approval process. Still awaiting legal advice on the trucking of water issue.

PARKS & ROADS MANAGER:

- Golf Carts – Staff are beginning the process of researching this feasibility. More information will be brought forward to Council in upcoming meetings.
- Multi-Purpose Court (outdoor rink) Paving – Work will be commencing in the next week.
- Ballfields – The Provincial Youth Softball Tournament was successful hosted in Barriere over the weekend (Friday – Sunday).
- Highway signage – In obtaining final permitting from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), it was noted that the planned rock detail on the North end sign, is not permissible due to its proximity to the travelled laneway. In addition, MOTI has stated that as a condition of the permit: *“The Permittee shall allow for the Barriere Fall Fair to share a part of the sign to reduce sign clutter in the area and remove the existing Barriere Fall Fair sign from the right of way at their own expense.”* The North Thompson Fall Fair & Rodeo Association is amenable to this arrangement as their current sign is in desperate need of replacement.



The south end boundary sign (Agate Bay Rd. area) can be installed as previously approved.

FINANCE OFFICER:

- The 2021 tax season has closed as of July 2, 2021. This was the first year for the new home owner grant (HOG) claim process change initiated and mandated by the Province and it went relatively smoothly. Approximately 80% of taxpayers in the District have paid their 2021 property tax bills in full which is a historically consistent percentage.

CORPORATE OFFICER:

The Provincial Health Officer provided updated COVID-19 regulations in relation to legislative meetings of Council and workplace communicable disease safety plans. As of July 1st, 2021, local governments can resume in-person, public Council Meetings should they choose to do so with the following restrictions:

- Seating capacity must be no more than 50% of the normal capacity.
 - Our Council Chambers has a normal capacity of approx. 36 persons. Therefore, with 7 Council members and 5 staff members, Council Chambers can safely accommodate up to 6 members of the public (or more if less staff members are in attendance). This allows for safe distancing and a reduction of crowding at entrances & exits. Should more public show up to attend a meeting that exceeds the maximum capacity, the meeting will have to be postponed and reconvened electronically as the local government can not exclude public attendance.
- Masks are no longer mandatory but are recommended, especially for those unvaccinated.

- Organizations are required to transition from a COVID-19 Safety Plan, to a “*Communicable Disease Safety Plan*.” This plan does not need to be publicly posted as the COVID-19 plan did but is a requirement of the Province and of WorkSafe BC. Components of this plan should include addressing potential for clustering of persons in smaller meeting rooms, promoting hand hygiene, avoidance of sharing tools & workspaces, using barriers where appropriate and enforcing ‘When sick, stay home’ policies for workers and all patrons/attendees.
 - Staff are working on this development of this internal document.
- Meetings and Public Hearings can still be held electronically up until mid-September of this year. After that time, an amendment to the local government’s *Council Procedure Bylaw* will be necessary in order to continue to use this option from time to time if and when a Council feels it appropriate.
 - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs office recommends this avenue for many smaller municipalities as it may be the best option to adhere to the organization’s *Communicable Disease Safety Plan* while ensuring all members of the public that wish to attend/participate in a meeting, can do so safely when there is a potential for larger crowds of attendees such as in the case of Public Hearings. Staff will bring forward a draft bylaw amendment for Council consideration in August.

The Province has stressed that things can rapidly change and restrictions can continue to ease, or alternatively, return. In addition, they acknowledge that local governments may need to make their own adjustments to increase workplace restrictions as needed depending on their specific circumstances (i.e. The community experiences an outbreak or cluster with the potential for multiple exposures that could risk a significant portion of the town’s population and essential workers.) CUPE900, the District’s Union, also stresses that the health and safety of its membership is paramount and it appreciates the proactive safe work environment promoted by management and Council.

**submitted for information*

Prepared by: Bob Payette, CAO