

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET 2026

Held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall
4936 Barriere Town Road, Barriere, B.C.

*“We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation
within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.”*

Present:	Mayor Rob Kerslake	
	Councillor Judy Armstrong	Councillor Donna Kibble
	Councillor Louise Lodge	Councillor Colin McInnis - <i>absent</i>
	Councillor Brody Mosdell	Councillor Scott Kershaw
Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer	Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
	Kathy Abel, Chief Financial Officer	Jamie Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer
	Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief	Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager

Six (6) members of the public were in attendance for this public presentation

Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

That Council approve the February 9, 2026 SPECIAL Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2026 BUDGET

Staff Overview

The CAO provided an overview of the Draft 2026 Budget, including the potential tax implications of the Draft Financial Plan should the budget be adopted as presented. It was noted, that once Council finalizes a draft 2026 Budget, those figures will then be used by staff to prepare a Draft Financial Plan and a 2026 Tax Bylaw for formal readings and adoption by Council. The legislated, annual adoption deadline for both a Financial Plan and Tax Bylaw is May 14th.

The following budget changes were detailed as follows:

Capital:

Initial budget: \$5,095,000 -> reduced by \$25,000 (paving program reduction)

New budget: \$5,070,000

Operating Expenditures

Initial budget: \$3,092,106 -> reduced by \$24,502 (includes \$5,100 Legislative; \$13,402 Employer Costs; \$1,500 Fleet and Equipment; \$4,000 Transportation; \$500 Fire Department) -> also removed Debt principal costs for 2025 Bush Truck to be funded from reserve in the amount of \$30,843.

New budget: \$3,036,761

Operational Grant Project expenses were also added in the amount of \$461,912, which increased the overall operational expense budget to: \$3,498,673.

Reserves

Initial budget for ending balance total for Reserves: \$1,427,577 -> increased by \$175,899 (\$25,000 from paving program, \$150,000 for Roads Equipment (coming from Debt), \$899 additional interest on balance in reserves) -> decrease by \$55,069 for principal payments on the loans for the Roads Equipment and the 2025 Bush Truck.

New ending balance: \$1,548,407

Operating Revenues

Initial budget: \$3,199,809

Item	Additional Revenue
User Fees (Leases, Solid Waste, etc.) +5%	\$10,309
Wastewater +5%	\$5,153
Water +7.5%	\$28,000
Water - other revenue changes	\$500
General Taxation increase by 9%	\$114,174
Major Industry ~2.9% of Burden = +\$3,500	\$3,500
Additional Interest earned from Reserves	\$899
Total Change in Revenue	\$162,535

New budget: \$3,362,344

Operational Grant Project revenues were also added in the amount of \$476,792, which increased the overall operational expense budget to: \$3,839,136.

The CAO noted that at the time researched in January, the following tax rate increases are being proposed in other jurisdictions:

- o Kamloops – 10.7% - was 9% in 2025
- o TNRD - 6.7% - for Barriere 14%
- o Surrey - 5%
- o Whistler 6.9% – doubled on Class 8 from 10x to 20x ““We have \$500 million of asset replacement to do in the next 30 years, so it’s a huge cost,” Crompton said.
- o C.O.R.D – 10%
- o Summerland – 9%
- o Peachland – 4% - was 7% in 2025
- o West Kelowna – 7.6%
- o Kelowna – 4.5%
- o Metro Vancouver – 2.5% 2026 but 25% in 2025
- o RDOS 4.9% was 10.7% (2025)
- o Halifax – 18% Water Rates
- o Liverpool, NS – 60% Water Rates
- o Caledon (Peel Region) – 73% tax increase for Roads

It was noted that Barriere’s proposed residential tax increase component is a lot closer to 7.4% after factoring in the new streetlighting billing change, utility class 2 change, and non-market (new development) change of roughly \$3Million.

Council Review

Councillor Kershaw noted that Council's options are to either cut services or raise taxation and user fee revenue in order to balance the budget.

It was reported that Councillor McInnis, who was unable to attend this meeting, had inquired with the CAO suggesting Council discuss the option of borrowing an additional \$50,000 to supplement the Roads equipment acquisition budget. Council agreed to keep the approximate budget of \$150,000, but, if additional funds are needed, for staff to come back to Council to amend the capital program later this year. The CAO noted that we currently have \$100,000 included within the Financial Plan as an emergency fund. If it is not used, and we need some additional funds later in the year to finalize the Roads department, staff could then bring a report back to Council regarding a reallocation of funds from one capital item to another. This option would have no additional impact on the current budget.

Public Feedback/Inquiries

- a. Barbara Rhoades – Q: *Do District Staff actively look for grants?*

Mayor – A: *Yes. Constantly, and we've been largely been very successful in obtaining a number of grants over the years, especially the Fire Department.*

It was noted that some of the grants are not 100% covered with the usual 20-25% municipal funding requirement often being cost prohibitive and that grants are becoming more rare.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Lodge that the meeting adjourn at 6:45pm.

CARRIED

Mayor Rob Kerslake

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer