

Mayor McMynn opened the public budget meeting at 19:00 hours May 11, 2017 in the Midway Community Centre at 672 Seventh Ave., Midway BC

Present: Mayor McMynn
Councillors Metcalf, Dunsdon, and Rotvold

Staff: Penny Feist, CAO
Jenny Simmonds, Receptionist

Public: Irena Derlago, Leslie Walker, Tannis Killough, Gene Bradford, Lorraine Bradford, Don Baxter, Jolly McMynn, Martin Fromme

Mayor McMynn opened the meeting by introducing Council and staff and thanked everyone for attending. He went over the budget highlights as presented in the public information package.

Village has yet to submit application to SIDIT for the Riverfront Park expansion and are still working on the expansion project. Village continues to apply for grants for the community centre expansion and planning process. Mayor McMynn also touched on the LED lighting project.

Tannis Killough inquired about the BC Rural Dividend grant listed as the museum is also looking at applying for one. She was informed that her letter would be discussed at the regular Council meeting on Monday, May 15, 2017.

Killough expressed her concern about the LED street lighting because she feels the Village should be exploring reducing the amount of light produced by street lights. She referenced a CBC story that touched on the various types of LED lights available.

Mayor McMynn noted that Castlegar dims their lights at a certain time of night and that may be an option for Midway. He also noted that this is a huge investment but with a big return.

CAO Feist stated that street light replacement is eligible under gas tax funds. She noted that the current street lights have issues and are costly to maintain. Council continues to look at the various options.

Lorraine Bradford asked if Council had considered solar street lights? Mayor McMynn said it's an idea that hasn't been looked at but there could be issues in the winter with snow build up.

Mayor McMynn noted that the Village will be contributing to regular funds as well as grant-in-aids.

Tannis Killough asked for an explanation of the acronyms. PILT – Payment In Lieu of Taxes (government properties), VAD – Volunteer Appreciation Day, and SIDIT – Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust.

CAO noted that the other revenue listed on the first page include dividends received from the West Boundary Community Forest and revenue from the sale of Boundary Sawmills Inc, Village's investment.

CAO Feist reviewed the Kettle Valley Fire Protection agreement with the RDKB and the role that the MVFD will play with respect to response and equipment.

CAO Feist explained that the 2016 surplus of \$333,865.00 includes the equity in the WBCF as shown in the audited financial statements, even if not shown we still have a surplus of \$47,000.00.

The Village will be using \$12,000.00 from the Sewer Operating Reserve Fund so Public Works can purchase a camera to scope the mainlines and cleanouts to look for problems. In the past they have had to borrow the camera from the City of Greenwood.

CAO Feist reviewed the tax rates and explained how it works. There was no tax rate increase in 2016. Council has approved a 3% increase overall for 2017 totaling \$15,000.00 (this includes taxes collected from residential, utilities, major and light industrial, business, rec/non profit and farm). Bylaw 494 was briefly reviewed by the CAO.

CAO Feist reviewed the Financial Plan and the approved tax exemptions for 2017. The exemptions total \$5,158.41.

Councillor Dunsdon noted that sewer and water user fees went up by \$5 each (from \$220 to \$225). These cover operational costs of the sewer and water systems. There is still \$30,667 remaining to repay on the sewer debt.

CAO noted that the Village is still repaying loans for the hook-truck attachments, SCBAs purchased for the MVFD, and the Ambulance Station, all will be paid by 2020.

CAO Feist reviewed the grants received for or applied to for the Midway Community Centre upgrade project. Council has earmarked \$167,000.00 from the community hall reserve and \$90,000.00 from the Gas Tax reserve fund. There is the potential to received \$1.3 million for the project but the remaining amount for borrowing would require to go through the approval process. If grants are not approved then Council will have to re-evaluate the project

Tannis Killough asked about the \$3000 grant-in-aid increase for the senior's centre. It was explained that the extra \$2813.00 is to cover the cost of the new dishwasher, which was requested by the senior in 2016 and approved by council for the 2017 year. The actual grant-in-aid totals \$6,477.00. All grant-in-aid recipients received a 2% increase.

CAO Feist explained asset management planning with Urban Systems. They will help determine where the Village infrastructure is at and what money should be put away for the future.

Councillor Dunsdon explained it as putting money away now for long-term goal planning.

Moved Councillor Dunsdon that the meeting be adjourned at 19:41 hours.