

Mayor Fromme opened the special meeting of Council at 19:00 hours on January 27, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 661 Eighth Ave., Midway BC

Present: Mayor Fromme
Councillors Schierbeck, Dunsdon, Metcalf, Grouette

Staff: Penny Feist, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Introduction of Late Items – None

Adoption of Agenda

Moved /Seconded that the January 27, 2020 special meeting agenda be adopted as amended. **Carried**

New and Unfinished Business

- a) Resolutions to be considered for endorsement by the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Government (AKBLG)
- 1) **Emergency Program Act** – WHEREAS given the impending modernization of the Emergency Program Act the Village of Midway want to ensure no direct financial impacts are downloaded onto local governments.

THEREFORE, the Village of Midway want to ensure the resourcing implications for small local governments who often do not have the resources, funding or governance structure and mandate to tackle large projects within their regions are fully funded by the Province.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement. **Carried**

014-2020

- 2) **Transit Funding for Rural Communities** – WHEREAS there is an urgent need for reliable transportation for rural communities whose residents need medical care at larger centers;

AND WHEREAS when these forms of transportation are unavailable, unaffordable, or difficult to access, rural community members may not be able to receive important services. Barriers to transportation can result in missed healthcare appointments, delays in receiving healthcare interventions, and missed or delayed use of needed medications all of which may have negative consequences for managing health conditions. Not having a reliable source of transportation can impact how rural community members make decisions about their health care.

THEREFORE, the Village of Midway request support by the Province for transit funding for rural communities.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement. **Carried**

015-2020

- 3) **Funding for Volunteer Fire Departments** – WHEREAS municipal fire departments provide essential structural and wildfire mitigation services. The Office of the Fire Commissioner has put more requirements in place for fire departments in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the cost and time commitment of these increased training, risk management, and records management has negatively impacted fire fighter recruitment and has resulted in increased local government taxation: many communities struggle to pay for the infrastructure and equipment essential for the existence and operation of the fire department; the Province of British Columbia does not contribute towards this vital infrastructure and equipment:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM help explore provincial funding options to support British Columbia fire departments in meeting the standards now required by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement. **Carried**

016-2020

- 4) **Fossil Fuels** – WHEREAS given that Natural Gas is in fact a fossil fuel and that cost incentives in terms of purchase are contrary to combating climate change;

THEREFORE, the Village of Midway request the UBCM lobby on behalf of member municipalities advocating for more electricity cost of purchase incentives, as this is more in line with climate change amelioration.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement.

Carried
017-2020

- 5) **Commercial Water Sales** – WHEREAS given that water is unique amongst the natural resources continued demand for commercial export of bulk water, along with concerns around climate change, drought and population growth;

THEREFORE, the Village of Midway request the Province support a moratorium on the export of commercial water sales where municipal water aquifers and water sources are at risk of depletion.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement.

Carried
018-2020

- 6) **Road Rescue Funding - Public Safety** – WHEREAS local governments voluntarily provide road rescue services to the travelling public using Provincial Highways in support of BC Ambulance Service and the RCMP and Emergency Management BC's reimbursement levels are not adequate to cover the cost of providing the service;

AND WHEREAS these services at the present time lack identifiable Provincial oversight, coordination and support for funding and training, forcing local governments to choose between not providing the service, providing the service funded only by inadequate EMBC reimbursement or providing the services funded by the local taxpayers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to establish a provincial department within the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that will coordinate this service, provide training and support services to local road rescue units, and provide consistent and sustainable funding model to ensure that these local units are adequately equipped to perform this vital service on the roads and highways of British Columbia.

Moved/Seconded to submit this resolution to AKBLG for their endorsement.

Carried
019-2020

Preliminary Budget Discussions

Council reviewed the preliminary Fire Department and Rural Fire Department budgets, the arena manager's report outlining items for 2020 budget and future upgrade items. The Public Works budget was circulated to Council for their review. CAO is to discuss further budget planning with the Public Works Foreman and the Foreman will be asked to attend a future budget meeting with Council. Other capital items and/or projects in progress were discussed, as well as the reserves.

There will be no increases in Grant-In-Aids (GIA) for 2020 with the exception of the King of Kings, whose GIA for 2020 was approved at the September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Question Period - None

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 19:52 hours.

MAYOR

Chief Administrative Officer