

Mayor Fromme opened the regular meeting of Council at 19:00 hours on September 7, 2021 Midway Community Centre, 692 Seventh Ave., Midway BC

Due to the Covid-19 Virus the occupancy limits of the Council Chambers are restricted, as a result, this meeting was held in the Midway Community Centre in order to meet the social distancing requirements that cannot be met in the Council Chambers.

The public is welcome to attend either in-person or via virtual means. We wish to advise all participants that this meeting is being recorded.

The Council acknowledges that this meeting is taking place on the non-treaty traditional lands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Osoyoos Indian Band.

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

Staff: Penny Feist, Chief Administrative Officer
Rhonda Shangraw, Administrative Assistant

Delegation: Dan Macmaster

Public: Judy Willsey, Julian Willsey

Introduction of Late Items – None

Adoption of Agenda

Moved /Seconded that the September 7, 2021 regular meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Delegation – Dan Macmaster, MSFM, BSc, BEd, RPF Manager of Operations WBCF Inc. – Management Plan Proposal for 53 Acre Village of Midway property.

Dan Macmaster presented for Council's consideration a Land Use Planning Proposal for the Midway property, located in District Lot 781 (located south of the Kettle River).

- Naming of the property should be considered.

Land Use Planning ideas. Fuel Mitigation – Remove dead/downed trees, space canopies, large canopies would remain for shade and stability, prune lower branches and improve access for fire fighters.

- Trails to Boundary – Ideas and Suggestions from Ross Elliott from the TTTB - Improve parking lot area with an interactive kiosk for trail system, block the main trail to vehicles, improve trails and signage, restore sledding hills, refill old lagoon with water for wildlife watching, develop a trail around lagoon and riverbank that is wheelchair and scooter accessible, build a shelter as a gathering area – fire pit, develop a trail adjacent to the US border to use as a fire burn off barrier.
- Disc Golf Course – Has become a very popular sport. The concept is to throw a disc and make your way to the basket. Very inexpensive and is starting to attract more people. If developed as an active park, it is an ideal location in relation to the campground. Local businesses can be approached for sponsorship for each hole.

The focus should be on Wildfire Mitigation and Recreation.

Mayor Fromme moved the presentation to Question Period.

Question Period

Councillor Metcalf – What is the maintenance cost for Disc Golf? Natural features play a key role, virtually no maintenance. Garbage cans are needed.

CAO Penny Feist – FESBC funding intakes available? Dan feels the criteria wouldn't be met based on this being private land, but will look into the options available. He suggests looking to local companies for donations (Community Forests, Vaagen). CAO Feist advises these are public lands, municipal, first nations and crown lands should be eligible for funding.

Councillor Metcalf – What would the rough costs for Disc Golf be? For a nine hole course, estimate is roughly \$1000 per hole. Baskets, Tee off pad, discs, and signage are the only things needed.

Councillor Schierbeck – Any idea what kind of revenue would come from the logs? Dan estimates 12 loads – mainly ponderosa pine and fir. 500 cubic meters, after expenses could clear approximately \$30,000

There is a 100 ft strip between Community Forest property and property owned by the Village of Midway that is crown so essentially under the TFL8 that is Interfor's.

CAO Feist – Could the Community Forest lobby the Province to release the lands and request a lease of that property? This process has already started and application submitted.

Dan feels there is a lot of history in the area. Community and the mill working together is important for Dan to be involved with. There are 53 acres. Dan will prepare a proposal or compile more information for the Council to review. He would love to at least get started with the thinning process. Dan confirmed he will look into funding options for fire reduction, and forward a PDF of the presentation to CAO Feist.

Dan will lay out the Disc Golf Course, if we wish to proceed.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded that the minutes from the August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as circulated. **Carried**
Moved/Seconded that the minutes from the August 25, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as circulated. **Carried**

Business Arising

Page 6668 – Councillor Dunsdon questioned where we are at regarding the Park Bench. CAO Penny Feist reported that she is still waiting for information from Public Works.

Page 6669 – None

Page 6670 – None

New and Unfinished Business – None

Mayor Fromme removed himself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest at 1930 hours

Correspondence

- a) Boundary District Curling Club, 706 Seventh Avenue - Request for 2022 Permissive Tax Exemption – estimated \$2,567.

Moved/Seconded that Council of the Village of Midway receives and approves the Boundary District Curling Club request for a general municipal tax exemption for the 2022 taxation year.

Carried

077-2021

- b) King of Kings New Testament Church and Academy, 734 Ninth Avenue – Request for 2022 Permissive Tax Exemption – estimated \$106.

Moved /Seconded that Council of the Village of Midway receives and approves the King of Kings new Testament Church of Academy request for a general municipal tax exemption for the 2022 taxation year.

Carried

078-2021

Mayor Fromme returned to the meeting at 1933 hours

Administrator's Report – Written report on file - Summary Below

1. Arena Ice-Cooled Package Chiller plant – The construction of the new plant required variance approval as the structure location did not comply to the Zoning Bylaw 464 setbacks for exterior side and rear lot lines. The Board reviewed all information and approved the request at their meeting held on September 1, 2021.
2. Memorial Park Bench – Further to the last regular meeting report where the CAO advised the Sherbinin family are looking at having a memorial bench in made in honour of their late father/husband George. They are requesting that if they have the bench made would the Village cover installation and ongoing maintenance costs. Currently the staff do ongoing maintenance on the wood benches signs. Is the Council willing to approve incurring these costs?

While Midway is a wood first community, we also have limited staff to undertake the ongoing maintenance of all of the wood structures in the community. As an example, the wood bench outside the municipal office was just placed in that location earlier this year and has already required to be stripped and revarnished due to the sun and weather. Would the Council be receptive to alternative bench material types (e.g., granite or concrete) if requested?

Waiting for report from Public Works Foreman on costs, materials.

3. Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – re: Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning – The Village of Midway submitted 2nd application under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the Flood Protection – Detailed Design drawings received approval in the amount of \$132,840.00.
4. Provincial Drought Level – Kootenay Boundary Regional Drought Level Update – The Kettle is at Level 5 on the Province drought level scale. This is the highest level and reflects the severity of the conditions. The Province has incorporated further restrictions to 41 water licence holders along the West Kettle River. The Village of Midway has restricted watering to one hour per day between the hours of 6:00 pm – 10:00 am.

The attached report is from the Public Works Foreman at request from the last meeting. The Public Works Foreman advised that our aquifer is lower than normal due to the hot dry season and lack of rain, he has seen it lower only once before. The aquifer level changes from year to year depending on the winter snowpack and spring rains. If we have a good season the aquifer levels could very well exceed normal...

5. Elections Canada – General Elections Day will be held in Midway in the Community Centre on September 20th.
6. Boundary Community Ventures Association – CAO Feist spoke with the RDKB CAO Mark Andison advised the lots in Greenwood fell through and they are looking for land around the boundary that would be able to accommodate the association. They would be placing a modular style Seacan (engineered), and would only need access to services. He wondered if the Village may have land? Councillor Dunsdon has issued an invitation to the association but has not received a response. Council requested that an invitation be sent to the association to give a presentation on what they do and what they are looking for.
7. Midway Fire and Rescue – Fire Chief's Capital Equipment Purchases – 2021 – Short Term Loan received by the Council, and CAO reported the Capital Equipment finance amount was included and approved in 2021 financial plan. The Fire Chief recommendation is to purchase eight (8) SCBA, Six (6) sets gear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and a Hose tester. By purchasing these items through MFA Equipment Financing at a current interest rate of .94%, the interest over 36 month term would be \$703.36. After discussions it was:

Moved/Seconded that the Council of the Village of Midway receive and accept the Fire Chief's report and approve the recommendation to purchase eight (8) SCBA, six (6) sets Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) gear, and a Hose Tester, and further, that the total amount of \$46,851 for the firefighting equipment be financed through Municipal Finance Authority of BC under the Equipment Financing Loan Program.

Carried
079-2021

Mayor and Council Reports

Councillor Grouette – No Report

Councillor Metcalf – No Report

Councillor Schierbeck – No Report

Councillor Dunsdon – Written Report on file

- Drillers – CAO advised they are testing different areas along the Kettle River and Boundary Creek in preparation for the Flood Protection Detailed Design Drawings for the Flood Mitigation Planning.
- Where are we at regarding the community hall? CAO meeting with Wendy Higashi September 8th and will hold another meeting with Mayor soon.
- Regional District Kootenay Boundary - Highlights

Mayor Fromme – Verbal Report

- Received appreciation comments regarding the Council newsletter. The community appreciates the information being shared.
- Meeting with CAO and BC Emergency Health Services and Staff from the Ministry of Health regarding Ambulance Services. They advised that the province is acting to reinforce ambulance operations and are implementing 2 teams (4 regular scheduled full time employees) for Midway's station
 - Mayor voiced concerns with housing being an issue that is needed for ambulance staff.
 - Suggests we get recruitment/training information from BCEHS to post locally.
- Community Forest Shareholder's meeting required to approve the appointments of the two alternate directors and to fill the vacant position. There was only one applicant that expressed interest to fill the vacant Board position, Ginette Wheeler. Mayor Fromme feels the applicant was well received by the members of the Board of the West Boundary Community Forest. After further discussions it was

Moved/Seconded that the Council of the Village of Midway accepts the Midway Shareholders position to approve the appointment of Ginette Wheeler to fill the vacant position on the West Boundary Community Forest Inc., Board of Directors' at the next Shareholders meeting.

Carried
080-2021

- 53 Acre Village Property DL 781 Land Use Planning Proposal re: Wildfire Risk Reduction.

Moved/Seconded that the Council approves the appointment of Dan Macmaster to act as agent for and on behalf of the Village of Midway with respect to planning and implementing the Fire Fuel Mitigation as proposed in the Land Use Planning Proposal presented for the 53 acre Midway owned property located south of the Kettle River in District Lot 781.

Carried
081-2021

- Community engagement meetings to take place to provide updates to the Midway Residents respecting projects.

Question Period – None

Financial Report – None

Bylaws & Policies

Bylaw 534, Bylaw 535 & Bylaw 536 for three readings.

Bylaw 534 – Being a bylaw to exempt properties used for philanthropic or other not for profit corporation from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022. (Midway Ambulance Station – estimated 2022 Municipal Tax Exemption \$1,961)

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 534 a Bylaw to exempt properties used for philanthropic or other not for profit corporation from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A FIRST TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 534 a Bylaw to exempt properties used for philanthropic or other not for profit corporation from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A SECOND TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021.

Carried

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 534 a bylaw to exempt properties used for philanthropic or other not for profit corporation from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A THIRD TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Bylaw 536 – Being a bylaw to exempt properties used for public athletic or recreational purposes from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 (Boundary District Curling Club – estimated 2022 Municipal Tax Exemption \$2,567)

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 536 being a bylaw to exempt properties used for public athletic or recreational purposes from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A FIRST TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 536 being a bylaw to exempt properties used for public athletic or recreational purposes from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A SECOND TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021.

Carried

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 536 being a bylaw to exempt properties used for public athletic or recreational purposes from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A THIRD TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Mayor Fromme removed himself from the meeting due to a conflict of interest at 20:11 hours

Bylaw 535 – Being a bylaw to exempt properties used for public worship from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 (King of Kings New Testament and Academy – 735 Ninth Avenue – estimated 2022 Municipal Tax Exemption \$106) and (BC Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church – 943 Thirteenth Ave – estimated 2022 Municipal Tax Exemption \$194)

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 535 a bylaw to exempt properties used for public worship from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A FIRST TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 535 a bylaw to exempt properties used for public worship from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A SECOND TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Moved/Seconded that Bylaw 535 a bylaw to exempt properties used for public worship from taxation on both land and improvements, for the year 2022 be **READ A THIRD TIME** this 7th day of September, 2021. **Carried**

Mayor Fromme returned to the meeting at 20:12 hours

Councillor Dunsdon left the meeting at 20:13 hours

Planning – None

Budgets/Accounts

Moved/Seconded that the accounts totaling \$170,077.32 be drawn on the general account and be paid. **Carried**

Correspondence for Information Only

Moved/Seconded that correspondence for information only items:

- a) Gilchrist & Company, Barristers-at-Law, Solicitors re: Village of Midway – Municipal Solicitor
- b) RCMP – re: Update on Ratification of the first-ever collective agreement for RCMP regular members and reservists.
- c) UBCM / Canada Community-Building Fund/Gas Tax Fund: Community Works Fund Top-up Payment and Updated Eligibility Guidelines.
- d) Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – re: Extreme Low Water Warning and Water Conservation Request.
- e) Midway Community Club/Association – re: Minutes of August 17, 2021

be received and filed

Carried

Correspondence for Information Only – to be held for two weeks only

Moved/Seconded that correspondence for information only items:

- a) RDKB – re: Board Highlights – August 25, 2021
- b) WoodWorks – North American Wood Design Awards book.

be received and filed.

Carried

Question Period

Julian Willsey – What is the purpose of reading bylaws three times? It is a provincial requirement, and the purpose for three readings allows elected officials the opportunity to provide input into the bylaw and make possible changes before it is adopted.

In-Camera

Moved/Seconded that the Council move in-camera under section 90(1)(c) of the Community Charter at 20:16 hours. **Carried**

Judy Willsey and Julian Willsey leave meeting.

Returned to Regular Meeting at 20:29 hours

Moved that the meeting be adjourned at 20:30 hours.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer