

Mayor, Doug McMynn opened the Regular Meeting of Council at 19:00 hours on February 12, 2024, Midway Council Chambers, 661 Eighth Ave., Midway, BC.

We acknowledge that our gathering takes place on the unceded and traditional territory of the indigenous peoples of that region as well as the Metis people whose footprints have marked these lands.

The Council of the Village of Midway agrees to uphold the Guiding Principles for Responsible Conduct as per Village of Midway's Policy No. 387

Present: Mayor McMynn
Councillors Dunsdon, Willsey, Metcalf and Pownall

Staff: Lisa Teggarty, CAO
Cam Kamigochi, Administrative Assistant

Delegation: Pat Henley & Vickie Gee, Trails to the Boundary Society
Dan Macmaster, Head of Forestry, Nk'Mip Forestry LLP, Osoyoos Indian Band

Gallery: Tamara Lovett

Introduction of Late Items – None

Adoption of Agenda

Moved/Seconded that the February 12, 2024, Regular Meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Delegation

- a) Pat Henley & Vickie Gee, Trails to the Boundary Society. Slideshow presentation on file. Pat Henley provided a summary of the Trails to the Boundary Society and what they do. Pat praised all the volunteers they have working with the society and highlighted the projects they are working on: Trail Stewardship, Riverside Centre, Rock Creek Visitor Centre, Seniors Being Seen Engagement Program, Heritage, IT/Website & Kettle River Echo Newsletter. Vickie spoke about the newly designed website. The old website (westboundaryconnect.com) has been very successful in the past but recently the traffic has trailed off and is now obsolete. The old site now redirects to the new site (westboundary.com). The new site is completely redesigned with a lot more imagery and photos. Some of the old familiar and popular features from the old site are retained but with a fresh look. Some of the new features include enhanced filtering: directory, calendar and notifications, self-enrolling business directory, choice of notification categories, promotion of facilities in each community, more content to navigate services and amenities, Echo online (archive & current) & community projects. The next steps for the site are development of "Invest Here" section, more work on community pages, visits to each community, invitations to businesses & potential for online market for West Boundary or possible collaboration with a larger platform. The society has applied for a grant for a Boundary Heritage website project. There is a Boundary Heritage page on Facebook with 7,290 members, a new website would serve as place to collaborate all the information that is already out there. Councillor Dunsdon asked who would be the moderator for the new website? The same website administrator of West Boundary Connect, Sherri Doratti. Volunteers, administrators, and an Economic Development manager are all able to support each other as well. Council thanked Pat and Vickie for their presentation.

Pat Henley & Vickie Gee leave at 19:19 hours.

- b) Dan McMaster, Osoyoos Indian Band. Dan provided a brief update on the West Boundary Community Forest. They are still on break up but still working on fuel mitigation projects. 2023 was a strong year. 2024 will start around May/June. Strong relationships in the area could lead to a good year despite an up and down market. The WBCF board has also approved funding for the disc golf course in Midway through the recreation budget. Supplies are ready to be ordered and construction will begin this Spring. Once a plan is in place, some in-kind agreements will certainly help the project move forward.

With regards to his position with the Osoyoos Indian Band as Forest Manager and the recent discussion about a new community forest, Dan summarized how the OIB would like to be a shareholder in a tenure. There is a potential to partner with the RDKB on a new community forest. If a second community forest was to start, Dan would not be managing it, he is happy with his role with the West Boundary Community Forest. He feels a second community forest in the area would be a positive thing for the WBCF. The area is undetermined at this point.

Mayor McMynn asked if the OIB already has a lot of tenure? No, the only tenure the OIB is attached to is the woodland licence which is a partnership with BC Timber Sales.

Mayor McMynn asked how much timber a new CF would get? Dan estimated that anything under 20,000m would be not viable. The WBCF operates successfully with 23,000m.

Mayor McMynn asked Councillor Dunsdon if the RDKB is permitted to enter into such an agreement? Yes, bylaws have changed to allow it. Mayor McMynn asked how the profits would be divided up? Equal throughout the RDKB? Councillor Dunsdon said theoretically it would be for the west RDKB members.

Councillor Dunsdon asked how long would the WBCF last for at 23,000m? It would never run out at that volume; it is well set up.

Mayor McMynn asked who Dan thought will be taking the lead in the new community forest? Dan feels the OIB would be the lead at the table.

Council thanked Dan for his time.

Dan McMaster leaves at 19:35 hours.

Question Period – None

Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded that the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2024 (Page 6864 – 6866) be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Moved/Seconded that the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 2, 2024 (Page 6867) be adopted as circulated.

Carried**Business Arising**

Regular Meeting of January 22, 2024 (Page 6864 – 6866) – None

Special Meeting of February 2, 2024 (Page 6867) – None

New and Unfinished Business

- a) Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Consent for RDKB Bylaw 1867, A Bylaw to amend RDKB Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1678, 2018 to increase the requisition limit. RDKB is proposing a 25% increase in tax requisition for the Boundary Integrated Watershed Service (BWIS). It was discussed how 25% sounds like a big jump but the actual amount it increases for the Village of Midway is not that much. After discussion, it was:

Moved/Seconded that the Council of the Village of Midway consents to the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary Bylaw 1867, A Bylaw to amend RDKB Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1678, 2018, to increase the annual requisition for the Boundary Integrated Watershed Service by 25% as per Provincial regulation 2007/13.

Carried**007-2024**

- b) Ministry of Housing – Development Approval Process Review (DAPR) Grant. Staff report on file, Council received for information. The Government of BC has launched a new provincial funding commitment of \$61 million to support local governments building capacity to meet new housing-density initiatives, including the implementation of anticipated changes to development approval processes, planning and zoning, such as small-scale multi-unit housing. Staff will be working with the Village's planning consultant over the next few weeks to find out the impact of the new Provincial legislation for the Village of Midway. From initial review of the information provided by the province, the Village is required to complete a new OCP. The province will be providing direction in June/July of this year as to what the new OCP will need to look like. In initial discussion with the Village's planner, examples for utilizing these funds to benefit Midway and adhere to Provincial requirements could include a Housing needs study, Infrastructure capacity study, new Zoning Bylaw, Development Cost Charge Bylaw and Subdivision Bylaw. The village received \$153,271.00 from the capacity funding stream. There was some discussion around holding off completing the OCP amendment until all the details of the requirements are known. The CAO would like to continue moving forward with the OCP adoption. **Moved/Seconded** to receive and file the staff report.

Carried

- c) Accessibility Advisory Committee – Council Member Representatives.

Moved/Seconded that the Council of the Village of Midway appoints Councillor Willsey and Councillor Pownall to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Carried**008-2024****Correspondence**

Moved/Seconded the following Correspondence items:

- a) Steven F. Kozuki, Executive Director, Forest Enhancement Society of BC – Provincial funding for forest enhancement projects.
- b) Keith Page, AKBLG President – Message from AKBLG President Keith Page.

be rec'd and filed.

Carried

Discussion on item b), feedback requested by AKBLG for BC's Approach to the Circular Economy, aligned with the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. If we wish to provide feedback, Councillor Willsey would like the message to be, time to stop asking public to do more, ask industries to do more and be more responsible for producing waste and to provide the consumer with the right to repair their devices/appliances, etc. For example, as a consumer, we are made responsible for recycling and reducing usage. However, industries are adding more packaging to shipping their products. New appliances are designed to be replaced and not repaired. Councillor Dunsdon will take that concept to the next RDKB meeting.

Tamara Lovett leaves at 20:04 hours.

Administrator's Report – Written Report on file

1. Boundary Economic Diversification – currently working on Interim progress report for the REDIP grant with Community Futures. Lochaven Presentation confirmed for Monday 26th February @ 6:00pm.
2. Strategic Planning dates – Tracey Lorenson, Civil Excellence is available for a full day session on 11th, 12th or 13th of March. Please can Council confirm which day works best. Full day sessions are difficult for half of Council, if Tracey is available for an afternoon/evening session, Tuesday the 12th would work the best for Council.
3. Year-end 2023/Budget 2024 – currently reviewing 2023 actuals versus budget and preparing the draft 2024 Budget. Will plan the budget dates with Council in the next couple of weeks.

2023 Financial Statements - Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) – All municipalities are required to identify, evaluate, and disclose asset retirement obligations related to tangible capital assets. 2023 is the first fiscal year that it is required. The auditors are not able to assist with this standard. John Boltz and I can do the investigation work relating to our assets, but help is needed for the valuation piece. Staff would like to recruit the help of a Finance professional that has worked on ARO for other municipalities in the Boundary area and comes highly recommended, to complete the valuation for the Village's 2023 Year-end. From discussion with her, she estimates the work to be between 7-10 hours.

Moved/Seconded that Council approve for the CAO to recruit Carolyn Reynolds from Rossland, at an hourly cost of \$75.00, to assist the village in the valuations for the new Asset Retirement Obligations requirement.

Carried**009-2024**

There was some discussion about the condition of the Public Works office/trailer. CAO to bring the item to the 2024 Budget deliberations.

4. Community Centre update – The architect is still on track for having the updated tender documents ready for mid-February.
5. OCP review – draft is complete, some minor edits being done. Staff plan to bring it for 1st reading on March 4, 2024.
6. Planning – There has been discussion with Houle Consulting on the new Ministry of Housing Development Approval Process Review grant. CAO will update Council as soon more information on the provincial requirements is received.
7. Spray Park grant reporting – The final report will be completed on final receipt of all invoices.

Mayor and Council Reports

Councillor Metcalf – Verbal

- Next West Boundary Community Forest meeting, March 5, 6:30pm, Midway Council Chambers.
- WBCF distributed \$200,000 each to shareholders, Village of Midway and City of Greenwood.
- WBCF will contribute \$30,000 to the disc golf construction. In-kind agreements would likely be related to equipment and labour time from Public Works.

Councillor Pownall – Verbal

- Are the Canada Day fireworks in the budget? Councillor Metcalf mentioned the Spring funding intake for the WBCF, but an organization or association would have to apply, not an individual or the Village.
- Is the Bunkhouse being rented out? Did it get rezoned? To our knowledge, it's not being rented out and it has not been rezoned.
- RDKB Area "E" Director Gibbs has started a society to help train rural property owners fight wildland fires. Unsure of who would train them as the idea is not sitting well with many local fire departments. The feeling is that it would encourage property owners to defy evacuation orders in an emergency.
- Guns & Hoses Charity Hockey game, Fire Dept vs RCMP is Saturday Feb 24, 4-6pm.

Councillor Willsey - Verbal

- Councillor Willsey asked if the owner of Midway Hotel had been invited to attend a Council meeting? The CAO confirmed that the owner has requested for the Heritage designation to be put on hold for now.
- AKBLG is asking for photos of communities for the convention slideshow. Office staff has submitted some already.
- Accessibility Committee meeting – attendees will require copy of the Framework and Terms of Reference. First meeting to be scheduled soon.
- Attended West Kootenay Regional Hospital District meeting:
 - Renal clinic in Nelson. Currently the only one in the region is in Castlegar. Staffing is an issue. Topic to be taken to UBCM.
 - Interior Health is committing to better collaboration, communication, and transparency with Regional Health Districts. Improved reporting on upcoming plans & budgeting.
 - Grand Forks Boundary Hospital projects: Washroom renovation, current washroom is 65 years old, project will cost \$96,000. Air handling unit replacement, old one is 57 years old; project will cost \$99,000.
 - Expansion to MyHealthPortal website, it will be protected from cyber-attacks, \$12.7M.
- Attended Parkview Manor AGM with Mayor McMynn. It was mentioned that parking could limit the number of units for the new building, 20-25 units proposed.
- Attended the Emergency Services banquet, Village could partner or contribute to the event?
- Phoenix Foundation Grants, would we be able to apply for a grant for the benches for seniors? Staff to investigate.
- Attended the Lochaven Economic Diversification meeting in Greenwood. There was a completely different feel to the content, it was more of a regional slant.

Councillor Dunsdon – Written Report on file. Full report not discussed.

- Boundary Economic Development will cost the Village \$5,602 for 2024. Total budget is \$186,571. It funds things like the Okanagan Film Commission, which is growing. There are currently 3 film crews in the Okanagan.
- Noxious weed control, we need to increase our budget allowance.
- RDKB Transit budget provided to Council. Midway does not pay into it.
- West Boundary Fire Service, we are getting \$25,000 more? Yes, to go towards Fire Chief salary. It will increase until costs reach 40% of the Fire Chief's salary and remain thereafter.
- Councillor Willsey commented on Councillor Dunsdon's point about wasting disease in the Boundary, both cases were found south of Castlegar.
- Grant in aid from RDKB Area E to Midway Fire/Rescue for \$5,000.
- Non-registered letters for bylaw. In RDKB, when the building inspector sends registered letters, people refuse to receive them. They have started sending regular letters to remind them to pick up their registered letters.
- Freedom of the floor, more relaxed Roberts Rules. The way Council operates is working.

Mayor McMynn – None

Question Period – None

Financial Report – None

Bylaws & Policies – None

Planning – None

Budgets/Accounts

Moved/Seconded that budgets and accounts totaling \$158,625.39 to be drawn on the general account and be paid. **Carried**

Correspondence for Info Only

Moved/Seconded the following Correspondence for Info Only items:

- a) Glen Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister and Director of Policy Services, Policing and Security Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – Response to January 10, 2024 letter.
- b) Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General & Deputy Premier, Mike Farnworth – UBCM Meeting Summary
- c) Regional District of Kootenay Boundary – Building Inspection Report to the end of January 2024

be rec'd and filed.

Carried

Correspondence for Info Only – to be held for two weeks only – None

Moved/Seconded that Council move In-Camera at 20:59 hours under

- Section 90(1)(e) – acquisition, disposition of land or improvements.
- Section 90(1)(k) – discussions respecting the provision of a municipal service.
- Section 90(1)(m) – a matter that, under another enactment, is such that the public may be excluded from the meeting.

Return to Regular Meeting at 21:28 hours.

Councillor Metcalf asked for Council's thoughts on Dan Macmaster's presentation? Further discussion resumed; available fibre remains the issue.

Adjournment

Moved to adjourned at 21:34 hours.

Mayor McMynn

CAO Teggarty