

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING – 2023 BUDGET * 1st review
Held on Monday, February 27, 2023 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 Ward Stamer
Councillor Judy Armstrong
Councillor Scott Kershaw – *entered as indicated*
Councillor Rob Kerslake
Councillor Donna Kibble
Councillor Louise Lodge

Regrets: Councillor Colin McInnis

Staff: Bob Payette, Chief Administrative Officer
Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer – *via Zoom*
Chelsea Young, Finance Officer
Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager
Ashley Wohlgemuth, Fire Chief

Mayor Stamer called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Kerslake
Seconded by Councillor Lodge
That Council approve the February 27, 2023 SPECIAL Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Kerslake
Seconded by Councillor Kibble
That Council adopt the February 21, 2023 SPECIAL Council Meeting Minutes.

CARRIED

3. 2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION (*1st review) – C. Young, Finance Officer

Draft 2023 Budgets:

The Finance Officer noted that the draft, anticipated 2023 revenue line items in the budgets, include the recommended 2% annual utility fee increase. Key topics noted are bulleted below.

i. LCIP Budget

- It was reiterated that this LCIP water budget is a completely separate system from the main, District of Barriere water system.

- It was questioned as to what revenue figure could be anticipated should the District move forward with a bulk water supply station in the LCIP Industrial park. Staff will be coming back with a fee recommendation once the bulk water station is fully priced out. The District already has a fee in place for non-potable bulk water sales, but a new fee for potable bulk water will need to be included in the Fees & Charges Bylaw. The back up power supply install will be completed in 2023.

Moved by Councillor Kerlake

Seconded by Councillor Kibble

That staff include an estimated potable water revenue line item within this budget.

CARRIED

Councillor Kershaw entered the meeting at 5:40pm.

ii. Riverwalk Budget

- Now that some facility snow removal is being undertaken in-house, this amount has been included withing the salaries line item. A breakdown of the snow removal portion of the salaries will be provided to Council at the next budget review.
- A camera inspection was supposed to have been completed in 2022 but due to scheduling conflicts, it wasn't completed and is therefore included in the 2023 budget. It was reported by the Public Works Manager that if the District were to purchase its own camera for an estimated \$10,000, there is a possibility of considerable savings in the future as the contract is \$5,000 per day. However it was noted that that contract fee includes the analysis of the findings. Staff would be required to undergo training with course costs yet to be determined.

iii. Downtown Wastewater System Budget

- The consulting and professional fees have been reduced from \$45,000 to \$15,000 due to the extra consulting fees for the grant submission. If successful, any consulting fees will be covered by the grant.

iv. Siska Budget

- The install of the back up power supply will commence in early 2023, and replacement PLC parts to be ordered.

v. Water Budget

- A new hydrant cost is included in the draft to have on hand.
- It was requested that staff add the word "licensees" to the Subscription/Memberships line item for clarity.
- PW1 will be secured and converted to a monitoring well as planned.
- It was questions if staff knew the total water loss consumption for 2022, staff would calculate these number when the survey is requested.
- The CAO reported that he would like to request that the Ministry review the District's water license fees as they seem higher than that of similar sized municipalities.

vi. General Operational Budget

- The Finance Officer noted that there are a couple errors discovered after printing this budget which will be corrected prior to the next review: \$31,000 SD73 annual gym rental fee is included twice within the budget and the streetlighting revenue is incorrect.

- The Mayor reported that a Provincial Committee is reviewing the funding model that determines the portion of municipal Police Tax contributions. At present, municipalities under 5,000 in population, do not have to contribute any funds but this may be changing in the near future.
- The District's Solid Waste Reserve line-item currently sits with a balance of \$171,000 which, depending on the future needs of the department, will likely be sufficient to replace the garbage truck when needed in the near future. It was suggested that the District could look at expanding Recycling Collection outside of the municipal boundary in order to generate additional revenue in the future.
- A columbarium installation was once again noted to be on the wish list for the cemetery.
- This year's Federal Gas Tax revenue line item is anticipated to be doubled for 2023.
- The District's Ford Explorer is in need of a new transmission and this cost is reflected in the draft budget, along with the increase of insurance across the board.
- The Recreation Committee's request to include \$7,000 in the budget has been inserted into the draft for Council's consideration.
- A suggested fire stipend pay increase was been included in the draft budget. The increase equates to an increase from \$25 per call out to \$30, practices from \$17 to \$20 and the captain in charge of training from \$25 to \$30. The Fire chief would also received an additional 10 hours paid per month and deputy receive an additional 5 hours per month.
- The Mayor suggested a review of the Fire Protection boundary.

The Fire Chief left the meeting at 7pm

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Lodge

That the Roads Repair & Maintenance line item budget be increased from \$30,000 to \$60,000 to accommodate much needed crack repair work.

CARRIED

- It was suggested that the District come up with a new wish-list to present to Kinder Morgan.
- The ToolCat is in need of replacement. Options were discussed.

4. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES** – *none presented*

5. **NEXT MEETING**

SPECIAL Council Meeting re: **2023 BUDGET** (*2nd review) – Monday, March 6, 2023 @ 5:30pm

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Kerslake that the meeting adjourn at 7:35pm.

CARRIED

Original signed by, _____
Mayor Ward Stamer

Original signed by, _____
Bob Payette, CAO