

District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: March 10, 2025	
To: Council	From: Department Heads
Re: Departmental Updates	

CORPORATE OFFICER:

General:

- The 2025 Local By-Election has now been completed. A report of the official results is included in this meeting's agenda package for information. All three voting opportunities went smoothly, including the final tally accounting after the final poll closed on Saturday, March 1st. The two successful candidates, Mayor-Elect Rob Kerslake and Councillor-Elect Brody Mosdell, will officially be sworn in at the next Council Meeting on March 24th. Past Mayor, Ward Stamer, has been invited to this upcoming meeting as well.
- The Barriere Outdoor Club / Curling Rink was able to secure grant funding for this summer's community cooling centre. Public Notice of this free service will be included as an insert in the April's utility billing along with reminders of sprinkling regulations and upcoming events including FireSmart programming.
- REMINDER: New Council photos will be taken by Ms. Monteith before the March 24th, Council Meeting, including a group photo. For those that can arrive earlier, photos can start at 4:45pm so that hopefully they can all be finished (including the group photo) before the start of the meeting at 5:30pm.

PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Roads:

- 70% Load Restrictions are still in effect on local roads.
- Staff have started sweeping the Downtown core and Barriere Town Road.
- Winter roads maintenance contractor continues to patrol and maintain roads.

Parks:

- Rink is done for the season.
- Pickleball nets have been installed.
- Tree pruning is on-going throughout the parks.

Environmental Services:

- 2008 F550 dual-bin garbage truck is fully operational should it be needed.
- Staff will be purchasing 6 used dumpsters from a Kamloops firm.

Utilities:

- The approved SCADA system implementation has been contracted to Exceed Electrical. Equipment has been ordered and installation forthcoming.
- Elevated water consumption has since decreased since two air release valves were repaired that froze over the winter.

Facilities:

- Business Centre Unit #4 renovations are underway – all framing has been completed.

FIRE CHIEF:

Training:

- Search and Rescue Techniques and 1001 Testing
- Weekend training taking place March 15th – 1001 Testing – Fire Chief Assistant in town to proctor practicals for NFPA 1001

Fire Burning Permits:

- People are continuing to utilize the good weather for fire mitigation and burn permits

Fire Department Apparatus:

- All completed for Fire Department Apparatus
- Ladder Inspections

FireSmart:

- Senior Centre Lunch Ins: March 15th and April 19th
- Yard Waste Day May 24th
- CWRP: In Final Draft Stages

Weather:

- Heavy rain expected on the Coast / Vancouver Island
 - High Streamflow Advisory in South Coast and Vancouver Island
- Possible snow for Central and Northern Interior into next week (March 9th On)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Finance:

- Budget process will be a primary focus for Council now that the by-election is complete. The intent is to have the budget package to Council on March 14, 2025; and hold the first workshop on March 17, 2025, at 5:30pm.
- The Finance team is currently working on finalizing 2024 yearend and audit preparations while also working on 2022 and 2023 LGDE reporting requirements for the Province.

Governance:

- Council Orientation workshop is scheduled for March 12, 2025 at 6pm.
- Agreements / Contracts:
 - Trails Stewardship Agreement – on agenda for consideration
 - Community Hall Lease Agreement – awaiting feedback from Lions Club
- Policies / Bylaws:
 - Focus will be on further Asset Management policies and Financial policies next. Once the budget process is complete.

Administration:

- Hosted an “all staff” meeting to provide an update on Council’s Strategic Plan, the related Priorities, Actions, and Goals. Also discussed Asset Management and other operational challenges and strategies.
- Supported the Election process. It was a well-run operation from Tasha, Ellen, Cori, Chris, Colleen, and everyone else that was involved. Everything was open and transparent. Kudos to the team for making it as smooth as possible.

Information Technology:

- The Mascon internet connection seems to have been stabilized by their tech support for the time being.

**submitted for information*