

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: September 9, 2024	
To: Council	From: Department Heads
Re: Departmental Updates	

CORPORATE OFFICER:

- While the incoming physician is not expected to start practicing in Barriere until March of next year, he and his family’s earlier arrival to start the school year here, has been delayed by a few weeks. Staff are in the process of preparing a Welcome Package consisting of a variety of local shopping, food and products, as well community information and a welcome message from the District.
- Conducted monthly Safety Meeting
- Coordinating upcoming Confined Space program update and training schedule.
- Continue to work with CAO on the status of current or recently completed projects, including some historical projects.
- Participated in a Rec Committee Meeting
- Along with the CAO, participated in meeting with IHA Healthy Communities representatives where they outlined their mandate and received an update on the OCP refresh process to which they will be a key stakeholder in its development.
- Scheduled regulatory public notice in the local newspaper of Council’s consideration of two Permissive Tax Exemption applications for the Barriere & Area Chamber of Commerce and Barriere Search & Rescue at the next Regular Council Meeting. They draft bylaw amendment to add both these organizations to the District’s Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222 for the years 2025 and 2026, along with a corresponding staff report, will be presented at the September 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

Recreation

- Next Recreation Committee Meeting is Wednesday, September 25th at 9:00am
- Due to the intense wind & rain storm on August 23rd, the Interior Savings Moonlight Movie Night was postponed and rescheduled for Friday, September 6, 2025.
- Annual Terry Fox Run – Sunday, September 15, 2024
- The final Bandshell Friday concert with Tanner Dawson went well and the 2024 Barriere Blooms winners were announced just before the music began.



PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Roads

- Dunn Lake Road overlay repairs were completed on August 21st. Some additional shouldering work was completed September 4th.
- ARGO completed two spray patch areas on Dunn Lake Road and Barriere Town Road as per our agreement with MOTI.
- Some smaller areas on Leonie Creek Road were patched, but the general condition of this road has deteriorated and may be a candidate for further rehabilitation.
- In-house crack sealing is planned for week of September 9th.
- Posted winter road maintenance services RFP on BC Bid. Submissions close September 30th.

Utilities

- Water consumption has been as high as 1500 m³/day recently, which our two Spruce Crescent production wells DW2 & DW3 have been able to handle. We still have capacity and well levels have remained steady.
- There was a total of nine watering infractions observed during the community water patrol, which started July 11th. There were no repeat offenders reported.
- We have recently had 1 residential sewer connection and 1 residential water connection. We have two upcoming residential and two commercial water connections on the horizon.
- All facilities remained on-line during the storm on August 23rd with no issues arising.
- New WWTP design and contract documents are nearing completion and will be presented to Council this fall.

Fall Fair

- The District provided two in-kind donations by way of Traffic Control personnel/vehicles for an estimated cost of \$500, as well as Garbage Collection & Disposal for an estimated cost of \$1800.

Facilities

- Staff have boarded up the windows on the old Chamber of Commerce building. The electricity will remain on to provide heat for the winter months to prevent pipes from freezing. A commercial appraisal for this building is in progress.

Emergency Preparedness

- Area fire danger rating is high with potential increase in wildfire activity due to anticipated thunderstorms and dry lightning on Sunday and Monday. Temperatures will remain close to 30 degrees C. An unsettled weather pattern will move in Tuesday and Wednesday with more seasonal temperatures.
- Recently, our region improved to Drought Level 2 (very dry) from the Drought Level 3 (severely dry) where we were at for most of the summer. We will not be imposing any further water restrictions at this time.

Fire Chief

Fire Department Specific Updates:

- 1001 Training is ongoing - 2 people have completed all written testing for Exterior and will move to Interior level testing, 5 people have a few more written tests for Exterior, 3 people are starting the program in late September.
- Inspection Program:
 - Captain Jackson is overseeing the program to ensure we are meeting the requirements. We are currently working on a plan to ensure Inspections will be completed for this year.
- Office Reno's - completed
- In Progress: Closing of the 2023 Composite & Volunteer Firehalls Grant from UBCM.
 - Next Application Intake closes October 18th
- Carbon Monoxide/Fire Alarm and FireSmart education scheduled for the last two weeks of September for vulnerable areas.
- Fire Prevention Week:
 - Strong Start contacted for Fire Safety Presentations
 - Seniors Centre Contacted for Fire Safety Presentations
- Successfully filled all three days for Long Weekend Standby Pay (September Long).
- Sr. Officers begin Fire Officer 1 Training this month - the training will run three months long and be completed on December 15th.
- Leak in Tender - continuing to leak.

FireSmart Updates:

- FireSmart Informational brochures acquired
- Initial contact and pre-plan meeting held with the Public Works Manager, ForSite Consulting, and the District's Deputy Fire Chief.
- Approval from FireSmart to use brand
 - Social media advertising scheduled for the month
 - FireSmart printing from Kings Printing ordered and received
- Working with ForSite to develop a Community Wildfire and Resiliency Plan.
- Surveys for the CWRP went live on August 30th through the Fire Department Social Media sites:
 - The Deputy Fire Chief and department volunteers spent the long weekend engaging with the public and completing paper surveys
 - Tentative CWRP Community Kick Off set for October 5th

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Financial Services:

New Chief Financial Officer (CFO) – David Alderdice started with the District on August 19, 2024, and is working alongside Ms. Johnson to transition the responsibilities and to finalize the audit. He brings a wealth of experience in local government having previously worked in various smaller communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, and B.C. Welcome aboard David!

Audit and Budget:

The audit is ongoing. Most files are now with the Auditors. We hope to hear back soon to schedule a Council meeting for review. Some of the focus of the department is now shifting to the 2025 budget process and a long-range planning while reconciling the 2024 accounts.

CN Rail

In January 2024, the District received a notice by CN Rail that they are planning an upgrade project to the intersection at Hall Road and that the District's portion as the Road Authority would be roughly \$186,000. Mayor Stamer and Staff recently met with CN Rail to discuss the project and cost allocations to reduce the impact to the taxpayers. At this time, CN Rail has paused the project and are reviewing project materials and cost allocation estimates. Once an updated estimate is available, we will provide an update to Council.

EV Chargers

Discussions with the TNRD have continued between Mayor Stamer and TNRD Staff regarding the best location for the EV chargers to benefit the community and traveling public. Given the proximity to the Barriere Centre shopping complex and the Fadear Park recreation amenities (spray park, skateboard park, bandshell, etc.), at this time, it was indicated that the Library may after all be the better location. TNRD Staff would like to confirm if that is indeed the wish of Council at this time so they can continue to plan with this project. If Council agrees with this location, Council should pass the following resolution:

Recommendation: THAT Council supports the TNRD's request to install EV chargers at the Library facility.

Technology:

- Several of the new District laptops experienced issues and the IT consultant has been working to rectify these issues
- Staff reviewed our Phone, Internet, and Mobility plans with our account representative at Telus.
- Due to continued challenges with the current phone systems, most likely we will be pursuing a different Voice over IP (VoIP) package for 2025. Please note that we would require an early budget approval for this project in December or January at the latest.

Economic Development

- ETSI-BC has grant funding opportunities – We have reached out to the Chamber about taking the lead on these initiatives as District staff is currently focused on various other strategic projects.
- Various meetings were held with key partners and stakeholders to investigate development opportunities that strengthen the local economy.

Infrastructure Projects:

- We are still waiting for the service agreement for an Archeological Overview Assessment (AOA) for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. We're hopeful that we will be receiving this shortly. Once complete, the team should be ready to submit the project plans at once to the Ministry of Environment for feedback and approval consideration.

**submitted for information*