

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 11:00 am
Council Chambers

Present: Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, and Councillors Dave Cox, John MacGarva and Jim Welsch.

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager David Desabrais, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order, the time being 11:00 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that the agenda for the January 28, 2025, Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Delegation

a) Highway 3 Twinning Development Association

Tenille Miller, Director of Advancement, Bill Chapman, Vice President and Peter Casurella, Non-Voting Advisor, with Highway 3 Twinning Development Association attended the meeting at this time.

They briefly overviewed the history and stages of the Highway 3 Twinning Development Association and the project. The twinning project is moving forward with 15 Municipalities, 17 Industry/Business Members and 20 Member Organizations.

Currently, the MD of Pincher Creek does not have a paid membership but certainly feels strongly about this project moving forward. The MD thinks that the Highway 3 Association has done its job; the Government is aware of the concerns on Highway 3, and the project is moving forward.

The Association feels that Membership is essential for the following reasons:

- OPPORTUNITY - to shape and assist in driving the process
- COMMUNICATION - to share questions, concerns, and information that will assist in planning within communities and businesses
- STRENGTH – to have one a collaborative voice and consistent messaging with the government
- LOBBYING/ADVOCATING – to maintain our presence and ensure the funding remains a priority and that that entire project is completed

They hope that the MD can help build relationships with the Piikani, advocate for how vital this project is for all people traveling Highway 3, and allow the MD of Pincher Creek to have a say in how the project moves forward.

REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Economic Impact, safety, concerns on certain areas not being on board, and lack of twinning through BC was also discussed. Council will further discuss at the next Council meeting.

Council thanked the delegation for attending, Highway 3 Association members left the meeting at this time, the time being 11:28 am.

b) Proposed Curling Rink Location Opposition Group

Ianthe Goodfellow and Shauna Romano attended the meeting to voice their concerns about the Curling Rinks' proposed location.

Ianthe and Shauna stated they aren't opposed to having a new curling rink, but have strong concerns on the location. They feel that the MD has participated in site locations for a new curling rink in previous years through the facilities committee, the recreation advisory committee, the Joint Council, the Regional Recreation Master Plan, and the Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework (ICF). They also have a petition signed by 375 people in the community that people want to see a different location.

Presently, the Curling Club has chosen the route of a private club, therefore stopping the release of documentation and stopping public collaboration. They feel that public funds and grants from taxpayers' sources are being used for a project on which the public has had no input. Citizens have yet to see the following documents:

- A geotechnical report
- Architectural concepts
- Engineering drawings (the only document released)
- Ownership and land lease agreements
- An operating business plan

The town promised to release this information to the public last August; it still hasn't been released.

Without this information, the following questions are still unanswered:

- Environmental impact
- Urban planning
- Community infrastructure

The dissolution of the Town Facilities Committee raises concerns. A \$5 million project is being moved ahead without thorough community consultation, causing residents great concern. Shauna asks that MD look at all the questions they are bringing forward. She would like someone to revisit previous sites, including the downtown location.

MD Council has struggled with some of the same questions regarding documents and the release of information. Some of the Council agree that the curling club and the golf course work well together as they can share the restaurant, which could be utilized year-round. The Curling Rink should have been built many years ago, as the current building is over its life expectancy and needs to be rebuilt. While a multi-use facility would be nice, it wouldn't happen within the next five years.

REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

While the opposition group feels that more information should be released, they were informed that the Curling Club doesn't need to release the information until the Development Permit stage. The MD and the Town are assisting with co-funding this project but are not its developers.

Councillor Dave Cox left the meeting at this time, the time being 11:50 am.

Council will further discuss this at the next Council meeting.

Ianthe Goodfellow and Shauna Romano left the meeting at this time, the time being 12:24 pm.

c) Renewable Energy Study Presentation

Tristan Walker, with Massif Energy, attended the meeting to discuss the Renewable Energy Conversation Systems Review. He discussed the existing projects, transmission infrastructure, proposed projects, Alberta municipal Bylaw examples, Provincial restrictions, and local tax income from renewable energy.

Through the Consultation Results and the 87 participants, the following was revealed:

- 38% don't support wind or solar development
- 75% concerned with existing turbines in the MD
- 60% want some level of redevelopment at existing sites
- 55% support development on brownfield sites
- 73% want engagement before site selection
- 65% want to use MLUST and public consultation in review process
- 70% want to see energy from local generation on their bills
- Waste management and agricultural collaboration are highest priority
- Prioritize construction near existing transmission lines and redeveloping brownfields/existing sites

In summary, Tristan suggested the following next steps:

1. Identify preferred updates to Land Use Bylaw
2. Engage with Provincial regulator regarding repowering sites
3. Submit letter requesting community choice exception
4. Engage with existing operators regarding repowering plans
5. Identify preferred locations for development within desired criteria

Tristan Walker left the meeting at this time, the time being 12:50 pm.

3. Closed Session

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 12:50 pm.

- a) Curling Club Funding Discussion – FOIP Sec. 24.1

REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Councillor Dave Cox returned to the meeting, the time being 1:04 pm.

- b) Public Works Call Log – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- c) Policy C-PW-003 Winter Maintenance on Roads – FOIP Sec. 24.1

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 2:12 pm.

Carried

4. Round Table

5. Adjournment

Councillor Tony Bruder

Moved that the Committee Meeting adjourn, the time being 2:48 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER