

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 11:00 am
Council Chambers

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

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, 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 February 25, 2025, Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Delegation

a) STARS

Jackie Seely, Donor Relations & Development Officer, Southern Alberta STARS, attended the meeting to update the Council on STARS on partnerships with Municipalities in BC and Alberta. In 15 years they have had 225 scene calls in Southern Alberta. For the MD and Pincher Creek, 70 residents have been flown by STARS since 2010.

Due to the population increase, STARS is requesting a donation of \$7000 at a fixed rate annually. Council will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Jackie Seely left the meeting at this time, the time being 11:25 am.

b) Northback

Mike Young, CEO of Northback, attended the meeting to update the Council on projects in our neighboring area.

To date, Northback has provided the Crowsnest Pass with the following Community benefits:

- Prioritize Local Procurement
- Employ local service providers and staff
- Community investment and partnerships
- Australia Day annual fundraiser
- Sponsorships and donations
- First Nations Participation and Economic Opportunities
- Support Indigenous businesses and employment
- Property Taxes

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Their commitments remain as follows:

- Substantially different design will address public and JRP concerns
- Protecting waterways and fish
- Maintaining air quality
- Being open about our construction and operations
- Minimizing disruption and sharing benefits
- Economics of the redesigned mine remain robust, which will flow into jobs and regional benefits

Through hearings (full and limited participant hearings), they redesigned the project so it will now produce less than 3.75 million tonnes of steelmaking coal per year. The project will remain within the planned initial mine permit boundary, with waste rock stockpiles not being placed in the Gold Creek watershed. This change will protect the Westslope Cutthroat Trout population, and proven dust suppression practices will be employed to minimize airborne particles during construction and operations.

Mike Young reviewed the role of the Alberta Energy Regulator and how it involved the public and industry. And spoke regarding future steps for the Exploration Drilling Program application. March 4, 2025, is Closing Arguments, with a decision to be made less than 90 Days from closing arguments.

Mike requested that the MD of Pincher Creek not support the project but withhold judgment until they have talked to scientists with the information the Council seeks. The Council's concern has always been the need for safety in the water in our area, not in the drilling project itself. Discussion on selenium testing and amounts took place. While the Council can understand the financial benefits that this mine can bring in jobs and economic spinoff, the concern is an abundant and safe water supply.

Council questioned why Pincher Creek has not received financial support for our groups and organizations like Crowsnest Pass. The hope is that if the mine is approved, our community will also receive more support. Council asked if Northback knows if Grassy ~~Lake~~ **Mountain** will be the only mine for this area or if they can see expanding the project to move North. Presently, Northback doesn't have plans to try to grow in that area.

Mike Young left the meeting at this time, the time being 12:35 pm.

3. Closed Session

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 12:42 pm.

- a) Public Works Call Log – FOIP Sec. 24.1

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 12:47 pm.

Carried

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4. Review of Ranchland ICF

Council reviewed the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with Ranchland and, moving forward, has no issue with extending the review period.

5. Round Table

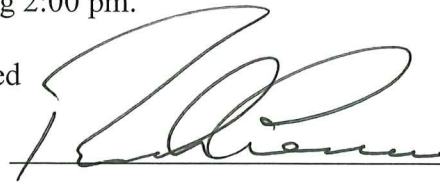
- Tippage fees at Crownsest Pincher Creek Landfill Association—MD is looking into changing the fee structure for MD residents to allow them to pay only the overage, not the entire load.
- Twin Butte Coffee with Council – good discussion and excellent resident attendance.
- Gryphon Digital Mining (Formerly Captus) is willing to attend a meeting anytime to clear up rumors; at present, there is nothing new to report.
- Rocket Doctor – a new online system to talk to a doctor, covered by Alberta Health.
- Unimproved Roads—discussion of whether they should all be open or left at “no winter maintenance.” The Council will abide by the policy, which states that the final decision is with the Public Works Manager.
- Emerging Trends – lots of information for administration, wasn’t as helpful for Council. Good information was presented on employment contracts and joint use planning agreements with the schools.
- Curling Club update with new location.
- Deadstock Bins—Transferring deadstock to Lethbridge with West Coast Reduction is expensive, yet putting it in landfills isn’t the answer. The facility needs to consider composting as an option. Cardston County had success with this project but has since shut it down.
- Highway #785 – concerns on gravel and pavement.

6. Adjournment

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that the Committee Meeting adjourn, the time being 2:00 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER