

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, March 10, 2026,
11:00 am
Council Chambers

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

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, 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 Jim Welsch

Moved that the agenda for March 10, 2026, be amended to include:

Closed Session:

b) Crowsnest Pincher Creek Landfill Association Discussion – ATIA Sec. 29.1

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

Mayor Wayne Oliver of the Town of Pincher Creek attended the meeting as a guest to hear the presentation by the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation.

2. Delegations

a) Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation (CRHF) – “Bringing Hearts Home” Cardiac Care Centre of Excellence

CAO Crystal Elliot and Oliver Swizell, Director of Development at Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation, along with Board Member James Van Leeuwen and local rural physician Dr. Gavin Parker, attended the meeting. They discussed “Bringing Hearts Home” Cardiac Care Centre of Excellence.

In partnership with Southern Alberta’s Cardiac Sciences Advisory Cabinet and Alberta Health Services leadership, CRHF is working on an initiative to raise \$30 million over the next 30 months to transform cardiac care in southern Alberta. This campaign is called Bringing Hearts Home. CRHF has already secured \$12 million in early commitments.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death in southern Alberta, claiming more lives than any other condition. The average travel time to Calgary is 3.5 hours—more than twice the 90-minute window considered the ideal response time for a heart attack. Currently, our region does not have access to the full range of cardiac care. Neither Chinook Regional nor Medicine Hat Regional Hospital has the facilities for advanced cardiac diagnostics or interventions.

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CRHF is experiencing strong government momentum: In February, a Government of Alberta Minister publicly committed to the project, reaffirming earlier support from Premier Smith. On February 27, the province allocated \$5 million to support the cardiac ICU expansions in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, as well as the development of the new catheterization lab. Currently, the project has progressed to Functional Programming and Design. Since 2022, Alberta Health Services and the Government of Alberta have been steadily advancing the Cardiac Centre of Excellence. While long-term planning continues, urgent needs are already being addressed.

CRHF and their partner foundations — Medicine Hat, Taber & District, Crowsnest Pass, and Windy Slopes — have invested in life-saving equipment for our communities, including \$137,000 for new Holter monitors and \$114,000 for Pediatric Bedside and Central Monitors.

Currently, they are looking at support through a one-time donation or a multi-year pledge. Hutterite friends (colonies) have partnered with CRHF to advocate with each colony in southern Alberta to commit to donating with a goal of raising over 1 million dollars.

Council thanked them for their important work and will further discuss this request at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Oliver and Representatives of the Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation left the meeting at 11:37 pm.

b) AltaLink - AltaLink Wildfire Mitigation Program

Colin Harvey, Municipal and Community Relations Manager, and Brendan Pan, Wildfire System Operations Engineer at AltaLink, attended the meeting to discuss the Wildfire Mitigation Project.

AltaLink is Alberta's largest electricity transmission provider, and wildfires are growing larger and more intense. Less than 10% of fires are caused by electricity infrastructure, and AltaLink leads wildfire mitigation efforts in Canada. AltaLink's wildfire mitigation plan aims to protect communities while providing safe, reliable and affordable power.

One aspect of mitigation is the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), a last-resort fire-prevention measure.

- A PSPS is a tool to keep people and communities safe
- AltaLink can proactively shut off power during extreme and dangerous weather conditions that can result in catastrophic wildfires
- PSPS is used as a last-resort preventative measure
- Each situation is unique – no single factor drives a PSPS

AltaLink reviewed the requirements for the PSPS and confirmed that, through targeted community outreach, AltaLink aims to raise awareness and improve emergency preparedness.

AltaLink left the meeting at 12:16 pm.

3. Closed Session

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Councillor Dave Cox

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

- a) Public Works Call Log – ATIA Sec. 29.1
- b) Crowsnest Pincher Creek Landfill Discussion – ATIA Sec. 29.1

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 12:40 pm.

Carried

4. 2026 Newsletter Discussion

- Rural Crime Watch
- Taxes – pie chart showing where funds go (policing/education)
- Airport update
- Water hauling – MD reaching out to the Province for assistance
- Water pumping contacts
- ASB – list of equipment and costs for spraying?
- Downloading from Provincial Government
- PW timelines
- Fire Hall progress
- Naming the grader

5. Round Table

- Question on line marking at Beaver Mines water standpipe – there is a project occurring in area that MD is aware of.
- Concerns with Circular Materials proposal regarding recycling.
- Deadstock bin for division 3 – still working on finding a site.
- Livingstone School potential changes - workshop discussion.
- Springpoint Colony building road on private land – intersecting with MD road.

6. Adjournment

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that the committee meeting adjourn at 2:08 pm.

Carried



REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER