

Coffee with Council
Tuesday, June 16, 2026
6:00 pm
Division 4 – Summerview Hall

Attendees:

Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillor Dave Cox, Jim Welsch and John MacGarva, CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Also In Attendance:

Rural Crime Watch Members Blanche Lemire and Barb Boyer, Fire Chief Pat Neumann

Audience:

Ten (10) residents were in attendance.

Councillor Jim Welsch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Council introduced themselves and the staff who were in attendance.

Councillor Jim Welsch reminded residents that there was no set agenda for the meeting, requested that people keep it civil, and opened the floor to questions.

New Fire Hall

- September 12 will be the ribbon-cutting and community event to tour the new facility.
 - Sleeping accommodations are part of the renovation; currently, Pincher Creek Emergency Services rents an apartment for overnight ambulance staff.
 - Old Fire Hall is for sale.
- Fire Chief overviewed how the ambulance is contracted with the Province, negotiations beginning again this fall.
- A combined ambulance and Fire service means they all work together for the safety of the community.
- Most staff are local residents.

Burn Permits

- Resident asked when burn permits will be available online – this is currently available through the website and has been for a few years.
- Discussion took place on a new system to ensure fires are properly put out after a burn permit is issued. Last fall, there were a few flare-ups.

Community Connect

- Pincher Creek Emergency Services is rolling out a self registration program to allow people to input information specifically for their house/farm.
 - Mobility issues,
 - Safety concerns,
 - Special information on accessing the property.
- Link will include google image map of the property.
- Information will only be able to be viewed by emergency personnel at the moment of a call.
- Reminder to residents when calling 911:
 - Do not use the dash (-) when stating the range road.
 - Example, Range Road 29-2 is Range Road 292.
 - Ensure you state you are in the MD of Pincher Creek, not “North of Cowley”
- Fire Chief overviewed how 911 dispatches calls.

- Fire hazard is low at the moment, but winds and dry weather could change that.
- Reeve discussed how other communities are building new Fire Halls as well. A BC community's Fire Hall cost of \$12 million; Pincher Creek's renovation came in at just over \$2 million.

Rural Crime Watch

- Rural Crime Watch has been reorganized and is taking some time to get operational; paperwork and such needed to be refiled for the society.
- New executives include President Val Dennis, Vice President Aaron Young, Secretary Dana Connolly, Treasurer Rose Skirka.
- Actively recruiting new members. Membership is at 62.
- Currently looking for a representative from Divisions 1, 3 and 5.
 - Representatives will be a contact for that division to assist with Rural Crime Watch information.
- 'Signal' and 'RAVE' Apps were explained.
- Plans include signage at all entrances to the MD.
 - Currently looking at funding opportunities to allow for these signs, posts and installation.

Heritage Acres thanked the MD for their support and donations over the past year.

Eco Centre

- Residents still happy with the Eco Centre and enjoy the staff.
- Changes will take place this fall with Circular Materials taking over recycling in Alberta.
 - MD is unsure what some changes will look like; more information to come.
 - Anyone who has curbside garbage pickup will have curbside recycling.
 - More materials will be able to be collected (glass and plastic bags).

Wildlife Fencing on Highway 3

- Residents voiced concerns about the province's new wildlife fencing along Highway 3, noting that wildlife is now trapped.
- Plans are in place from the Province to do the Cowley to Pincher Station section, as well as South on Highway 6.

Deadstock Bins

- Council overviewed the history of the Waterton Biosphere Deadstock Bin Program and emphasized the importance of continuing this.
- MD tried to find a location within the Division, but no one was willing to place on their property and take on the responsibility.
- Current location at the airport is for this year; Council is hopeful to find a resident in Division 3 for next year.
- Bins will stay in place year-round and be locked in the summer.
- Biogas in Lethbridge used to be able to take animals of all kinds, but they shut down as well.
- Council met with the Minister on the concerns for the disposal of wildlife.
 - Volker used to be able to take carcasses to the forestry, but isn't allowed to do this any longer.
 - They now have to bring to the Lethbridge landfill as the closest disposal site.

Agricultural Service Board

- Rental equipment was discussed.

Drought Conditions

- Residents questioned if MD was ever paid back from the Province for the \$1.2 million in costs to haul water to residents.

- No, the MD was not successful in receiving funding, they appealed on two different occasions.

Roads

- Calls of concern on roads are way down from previous years.
- Department has made some strides, but it will take time.
- Service and communication have improved.
- Stronger policies and direction from the Council have assisted.
- Dust control program was discussed:
 - Bumped up the dates for application, but at the mercy of the weather and the contractor's schedule.
- Mowing will start early this year.
- Weed Control has started for this season.
- Gravel pit spraying is more a priority.
- MD is actively searching for gravel to purchase, but gets outbid by other companies.
 - Rules for creating new gravel pits have moved from Local Government to Provincial Government rules.

Referendum Question – Where do Councillors land on this subject?

- Municipal politics are different from federal.
- The cost will be \$130 million to hold the referendum.
- Opinions are one thing, but that isn't a local government issue.
- MD Council works with RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta) to have a larger voice, but urban centers have more population and voting power.

Curling Club Discussion

- Council reviewed the history of the project and that a public information session was being held in the MD Office on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 pm.
- Curling club is short on finishing the project and looking to the Town and MD to provide bridge funding to get the project completed.
 - MD has the option of denying it (and the building sits unfinished), gift the money, or lend them the remaining funds with a legal opinion and agreement on how to pay it back.

Rumoured AI Plant – Anything new to report?

- The project is no further along than it was three years ago.
- MD has no application for any such project.

Residents thanked Council for hosting the Coffee with Council meetings – they see value in them.

Meeting closed at 8:02 pm.