

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

ALSO Town of Pincher Creek: Mayor Wayne Oliver, Councillors Mark Barber, Bernice Cyr, Gord McMullen, Sahra Nodge, and Valerie Wynder, CAO Konrad Dunbar, Director of Corporate Services Wendy Catonio, Director of Operations and Infrastructure Kyle Ross, Manager of Human Resources & Health and Safety Officer Brian Millis, and Executive Assistant Carolina Hunsperger.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

26/277

Moved that the agenda for the Special Meeting of June 17, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

B. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION ON PINCHER CREEK CURLING CLUB

Reeve Rick Lemire read the following to the audience members:

Among other topics, tonight's meeting is for Councillors to receive public input on potential additional funding for the Pincher Creek Curling Club building. Both written and verbal presentations may be made tonight. To keep the meeting orderly, we have the following general rules of conduct:

- Members of the public will be invited to speak on the subject matter. I will ask members of the public who wish to speak to state their name and whether they are Town or MD residents, for the record.
- The speaking time limit is 2 minutes per speaker. If you have previously submitted a written response, unless you have new information to present, be assured that Council has read your letter. Please do not come to the podium to read your submitted response.
- As this is not a situation for debate, speakers may come up one time only.
- We ask you to remain respectful and to keep comments to the topic at hand. If you are not respectful, you will be asked to leave immediately.

Reeve Rick Lemire asked if anyone in the audience wished to come up and speak:

Director of Club Development – Atina Ford Johnson and Manager of Club Development – Cori Morris

- Work with curling clubs to assist them in running efficiently
- Speaking in support
- Provided letters of support from Doctors and University's
- Curling is a sport for life
- Open to all ages, physical abilities
- Asset to Pincher Creek community
- Curling Alberta will support Pincher Creek Curling Club as it evolves
- Curling clubs are community spaces

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Diane Reed, Life-long MD resident

- Former school teacher
- Long time community volunteer
- The curling club has needed a new rink for at least 10 years
- The current building is in poor condition
- The community needs young people
- Needs a wide range of activities, such as schools, golfing, swimming pools, etc
- Schools take part with seniors and enjoy curling together
- Very few sports involve a wide range of ages
- Bridging the gap in generations through curling

Ianthe Goodfellow, Town Resident

- Missing the Recreation Advisory Committee – there is history with curling club over the years with the advisory committee
- Concerns about fiscal responsibility

Chuck Nelson, Town Resident

- Reiterates other comments on the benefits of curling
- Concerns about fiscal responsibility
- Town can't afford it; if it could, the taxes wouldn't be increasing
- Residents don't understand how much money is paid to the
- Put money into reserves when you can afford it, and you purchase at that time
- Not good to spend above your means
- Needs to be considered before a purchase is made

Jessie Kilkenny, Past President of Pincher Creek Curling Club

- Equally concerned about taxes
- Recreation as a whole – we all put a lot of money into recreation for the community
- The swimming pool runs a deficit annually
- The curling club would be self-owned, not Town-operated
- A million looks like a lot now, but not long-term

Allan Anderson, Curling Club Executive, Town Resident

- Lived elsewhere for 35 years, came back to Pincher Creek to retire
- Curled as a teen and now again as a retiree
- Runs the school program and has seen a huge increase in participation with young people
- Will lead to hosting bonspiels

Alisha Williams, MD Resident

- Member of the Pincher Creek Curling Club
- The Curling Club has put in countless free hours
- The building isn't extravagant; they are looking at cost-cutting where able

Don Hill, MD Resident

- He was under the impression that the build was going to cost \$3 Million, and no further tax money would be donated
- Now it's an increase of over 50% of the original cost
- Are there going to be more shortages and overage costs?
- People are struggling to pay taxes now
- Older people will be priced out of the Town
- Curling is wonderful, that isn't the issue
- Be fiscally responsible with public funds
- Why aren't members of the curling club – 250 members – putting their names on the line to borrow the money
- More expenditures will be coming
- People can't afford to pay more
- There is no cost guarantee for anything

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Brian Boyce, Town Resident

- Previously spoke to the Town Council and submitted a letter
- Not against curling
- Why was the project not funded before the build started?
- Money should have been held in trust
- MOU states that no further money was going to be given
- Work together to find grants to pay for the rest of the build
- We need to work together – not against each other

Dean Kennedy, MD Resident

- Clarification that the Town assembled a committee to advise on recreation opportunities through the recreation master plan
 - Parks, recreation, bike lanes were #1
 - Refurbishing the hockey rink was #2
 - Curling club was listed as #3
- Curling is a big part of people's winter – why is the curling rink as a priority when, as a community, we need a multiplex (curling/skating/hockey)
- Recreation needed for young people and community growth
- Build a multiplex and build with everyone involved
- “Can’t put the cat back in the bag”, we are here now
- Council pushed it ahead when it shouldn’t have been
- How can residents support the curling rink being built with tax dollars, but we need an arena soon

Meghan Metheral, Town Resident

- Requested clarification of the history of how the project got to where it is? And how it was pushed through
- Municipal Development Subdivision Appeal Board (MDSA) should be at an arms length and represented by the public at large, without bias
- 3 elected Council members were on that board
- The public should have been privy to all information
- If the money wasn’t in place, how did shovels go into the ground?
- More public representation on committees with judicial power

Ernie Olson, MD Resident – Former Town Resident and Mayor

- Curling club has been around for 100 years
- The current building is at the end of its life after 40 to 50 years
- How much money has the Town and MD given to the club?
- How much tax money is spent on recreation annually?

Troy Deet, MD Resident

- How much money will be made from the effort of the curling club? Adds to the town's income through restaurants, hotels, etc.
- Other communities see a positive impact when recreation is increased

David Green, Town Resident

- For many years, this has been discussed
- History of curling rink discussion
 - In March 2024, the Town Council presented reports on the potential curling club build
 - Information has been slow to reach citizens which is causing frustration
 - June 2024 Town Council motioned to draft an MOU to identify roles and responsibilities, which was done
- Who approved the construction contract? Does the contractor know the curling club's shortfall? Is there an assumption that the facility will be used by other community groups?

Shawna Skye Ramano, Town Resident

- Curling as a sport of value isn’t the question
- No one is questioning the positive qualities of curling

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- A multi-sport complex could still happen, using the current building
- There is an autonomy within the curling club – but maybe it needs to change
- Curling rink and ice arena are equally needing upgrades
- Recreation brings communities together
- We need to work together to work on a vision for recreation in this town for the community

Ken Metzler, Town Resident

- Everyone agrees that curling adds to the community
- Economics makes the decision
- Responsible use of tax dollars
- If we lose curling, there isn't anything to do in this community

Carrie Kinnahan, Town Resident

- Business owner, curler, mother
- Curling is an affordable sport for children
- \$5 a child with volunteers
- Multigenerational sport
- Curling club is working very hard to keep it alive and moving forward in Pincher Creek
- Original plan was up at golf club which caused issues for parking, new location will allow for lots of parking so other groups can use the building as well
- Non-profit can't take out a loan, that's why they are asking the Town and MD for the funds

Neil Stevenson, MD Resident

- How did we get to this point?

Judy Legrande, MD Resident

- Agrees that a new curling rink is needed
- Question on how it got to this point?
- Is it only a curling rink? Is it only for Pincher Creek? Is it a multi-use centre?

Hayley Smith, Town Resident

- Past President of Curling Club
- Looking at a year-round community facility for weddings, etc.
- Looking to work with Town and MD for indoor sports courts in the Summer

Reeve Rick Lemire explained the plan going forward that tonight, Councils will finish the meeting, and the decisions will be held with each Council at their subsequent meeting. He thanked everyone for attending. MD Council has heard lots from residents at events and direct contact with Councillors Mayor Wayne Oliver stated that answers to some of the questions will be in an upcoming Town newsletter or addressed individually.

Reeve Rick Lemire explained that Curling club members have been in to speak to both Town and MD Councillors, and residents are encouraged to ask questions.

With no further members wishing to present, Reeve Rick Lemire ended the public input session at 7:05 pm.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: (received as of June 17, 2026, to the MD office)

Curling Alberta - Jill Groves	Ann Kettles and Cindy Porter
Alan Anderson	Carrie Kinahan
Brian Boyce and Shauna Sky Romano	Esther Koop
Curling Canada – Nolan Thiessen	Grace MacMillan
University of Cape Breton - Simon Barrick	Carolyn McLaurie
Kevin Crook	Sheila McRae
Jerry and Lisa Dupius	Lucas Pittman
Jim & Lynda Dyck	Missy Primrose
Marie Everts	Catherine Sheard
Derek and Lorna Fidler	Sandra Stafford
Liana French and James Crowley	Jennifer Thompson
Samantha Hoffman	Michelle Visser

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University of Waterloo - Heather Mair
 University of Waterloo - Laura Leitch

Anna Welsch
 Ken Wood

Reeve Rick Lemire called a recess at 7:10 pm and reconvened the meeting at 7:40 pm.

C. ECO-CENTRE UPDATE

CAO Roland Milligan updated Councils on the Eco Centre and what incoming Circular Materials could mean for the centre. In 2025, total operational costs for the Eco Center were \$327,730, with \$125,346 received in compensation from Circular Materials.

Net costs were \$205,810 (excludes MD maintenance).

- \$123,486 paid by MD.
- \$82,324 paid by Town.

Town Council asked whether there was a way to reconfigure the current Eco Centre area when Circular Materials comes in for the fall. Due to where the cement pads are, reconfiguring is difficult, but it can be looked at. Currently traffic bottlenecks at the garbage bins if you are there to recycle.

Question to be asked of the operators about whether there have been any incidents. Administration isn't aware of any, but will look into it, as well as signage for increased safety.

D. CLOSED SESSION

Councillor Dave Cox

26/278

Moved that the Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 7:46 pm.

- a) Early Childhood Learning Centre Update – ATIA Sec. 19.1
- b) Pincher Creek Curling Club Funding – ATIA Sec. 19.1

Councillor Tony Bruder

26/279

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 8:40 pm.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jim Welsch

26/280

Moved that Council adjourn the meeting, the time being 8:41 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER