

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, June 23, 2026,
11:00 am
Council Chambers

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

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Acting Director of Corporate Services Brendan Schlossberger, 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 June 23, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Delegations

a) Hometown Award Recipient

Hunter McMullen, a student from Matthew Halton High School, attended the meeting to thank the MD Council for receiving the 2026 Hometown Award from the Town and MD. Hunter will be attending Olds College, specializing in agricultural mechanics. MD Council appreciated his attendance at the meeting and looks forward to hearing where his education takes him.

Hunter McMullen left the meeting at 11:04 am.

b) Fire Billing Concern

Bill Thorpe, a resident of MD, attended the meeting to discuss a concern regarding a fire bill he received from the Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission. He is a 40-plus-year resident of the Municipality and questions how fire suppression and emergency response charges are being billed back to the landowner.

Council explained that fire charges for MD residents are capped at \$25,000. These adjustments came a few years after a fire incident in which multiple residents helped, and air support was used to prevent a disaster. Since the fire was on their land, residents received bills from the Emergency Services Commission ranging from \$8,000 to \$55,000. Residents expressed their concerns, prompting the MD Council to investigate how other municipalities handle fire-related charges. Most municipalities do not have a zero-charge policy, and insurance coverage typically caps at \$25,000, which influenced the MD's decision to set a charge cap.

Mr. Thorpe stated that every ratepayer has already paid for the equipment, salaries, and training, and he believes the chargebacks are too high. He would like to volunteer to lead a committee, with the support of the MD and the Town, to develop a strategy to remove the chargeback from residents. He wants to offer ratepayers the option of a small tax increase instead of a fire response recovery, like

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universal health care. Mr. Thorpe stated that the extra insurance is more expensive than the MD's proposed tax increase.

He had an issue last year with a trespasser who started a fire. The fire department responded and extinguished it. He would like Council to consider the offer to poll ratepayers to determine whether the MD could be self-insured and to review models from other Municipalities.

MD explained that some fires are started by people who don't take care. Why should ratepayers pay when the fires are caused by others? Fires aren't all equal. There are responsible and irresponsible people, and Council is willing to work with the community to reevaluate the billing structure.

It was suggested that he present to the Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission.

Bill Thorpe left the meeting at 11:40 am.

3. Closed Session

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that Council, move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 11:50 am.

- a) MD Owned Land Leases Update – ATIA Sec. 29.1
- b) Alberta SouthWest Regional Aerospace Cluster Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - ATIA Sec. 29.1
- c) Review of Pincher Creek Curling Club Financials – ATIA Sec. 19.1

Carried

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 1:36 pm.

Carried

5. Round Table

- Coffee with Council
 - Kudos from residents and Council
- Discussion on dam usage – concern from residents
 - Does MD need a permit to pump from Fish Lake?
 - Clarification needed for residents as to the rules for pumping off stream
 - Ensure advertising is done for the meeting in July
- Lundbreck Citizens Council
 - Kudos from residents for the work at the park, and Spring clean-up
- Insurance playground inspection completed – waiting on report
- Castle Mountain Community Association golf tournament was a success

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- ReUse & Recycle Fair discussion
 - Day was well attended
- Rural Crime Watch update
 - New executive committee
 - Looking at funding for additional signage in the community (on MD roads)

5. Adjournment

Councillor Tony Bruder

Moved that the committee meeting adjourn at 2:06 pm.

~~Carried~~


REEVE


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER