

March 27, 2023

BC Housing Update

David Sheach, Non-Profit Portfolio Manager at BC Housing, provided an update on the BC Housing initiatives in Mackenzie.

MORATA – Letter of Support

The Mackenzie Outdoor Route and Trail Association (MORATA) is applying for a grant from the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, for the Cultural Endowment Fund to assist with expenses for the 2023 Morfee Scramble. MORATA has requested a letter of support from the District of Mackenzie to submit with their application. Council approved the request.

Dry Grad Dinner and Dance Venue Rental

Council received a request from the Mackenzie Secondary School 2023 Dry Grad Committee requesting an in-kind grant to waive the fees to the arena and Community Hall at the Rec Centre for their dry grad dinner and prom. Council approved the request, and a meeting will be set up with staff and the grad committee to discuss future funding opportunities for this event.

MSS 2023 Grad Banners

Council received a request from the MSS 2023 Grad Committee to provide an in-kind grant by hanging the grad banners around town. Council requested a meeting be set up with staff and the committee to discuss the request further and to bring a report back to a future Council meeting.

Property Tax Revenue

A request was made to investigate with the impact would be on residential properties if the Class 1 – Residential property tax increase was higher than the previously approved 6.04%. Figures were provided within the report and Council approved an 8.0% Class 1 – Residential property tax increase for 2023. The increase will cost an additional \$84 per year for the average single-family residence with a home assessed at \$159,982. The Financial Plan and Tax Rate Bylaws will be brought forward for final adoption no later than May 12, 2023.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan 2022

The District was awarded 100% grant funding in May of 2022 to update the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. The contract was awarded to Frontera Forest Solutions to update the current plan. A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) serves to identify the wildfire risks within and surrounding a community, to describe the potential consequences if a wildfire were to impact the community and to examine possible ways to reduce the wildfire risk.

[2022 District of Mackenzie Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan](#)

2023 Water, Sewer, and Garbage Bylaw Amendments

The water, sewer, and garbage bylaws were brought forward for amendment. The amendments include an annual increase of 7% to residential and commercial customers. In addition, the sewer bylaw will include a reduction of excess usage water rates from May – August for commercial businesses who operate a greenhouse. Wording has been changed in the water, sewer and garbage bylaws providing a full exemption from user rates for places of worship and not-for-profit agencies who are registered owners of a property that accesses utility services.

Council gave the first three readings to Bylaw No. 1495 Water Rates and Regulations Amendment, Bylaw No. 1496 Sewer Rates and Regulations Amendment, and Bylaw No. 1497 Garbage Rates and Regulations Amendment.

Council Travel and Expenses

Throughout the year Mayor and Council attend various conferences and events to network with other government officials and to discover opportunities that may benefit the District of Mackenzie. The 2023 conferences and events budget for Mayor and Council is \$40,000. The Mayor is allocated \$10,000, and each Councillor has a budget of \$5,000.

The following conferences/events are planned for 2023:

January 17-19, 2023	BC Natural Resources Forum
February 10-11, 2023	AGRO Connect – Conference and Agricultural Market
March 15-17, 2023	Local Government Leadership Academy Elected Officials Seminar
April 12-14, 2023	Council of Forest Industries Convention
May 9-12, 2023	North Central Local Government Association Annual Convention
May 31 – June 2, 2023	Minerals North Conference
September 18-23, 2023	Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention

An update of each Councillors remaining budget was provided.

Business Façade Improvement Program 2023

Council approved the first application of the year to the Mackenzie Business Façade Improvement Program in the amount of \$5,000 to Mackenzie PharmaChoice for the installation of accessible, motorized doors and to reconstruct the front vestibule to be fully accessible. Funding is still available, for more information contact Rachele Dumoulin, Economic Development Clerk at 250-997-3221.