

February 12, 2024

Special Budget Meeting

Kerri Borne, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary 2024 tax rates and revenue for this year’s operating and capital budgets. The District expects a shortfall of approximately \$692,827 in the 2024 budget because of loss of revenue and increased operational costs. The presentation provided three (3) options to address the shortfall. The costs with each option are based on the 2024 average assessed single-family residential property (\$165,200). Values are subject to change and are not considered final until the Property Tax Bylaw is brought forward in April 2024 for adoption.

- **Option #1** proposed increasing the municipal property tax revenue by 12.76% (\$692,827) to make up for the shortfall. This would increase the estimated 2024 annual cost for municipal property taxes, compared to 2023, by \$158.19 or \$13.18/month.
- **Option #2** proposed using reserve funds to cover the Utility 1%-of-Revenue Grant loss and increase the municipal property tax revenue by 8.31% (450,976) to make up the shortfall. This would increase the estimated 2024 annual cost for municipal property taxes, compared to 2023, by \$100.91 or \$8.41/month.
- **Option #3** proposed to use a portion of funds from reserves, cut the annual transfer to the General Capital Reserve by \$50,000, and also increase the municipal property tax revenue by 7.36% (400,976) to make up the shortfall. This would increase the estimated 2024 annual cost for municipal property taxes, compared to 2023, by \$91.10 or \$7.59/month.

Council recommended to proceed with Option #1. The table below explains the impact on the 2024 average assessed single-family residential property tax notice, including the newly adopted water, sewer and garbage user rates:

	2024 (165,200)	2023 (154,321)	Increase (\$)
Property Tax	1,249.16	1,090.97	158.19
Water	457.11	408.13	48.98
Sewer	290.54	266.55	23.99
Garbage**	199.75	187.56	12.19
Total	2,196.56	1,953.21	243.35

For more details and other options, you can find a copy of the presentation on our Let’s Chat Mackenzie page for [2024 Budget](#).

BCSSA – Cariboo Regional Board - Delegation

Bob Lees and Rory Boyle, representatives of the BC Summer Swimming Association, addressed Mayor and Council to request that rental fees for the 2024 Swim Meet be waived for use of the Mackenzie Recreation Centre. Council passed a motion approving the request.

2024 Budget Survey Results

Council received this report for information. This report provided examples of survey results that were incorporated into the 2024 operational and capital budget. The report can be read on the District of Mackenzie [here](#).

CivicInfo BC Membership Dues 2024

Council passed a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$263.55 from CivicInfo BC for the annual membership dues for 2024. The dues for 2023 were \$263.55.

Letter of Support – District of Sicamous – Support for Bill 34

Council received a request from the District of Sicamous for a letter supporting Bill 34 and the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*. Council will be sending a letter.

Letter of Support – City of Abbotsford – UBCM Resolution

Council received a request from the City of Abbotsford to make a resolution of support for additional detox beds to be added to the Fraser Health Region at the upcoming LMLGA convention, in advance of the UBCM Convention this fall. Council passed a motion to send a letter of support for additional funding to open detox centers across the Province.

Letter of Support – Support our Troops Licence Plate Program – Update

Council received an update on the Support our Troops Licence Plate Program including letters of support from the local MLA and MP. This update also included a request for the District to write a similar letter of support towards the program. Council approved the request.

Visitor Centre Caboose Operations 2024

Council moved that if grant applications were not approved, that the seasonal hours at the Caboose Visitor Centre would be reduced (Example: Open 10 – 4 Monday – Thursday, regular hours on Friday – Sunday) to reallocate those 16 hours to have the in-town Visitor Centre located at the Chamber Office open Saturdays and Sundays. If grant funding is secured, the Caboose hours will remain the same with the addition of in-town visitor services on Saturday and Sunday.

2024 – 2025 Electrical Services Contract

Council awarded the 2024-2025 Electrical Services Contract to Frontline Industries Limited.

Council Policy 1.14 Sale of Used Items to the Public

Council moved to make the proposed changes to Council Policy 1.14 Sale of Used Items to the Public. This policy determines the rules and procedures that District staff follow while conducting the Annual Surplus Auction.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training Grant

Council approved the application to the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for \$30,000 towards Emergency Operations Centre equipment, training, and personnel wages.

Accessible Parking

Council passed a motion to repaint the accessible and library staff parking spaces in front of the Recreation Centre to create accessible parking spaces only and meeting the minimum size requirements set in Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017 of 4.0 meters wide and 7.5 meters long, with the additional 1.5 meter accessibility lanes for side-loading vehicles adjacent the parking spaces. Current spaces do not meet bylaw requirements.

CN Bike Trail Licence of Occupation

Council authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the ten-year Licence of Occupation with Canadian National Railway Company for the section of District-owned pathway that runs on their property.

Community Hall – Motorized Solar Shades

Council authorized Recreation Services to purchase motorized roller shades for the Community Hall in the amount of 30,821 plus GST from Ace Building Centre.

Bylaw No. 1512, 2024 Water Rates and Regulations Amendment

Council passed a motion to adopt this Bylaw.

Bylaw No. 1513, 2024 Sewer Rates and Regulations Amendment

Council passed a motion to adopt this Bylaw.

Bylaw No. 1514, 2024 Garbage Rates and Regulations Bylaw Amendment

Council passed a motion to adopt this Bylaw.

New Business

Council passed a motion that Mayor and Council will have a table at the Chamber of Commerce Spring Expo in May to share information about District services and answer questions from residents.

Coming Events

Mackenzie Community Arts Centre – Digital Amelioration by Sylvia Brumovsky

Art Exhibit – Digital Amelioration

When: January 30 – February 24, 2024

Where: Mackenzie Community Arts Centre – 86 Centennial Drive

Special Meet the Artist opening

January 30, 2024

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

How Do I – Speaker Series

Celebrating Seniors' Abilities and Experience

When: Sunday February 18, 2024

Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Where: Mackenzie Community Services

Register with Cassandra 250-997-6596 or by email

ccarter@mackenziecounselling.ca

2024 WinterQuest

February 23-25, 2024

Event Schedule: <https://districtofmackenzie.ca/discover-mackenzie/winterquest/>

An Evening with John Brink

Mackenzie Community Services presents an Evening with John Brink

When: March 6, 2024

Where: Mackenzie Rec Centre

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Admission \$5