



Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council of the Village of Chase
held in the Council Chamber at the Village Office at 826 Okanagan Avenue
on Monday, November 25, 2019 at 4:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Rod Crowe
Councillor Alison (Ali) Lauzon
Councillor Steve Scott
Councillor Fred Torbohm

Also in Attendance: Joni Heinrich, Chief Administrative Officer
Joanne Molnar, Chief Financial Officer
Clint Wright, Manager of Public Works

Regrets: Councillor Ali Maki

Public Gallery: 23

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Crowe called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Scott

Seconded by Councillor Torbohm

“THAT the November 25, 2019 Village of Chase Special Council meeting agenda be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED
#2019/11/25_001

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

6. DELEGATIONS

7. REPORTS

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Utility Rates

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented information via a PowerPoint presentation explaining that the Solid Waste Collection and Wastewater Service rates are not being adjusted, but the water rates must be adjusted upward to collect enough funds to pay for the service.

She added:

- Current rates do not allow the Village to collect enough revenue to cover the costs
- Costs are not being covered, and therefore no money can be put aside for future repairs/replacement

- While rates have been increased slowly over the past few years, the rates are still not anywhere near where they should be to cover the basic costs of operating the water treatment plant and distributing the water to all the customers

Questions were asked including:

- *Why did the billing cycles change?* The CFO explained that the billing cycles changed to coincide with the fiscal year of the Village and also to ensure that winter water consumption which is used to determine annual sewer consumption occurred in the months where no exterior watering takes place
- *Why are the numbers in the presentation different than those in the Financial Statements?* The CFO explained that the Financial Statement numbers for water usage include the Village's use for parks irrigation, the Fire Department's use for firefighting and other water usage that is not 'billable' – she added that her intention was to utilize numbers as accurate as possible that reflect the amount of water that is treated and distributed to paying customers in order to apply true values for water rates
- *Why do I pay for sewer when I my house is vacant for months at a time?* The CFO explained that sewer consumption is based on winter water consumption values, therefore if there is no water consumption in the winter months, there is no sewer consumption charged. However, the fact that the house is serviced means that it's value is higher than a property that does not have services available to it, and the pipes in the ground and the treatment processes still must be paid for which is why the flat rates for sewer are charged whether the house is vacant or not
- *Are there any lead pipes in our water system?* The Manager of Public Works confirmed that there are no lead pipes in the municipal system, that all pipes are either asbestos/concrete or PVC

The CFO also noted that:

- We have a very robust water system in Chase, and providing good quality water comes at a price – our rates are very low right now in comparison to where they should be in order for the service to be self-sustaining
- The Village should not be subsidizing the water service with funds from other services or from general taxation – robbing one area to fund another means the area that the funds came from is compromised – if we subsidize the water service with taxation for instance, our general taxation revenues are lower and therefore we cannot pave roads, put money away for repairs on the Community Hall or do other initiatives that require funding
- She further noted that the rates have been increased over the years, but not enough to cover all the costs of the service – this is no-one's fault, it is simply something that needs to be dealt with –increases in the past were incremental, and she is recommending current increases also be incremental

10. RELEASE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS

None.

11. IN CAMERA

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Scott

Seconded by Councillor Torbohm

**“THAT the November 25, 2019 Village of Chase Special Council meeting be
adjourned.”**

CARRIED

#2019/11/25_02

The meeting concluded at 6:32 p.m.

Original Signed _____
Rod Crowe, Mayor

Original Signed _____
Sean O'Flaherty, Corporate Officer