

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 11:00 am
Council Chambers

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

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, Tax Assessor Doug Jensen, Health and Safety Specialist Michelle Stuart, Financial Services Clerk Sara-Lynn McKenzie, 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 the March 25, 2025, Committee Meeting be amended to include:

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|----------------|---|
| 2) Delegations | a) Doug Jenson, Assessment Services
b) Dallas Meidinger, External Relations Manager, Carmen Hancock, Field Unit Superintendent; and Christy Gustavison, Visitor Experience, Waterton Lakes National Park |
| 3) Closed | f) License of Occupation – FOIP Sec. 24.1 |

AND THAT the agenda be accepted as amended.

Carried

2. Delegation

a) Assessment Services

Doug Jenson, Assessor for the MD of Pincher Creek, attended the meeting to discuss the 2025 assessment of properties.

Specific properties are assessed by the Province and are paid through Grants in Lieu of Taxes. With Alberta Transportation purchasing land to twin Highway 3, several properties in the municipality will have their designation changed.

Municipal Affairs audits the MD's assessments. In 2025, there was a 10.30% increase for residential properties, a 0.03% decrease for farmland, a 1.46% rise for non-residential properties, and a 4.48% increase for small commercial properties.

Council questioned how linear taxes work for the municipality, with depreciation for many of the wind turbines. Doug Jenson suggested inviting a linear assessor from the Province to attend an upcoming Council meeting to clarify.

Doug Jenson left the meeting at this time, the time being 11:25 pm.

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b) Waterton Lakes National Park

Dallas Meidinger, External Relations Manager; Carmen Hancock, Field Unit Superintendent; and Christy Gustavison, Visitor Experience, from Parks Canada, attended the meeting to update the Council on Waterton Lakes National Park. Last year was the highest year for park visitors since it was free in 2017. With the 2024 fires in other Jasper National Park, people were looking for areas to visit. Projections indicate that visitors will return to the area this year, including both residents and travellers. They explained the use of a visitor management framework to help the park identify the needs of its visitors. They overviewed the changes to water recreation for 2024 and the summer of 2025. The primary purpose of the changes in water recreation is to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels, which can be expensive and sometimes not feasible to eradicate once they are established.

Parks Canada will continue to prohibit outside non-motorized watercraft at the lake; however, once they are clean, dry, and certified, toys are permitted. Powerboats, on the other hand, require a 90-day quarantine. For fishing, access has been restored to Cameron Creek and Waterton River, while the Belly River remains closed. Moving forward, Parks Canada aims to expand water recreation access while maintaining the integrity of the water and mitigating risks to support a sustainable, long-term plan.

Council suggested a request to Parks Canada if they would be interested in sitting on a committee to expand the Pincher Creek airport.

Council raised the following concerns about Waterton Lakes National Park:

- Turning away boaters without inspections results in these individuals ending up at the Waterton Dam, meaning the ban is not effectively preventing invasive species from entering the watercourse; instead, it merely shifts the problem to a different location.
- The growing number of visitors to Waterton is contributing to issues with litter and trespassing. Parks Canada aims to prioritize stewardship at the forefront of the Regional Tourism initiative.
- Neighbouring residents and the MD are frustrated with the number of weeds that come from the park. MD budgets more and more money to deal with invasive weeds that leave the park. Parks Canada has a weed management program and recognizes that its current approach is only part of the solution, not the entire solution. Many of these weeds are invasive, and there are legislative requirements for landowners to eradicate them unless the land is within a National Park. Neighbouring residents are frustrated with the number of weeds that come from the park.

Members of Parks Canada left the meeting at this time, the time being 12:30 pm.

3. Closed Session

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 12:35 pm.

- a) Public Works Call Log – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- b) Review of Policy C-FIN-500, Resale of Materials and Supplies – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- c) Draft Policy C-CO-006 Pincher Creek & District Hometown Award – FOIP Sec. 24.1

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- d) Tax Discussion – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- e) Road Use Concern Update – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- f) License of Occupation – FOIP Sec. 24.1

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 2:26 pm.

Carried

4. Health and Safety Review

Due to time constraints, Health and Safety Review was moved to April 8, 2025 Committee meeting.

5. Round Table

6. Adjournment

Jim Welsch

Moved that the committee meeting adjourn at 2:27 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER