MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

The Special Meeting of Council of the Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9 was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm, in the Council Chambers of the Town of Pincher Creek Administration Building, Pincher Creek, Alberta.

Notice of this Special Council Meeting was posted on the MD website and social media.

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

STAFF CAO Roland Milligan, Finance Manager Brendan Schlossberger and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

ALSO Town of Pincher Creek: Mayor Don Anderberg, Councillors Mark Barber, Garry Cleland, David Green, Sahra Nodge, Brian Wright and Wayne Oliver, CAO Konrad Dunbar, Director of Finance Wendy Catonio and Executive Assistant Carolina Hunsperger.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor John MacGarva 25/431

Moved that the agenda for the Special Council meeting of September 10, 2025, be approved as presented.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

a. SASCI – Grant Writer

Brett Wuth and David Simmons from the Southwest Alberta Sustainable Community Initiative (SASCI) attended the meeting to discuss the organization's history and explore funding options for the Grant Specialist position.

Background of the Grant Specialist Position

- Position established in May of 2018 by a group of community volunteers called the Pincher Creek Community Development Initiative (PCCDI)
- Original funding support came partially from the Joint Council
- Liza Dawber was hired and has been the Grant Specialist to date
- PCCDI merged with SASCI in May of 2019, and SASCI took direct responsibility for supporting the Grant Specialist position
- SASCI established a BRIDGE Builder initiative to oversee the Grant Specialist, as well as establish a temporary position for a Fund Development Specialist
- Funds for BRIDGE Builder were provided by the Joint Council, Alberta's Community Initiatives Program (CIP), and philanthropic and corporate donors

Summary of Support for the Grant Specialist by the Town & MD of Pincher Creek

- 2021 $8K FCSS funds for Grant Specialist
- 2022 $75K Joint Council funds for Grant Specialist
- 2023 $80K Joint Council funds for Grant Specialist
- 2024-2029, both Town & MD budgeted $40K in support per year from for Grant Specialist

SASCI would like to see a 5% pay increase, to cover a budget overage.

The Council inquired whether any of the available grants have been specifically for MD-related projects. It was explained that the Grant Specialist is available to assist

all community organizations, benefiting both the Town and MD. The primary focus of the Grant Writer would not be on agricultural producers, as there are no suitable programs and opportunities for them. It was suggested that she refer agricultural producers to the Municipality for guidance on producer grants.

SASCI left the meeting at 5:27 pm.

b. Southwest Alberta Regional Search and Rescue Society

Members of Southwest Alberta Regional Search and Rescue Society (SARSAR) attended the meeting at this time to overview the history of the organization and highlight some rescues that took place in 2025.

They overviewed the various grants that they have been awarded that has assisted in purchasing equipment, cover the costs for a space to store equipment, as well as multiple training events for the volunteers. Additional expenses include technology fees, office supplies, and utilities.

Council asked if there was a way Municipalities can assist to promote a payment system to prevent misuse of resources. At present time there isn't a cost recovery system as the fear is people would be hesitant to call for a response.

Council asked how calls are sent out, generally they come through Emergency Services but if contacted directly SARSAR would contact the RCMP to ensure safety for all members involved. This allows for SARSAR to invoice the Province for items such as if a helicopter is needed. This doesn't allow for training grant funding. Council would like to see this change at a Provincial level as SARSAR needs the training to run the program effectively.

It was explained that RCMP has jurisdiction over SARSAR, but currently many calls are not given to SARSAR as sometimes its just dealt with through Parks employees or Fire Department. Council asked if they do water rescue as locally we don't have trained and available staff, SARSAR does but in a limited capacity.

Council asked if SARSAR felt they had enough support for the mental health aspect that the volunteers face. At present time, they do, and bring in specialist to assist the members as needed. They also have trained in house volunteers that specialize in this.

SARSAR members left at 5:59 pm.

c. Pincher Creek Humane Society (SPCA)

Pincher Creek Humane Society board members attended the meeting at this time to review the history of the organization and overview the prior year.

Currently, there are six paid employees and five main volunteers, not including the board, dog walkers, foster homes, and trappers.

Concerns from the organization regarding the increase of animals that have been going through the shelter as they are always over capacity. At present, they only accept Town, MD and Piikani (which pay for the animals they need assistance with). If an outside municipality needs help, it is a fee-for-service. Going forward, they are working with the Crowsnest Pass as they are seeing more and more animals coming from that area, as the local SPCA is not equipped to deal with.

They have a very active fundraising program, between $80k to $100k through many avenues. As well as shelter for animals, the SPCA has multiple programs to assist the community members with animal care, feral animals, pet safe keeping, pet food bank, animal snuggle programs for seniors' homes, early learning centre rabbit and guinea pigs visits, microchipping clinics, and the community dog wash.

A majority of the costs are vet costs, moving forward they are looking at hiring a vet for the shelter to cut back these costs significantly. 2024 vet costs were $152,427; in-house, we would cut this by 25% to 30%.

The upcoming projects include a dog yard upgrade and a new cat shed, which will serve the feral cat program. An agility run, sponsored by a local family, has raised $30,000 to date. They hope to add more runs and a sea can. The agility run, which will be held by donation, provides a safe space for community members to run agility with their dogs.

This year's request includes a one-time top-up due to the multiple trapping projects in the MD that have taken place. This demonstrates success, as cats are being captured, sterilized, and confirmed healthy before being released. It was noted that Town Bylaws currently don't permit trap and release programs; the SPCA would like to see this reviewed, as the program can be highly effective.

SPCA would like clarification from Council, as it has been stated they should not turn away any local animals. However, without sufficient space and increased funding, this presents a significant financial burden. The concern the Council had in the past was that local animals were being turned away, while out-of-the-community animals were in care. They understand that this is being addressed, with neighbouring communities being invoiced for utilizing the service.

SPCA Members left at 6:28 pm

d. Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library

Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library staff and board members attended the meeting to discuss the budget request at this time.

Currently, the library offers multiple programs alongside its services, including cross-country and snowshoe lending programs, the CRA Volunteer Tax program, collaboration with Reimagine Architects on expansion plans, and the rental of boardrooms (free for non-profit organizations). Council asked if there were fees for usage of the equipment; there is no charge if you are a Library Member.

Usership statistics from 2022 to today were shown:

- lending items and books increased 12%
- Wi-fi usage increased 16%
- Programming has increased 26%, lower than 2024 but many events had to be cancelled due to inclement weather
- 43% increase of exam and meeting room bookings

The request for funding is an 11% increase for 2026

- 3% for COLA
- 3% to fix the 2023 payroll issue
- 2% to cover cost of Town covering payroll
- 3% increase to cover utility costs

Without the increase, the library would have to reduce hours, cut staffing, and potentially lose staff. Currently there are nine staff members (1 full time, 5 that work less than 20 hours a week, and 3 student part time members.

Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library Members left at 7:03 pm.

e. Pincher Creek and District Historical Society

Colleen Cyr, as the Board President for the Kootenai Brown Pioneer Village (Pincher Creek and District Historical Society), reviewed updates at the museum and discussed future projects.

The museum received grants totaling $45,000 from the Community Foundation, which funded the construction of a replica of the original Fire Hall. Additionally, there is a new display for Blackburn Jewellers and a display for Henrys Radio and TV.

Annual maintenance on sidewalks, buildings, and grounds was carried out by summer students. Future plans include exploring development of the old trailer park to establish Stuckys Farm Centre. These plans are challenging in advance because projects depend on donations.

Café needs work; it is open daily for lunches and treats, mainly to serve bus tours. Bus tours have decreased slightly due to the fires in Jasper, but talks are ongoing with the bus company to continue next year.

Considering changing the name to Kootenai Brown Historical Park to better reflect the village's growth.

The Council inquired whether there was a succession plan for Colleen Cyr. They recently elected a Vice President, but she intends to see her plans through with the museum. Both Councillors thanked her for her ongoing dedication and passion over the years she has been involved.

Colleen Cyr left at 7:25 pm.

f. Oldman River Antique Equipment and Threshing Club

Oldman River Antique Equipment and Threshing Club Executive Director and board members attended to discuss their budget request for 2026.

The board noted a rise in visitors and the volunteer base for 2024/2025. The Executive Director began three weeks ago and is enthusiastic about being here. He has experience in grant writing and looks forward to what he can accomplish with the organization.

The history of the organization was reviewed. Heritage Acres was incorporated as a not-for-profit in 1988 and continues to manage 188 acres of land for the placement of buildings and equipment.

Currently, there is only one employee; the rest are volunteers and board executives. The group's sole purpose is to collect, preserve, restore, and demonstrate original farming equipment. The goal is to keep the history of ranching alive.

2025 accomplishments include:

- RCMP Musical Ride
- Annual Show
- Construction of new Harvest Equipment Storage Shed and moving forward to rebuild the 1917 Case Steam Tractor
- Harvest host program

Setbacks in 2025:

- Overall expenses are up, and income streams are down
- Lower general admission
- Lower windmill revenue
- Volunteer shortage/combined employee labor costs
- Lower venue rentals
- Cancellation of the annual horse show (due to weather)

The budget forecast for 2026 shows operating costs of $258,300 and income streams of $243,400, resulting in a deficit of $14,900. They are exploring additional grant streams that could help cover equipment maintenance, which constitutes a significant part of their budget.

The Executive Director is exploring the installation of power at 10 of the 15 camping sites, which would generate income and offer a service in the area.

Oldman River Antique Equipment and Threshing Club members left at 7:53 pm

J. CLOSED SESSION

Councillor Dave Cox 25/432

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time 8:00 pm.

a) 2026 Group Budget Discussion – ATIA Sec. 19.1

Carried

Councillor John MacGarva 25/433

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 8:37 pm.

Carried

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/434

Moved that Council approve the 2026 Joint Budget amount at 50% with the Town of Pincher Creek, the MD portion totalling $ 248,628;

AND THAT Council agrees to fund the following organizations through the 2026 Joint Budget process:

	MD Portion	Total
SASCI – Grant Specialist	$40,000	$ 80,000
Southwest Alberta Regional Search and Rescue Society	$11,128	$ 22,225
Pincher Creek Human Society	$25,000	$ 50,000
($40,000 plus a one-time grant of an additional $ 10,000)*		
Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library Board	$137,500	$ 275,000
Pincher Creek and District Historical Society	$17,500	$ 35,000
Oldman River Antique Equipment and Threshing Club	$17,500	$ 35,000

AND THAT funding for 2026 to the Pincher Creek and District Historical Society and the Oldman River Antique Equipment and Threshing Club will be released, subject to receiving the independent external review previously requested.

Carried

Councillor Dave Cox 25/435

Moved that Council approve the 2026 per capita funding, for Joint Council Grant, at $21.94, the MD portion totalling $71,085,

AND THAT Council agreed to the following amounts be awarded for the 2026 Joint Council Grant,

Syncline Trails Association	$ 600	SASCI	$ 6,000
Mustangs Football	$ 1,000	Chamber of Commerce, PC	$ 7,000
Citizens on Patrol	$ 1,500	Pincher Planters	$ 7,500
Windsor Heritage Center	$ 2,000	Care Bears Society	$10,000
Coalfields Community Centre	$ 2,500	Twin Butte Community Hall	$ 10,000
Cowboy Show	$ 2,500	Community Hall, PC	$ 15,000
Community Food Bank, PC	$ 4,950	Handi Bus Society	$ 15,000
Adaptable Outdoors	$ 5,000	Allied Arts	$ 20,000
Agricultural Society, PC	$ 5,000	Family Centre	$ 30,000
Group Group Youth	$ 5,000		

Carried

Councillor Tony Bruder 25/436

Moved that for the 2027 Joint Budget, applicants be advised that if the estimated budget and the most current independently reviewed financial statement information that is requested are not received in full, the budget request shall be denied.

Carried

K. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor John MacGarva 25/437

Moved that Council adjourn the meeting, the time being 8:40 pm.

Carried

REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER