

THE SUGAR CREEK LOOP

THE OFFICIAL DISTRICT OF WELLS BC NEWSLETTER

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Council Meeting Highlights:

- Council received 5 letters from community members regarding the potential Community Benefit Agreement with Osisko/BGM and the designation of a Committee by the District. Councillor Rohatynski mentioned that it might be of interest to have a show and tell by the DOW @ the next Council meeting
- Council received the Wells Community Facility Building Committee minutes for June 24, 2021, the draft minutes for the July 8, 2021 meeting and the updated 2021 schedule of Committee meetings. Councillor Dorwart notes that the survey was sent out to the community, and that she looks forward to reviewing the responses. Thanks to those who did the survey, to staff, and to the Committee.
- Council received a letter from Chris Pharness of Osisko/BGM regarding the proposed Community Benefit Agreement between the mine and the District of Wells. (Mayor Fourchalk recused himself due to seeking legal advice over concern in the community regarding his perceived conflict of interest from the letters received.) Council had generalized discussions

regarding a potential Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) and the proposed CBA Committee. Councillor Dorwart recommended. While not all of Council was in agreement as to whether a committee is the correct direction, it was also suggested that Council direct staff to bring in an expert for negotiations. Councillor Dorwart stated that we need to set up structure of what we want, and we need a committee. Councillor Rohatynski feels we are the underdog in this situation, feels experts are needed. Councillor Kilsby wants to add that hiring an expert needs to be budgeted for. We need to investigate companies, the cost and what the budget would be. Councillor Rohatynski stated he is not looking for a motion to hire, but thinks a lecture explaining what we could do would be effective.

- Chris Pharness, regarding his letter to Mayor and Council, stated that the letter communicates the needs of the DOW and the infrastructure shortfalls. Osisko/BGM have the interests of the community and the DOW, they have supported the DOW and community in many ways over the years. They are aware of the prior concerns of

infrastructure. He stated that the letter is about getting the DOW up to safety/health standards ahead of time, ahead of any mine impacts. He appreciates everyone's opinion but is disappointed that people pit the mine against the community. He feels BGM has been and will continue to be apart of the community. The best route is always the direct route. Chris Pharness also stated that it is up to the committee to decide but we are talking millions of dollars of infrastructure i.e., a school - \$10 million. They need to think that far ahead. Not just in money, but in infrastructure and taxes. Councillor Rohatynski and C. Pharness spoke about provincial royalties being an option. Taxes equating to a self-sustaining town

- Council received staff report regarding an update on the playground and outdoor ice rink revitalization project and approved deferring a new playground until further funding and designs can be investigated. Council directed staff to utilize the funds on the Community Hall repairs needed instead.



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MORE TO COME...



Council received and approved the report from the EDO regarding the need for a resolution to support the proposal from B.A. Blackwell and Assoc. Ltd. to create the District of Wells Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. Councillor Rohatynski asked if the plan includes the District of Wells boundaries or just the townsite. The CAO confirmed it includes the boundaries.

- Council also received and approved the request from the EDO regarding the need for a resolution to support a proposed Canada Community Revitalization Fund/Grant to support the revitalization and renovation of the District of Wells Community Hall. The CAO stated the importance of this building being the only designated Heritage Site in the District of Wells.
- Council Gives final reading to the District of Wells Noise and Nuisance Bylaw No. 202, 2021, as circulated.

DISTRICT UPDATES

FireSmart, Community Cleanup & BBQ 2021

The District of Wells is happy to announce that, although we are off to a late start, we are now beginning our 2021 FireSmart activities. A FireSmart presentation was held at the Sunset Theatre on July 5th. A big thank you to the Sunset Theatre for the venue and to all who attended. Thank you to the Wells-Barkerville Community Forest Board (WBCFB) and our local Wildfire Warden for arranging the presentation and thank you to the presenters for giving us the FireSmart principles and information so that we may all lend a hand in making our community FireSmart! For those who could not attend the presentation as well as anyone needing more information, please feel free to pick up information at the District of Wells office. We have plenty of brochures and checklists to hand out. You can also go to www.firesmartbc.ca for a wealth of information. Let us all do our part in making our community FireSmart!

In conjunction with our 2021 FireSmart activities we will be holding our annual Community Cleanup and BBQ August 13, 2021. Thank you to Emcon who have graciously offered their time off and equipment to assist us again this year! Posters with more information will be put up throughout the community as well as on our social media and website soon, **SAVE THE DATE!** Information on how to be FireSmart can be picked up from the District of Wells office.

*Photo credits: Jen Hellstrom