

Mar. 1, 2019

Fortis BC Discusses Alternative Energy with Board

Fortis BC representatives – Matt Mason, Community & Indigenous Relations Manager and Siraz Dalmir, Municipalities Key Account Manager – discussed renewable natural gas (RNG) with the Board at its March 1 meeting.

When organic waste decomposes it creates biogas, which can be captured and upgraded to produce biomethane, also known as RNG. There are multiple opportunities for local governments to support the production of RNG, including providing organic materials or operating facilities that produce biogas, which would reduce the amount of landfilled organic waste and potentially create revenue.

The Cariboo Regional District plans to explore these opportunities further as it develops its next 10-year solid waste management plan, with the plan development and consultation starting in 2020.

Board Reviews Budget Feedback

The Regional District Board reviewed all the public feedback gathered through their budget consultation process ahead of the adoption of the final 2019 budget on March 22. In total, 274 budget surveys were completed. In terms of service levels, residents felt fire departments and search and rescue; emergency planning, response and recovery efforts; and recreation services like arenas, pools, parks, trails, community halls, should be increased.

As part of the budget consultation, residents were asked to read an overview of the budget and provide their feedback through a survey. Public meetings were held regarding the 150 Mile Fire Protection and the Red Bluff sewer budgets and a letter was sent to users of the Alexis Creek sewer as these three budgets had notable tax or user fee increases.

Read a summary of the results at cariboord.ca/budget.

Fire Truck Alternative Approval Processes Scheduled

The Kersley, Forest Grove and Lone Butte volunteer fire departments all require new fire trucks in 2019. The CRD is changing the way they purchase fire trucks from a leasing model to a long-term financing model. To secure long-term financing for the trucks, the Board requires resident's permission.

To ask permission to purchase these new fire trucks, the Board scheduled alternative approval processes (AAP) for the Kersley, Forest Grove and Lone Butte volunteer fire departments.

An AAP is a 'reverse' form of public assent where the proposed change will go ahead unless 10 per cent or more of the eligible voters submit a signed form saying they are against the proposal. For all three fire departments, signed elector response forms must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Further information will be shared next week and will be posted at cariboord.ca/firedepartments.

NCLGA Resolutions Brought Forward

The Board of Directors resolved to bring seven resolutions forward to the upcoming North Central Local Government Association convention being held in Williams Lake from May 7-10, 2019.

These resolutions focus on lobbying higher levels of government for consistent access to Emergency Social Services resources; more small aircraft pilot training; increased funding for fire centres; a better provincial approach to fire-smarting transportation corridors; the provision of provincial resources to inspect and enforce provincial fire safety regulations; fair cannabis revenue sharing with local governments; and additional training programs for arena operators in light of increased ammonia regulations.

The resolutions will be debated at the convention and the NCLGA membership will vote to move them ahead to the UBCM convention in September 2019.

South Cariboo Joint Committee Reviews Rec Priorities

The Board endorsed the South Cariboo Joint Committee's decision to review the sub-regional recreation taxation boundary and bring forward options for expansion of the taxation area to other parts of the South Cariboo. The Committee decided to prioritize reviewing the taxation boundary before considering new major construction projects. Read why and the next steps at cariboord.ca.

Upcoming Meetings:

CCRHD & CRD Boards – Friday, Mar. 22, 2019

See the [full agenda at cariboord.ca/agendasminutes](http://cariboord.ca/agendasminutes).