

REPORT TO COUNCIL

FROM: Councillor Christine Thompson

DATE: May 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Report to Council

April 12th, I attended the Humboldt Tragedy Memoriam in honour of those killed in a tragic accident on their way to a hockey game in a neighbouring community. This was held in the Jack Goddard Arena. The organizers of this memoriam did an excellent job in a very short time. They had a table with pictures on pucks of the team, coaches and bus driver who lost their lives in this horrific accident. There was a fair turnout of residents and hockey fans. Mayor Konrad spoke on behalf of the City. Also attending were Councillors Hammett and Ross.

I attended the Association of Kootenay-Boundary Local Governments Annual Convention in Fernie April 17th through April 20th. The convention keynote speaker was Chief Joe Pierre, St. Mary's band who spoke about his experience growing up on a reserve, and of 7 Generations of Relationships and 7 Generations of Reconciliation. A plenary panel discussion about Wildfire Threat – Facing New Reality – Learning from Fort McMurray and other Fire Disasters. This session was complemented by a second plenary panel discussion regarding exercising emergency powers for community evacuation and implementing the plan in emergencies. This discussion focused on lessons learned from recent flooding and wildfire disasters, and how to better communicate and assist those in danger. Two additional plenary panel sessions rounded out the discussions on the conventions theme, "Emergency Preparedness in Local Governments: Response: Response, Recovery and Reflection". These panels focused on the use of technology and innovation differently in emergency management through the Smart Communities movement and building interconnected teams in our municipalities. Of the concurrent sessions offered, I attended the ones on Crisis Management and Connecting the Dots on Housing Affordability. I attended the post-convention workshop titled High Impact Leadership on Climate Action.

I was very complimented when Director Rotvold from the Village of Midway asked me to let my name stand for election to the AKBLG Board of Directors as she would not be seeking re-election to the Board. She thought that I would work well with the Board and would ably represent the Boundary along with Director Russell. An election was held Friday morning, and the two incumbents (Rob Gay, RDEK Chair, Garry Jackman, RDCK, and Diane Langman, Mayor of Warfield) were elected. I wish them well and know that they will work together in the best interests of our Association.

At the last Regular Meeting of Council, I verbally gave notice of motion relative to the Provincial Government's denial to the RCMP for an additional 130 officers. While at the AKBLG, I took the opportunity to discuss this matter with Wendy Booth, President of the UBCM and Director Russell. Ms. Booth has put me in contact with a UBCM staff member

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and I sent her a copy of a resolution that I am proposing requesting her comments, and to advise me what additional backup information she may require. I have not heard back yet and will bring this forward to Council when I do. Ms. Booth advised me that if Council adopts my proposed resolution and submits it to UBCM prior to June 30th, it may be considered by the delegates as a Late Resolution at the Annual Convention in September.

I have received several e-mails from members of the Grand Forks Wildlife Association regarding their request for a Licence of Occupation on a small portion of City owned land that is adjacent to the rifle range. I understand the concerns expressed by members of Council regarding the noise reverberating off the mountain that disturbs residents of Riverside, and appreciate the suggestions made that might mitigate the noise. I would suggest that a meeting with Council and the Grand Forks Wildlife Association executive to address these concerns happen because the tone of these e-mails cause me to believe that the members feel that Council was being adversarial.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Christine Thompson