

Councillor's Report

June 11, 2018

Julia Butler

So many questions and very few clear answers. This is how a lot of residents are feeling after the flood hit on May 10th. It's also the sentiment amongst many of us on council. With the EOC running the response and recovery phase of this disaster, communication coming to council has been very general in nature. Although our staff has been working tirelessly at the EOC there has not been much time left over to get questions of council answered. In future EOC situations I would like to see a council representative at the EOC to improve two way communications. Council did request clarification two weeks ago from Interior Health regarding the toxicity of the soil in flooded areas but once again, did not receive a clear, decisive answer to pass on to the public.

On May 25th, the Mayor reached out to council, to help him get some clear answers from the province regarding tipping fees at the dump. Council came together and was able to directly speak with the Premier and Minister Farnworth regarding this issue and the issue of temporary housing. Although these issues are being handled by the EOC, council felt the public was waiting too long for a response and wanted to go directly to the top to find answers. We did get confirmation regarding the tipping fees and talked with the EOC about the procedural details. Because of the conversation that day, I was confident that we would also see temporary housing units arrive the following week. As of the writing of this report, I have had no new information on the status of this program. I have spoken with many people who have lost everything and are unsure of their future accommodations. We are now a full month after the flood and it's very disappointing that we don't have a quicker provincial response to our needs. I'm still confident we will get some temporary housing but like so many of the situations we are dealing with, our residents needed results last week.

I know councillor Tripp has listed many important questions in her report so I won't repeat them here but I would like to echo her concerns and ask staff to clearly address her questions, as I know through email, that many members of council and the public have the same inquiries. One further issue I heard residents discussing, ***is the ability to park trailers on their properties to live in, while they clean up. If this bylaw has not already been bent to suit the situation, I'd like council to consider such a temporary amendment.*** It only seems practical to allow people to live in trailers on their property while gutting their houses.

Moving forward, I think there is a priority that council should be addressing. ***I'd like to know how many people aren't receiving any insurance or DFA coverage. I have spoken to many. What are we going to do to help them?*** We are very fortunate to live in a country that does have disaster relief funding. We are even more blessed to have volunteer organizations that have done a lot of heavy lifting and provided emotional support to our community. I was also touched by the amount of donations given by one of the private response companies working in our area. BUT, the cost of rebuilding, for many residents and small businesses, is still insurmountable and we need to find an answer for them.

At our in-camera meeting on May 28th, there was a lot of good information provided by our manager of operations, some of which council determined could be communicated to the public through a press

release. ***I don't know if this was finalized but I would like to ask for some information to be shared with the public regarding the consulting firm that has been hired by the EOC to evaluate the next steps forward in the response phase.*** I know that council has begun a spread sheet on the things we feel need to be addressed and it would be helpful to know if someone has already taken the lead on these issues. I'm looking forward to the public meeting next week that will speak to diking, the recovery phase and the roles of different agencies and local government.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Butler