

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## District of Summerland – July 2, 2024

---

**Distributed Generation (Net Metering)** – In Committee of the Whole, Council received a detailed briefing on the current program, and considerations for the future. The intent of the program when it was introduced in 2019 was to provide customers with the ability to offset their electricity consumption by installing solar panels, with the electric utility banking or purchasing surplus energy from participants. By all accounts, it has been a success with 118 households now participating. Council provided guidance to staff on changes to make the program more sustainable and accessible. Options will return to Council at a future meeting for further debate and decision.

**Deer Ridge Sewer Local Area Service** – The official process to test the support of residents for a sewer line in Deer Ridge has concluded, and a narrow majority of area residents do not support borrowing for its construction. The concept of a Deer Ridge Sewer remains a focus in Council's published Strategic Priorities (2022-2026) -- the District's contribution has been budgeted and developers along the planned route remain interested. Council heard that exploratory discussions have begun to determine the feasibility of a developer-led project that would see the line built along much of the original route. Any possibility of sewer expansion in this area is now delayed until the 2025 construction season.

**Downtown Neighbourhood Plan Amendments** – 'Downtown Vibrancy' has been a strategic priority of Council for many years. In 2021, the District began engaging the community to develop a *Downtown Neighbourhood Action Plan* to create a strategy and vision for downtown. The plan was adopted in 2022 and Council has now updated OCP land use designations and zoning bylaws to make them consistent with the vision, which includes encouraging residential densification in select areas. The changes will guide future decision-making on land use, maximum building heights, parking strategies, public space enhancements – including Memorial Park, and the creation of vibrant gathering spaces.

**Eco-Village OCP Amendment and Rezoning** – Council will proceed with a public hearing on August 13 on the rezoning of a 67-acre parcel of District land to facilitate the creation of an Eco-Village development with up to 200 new dwelling units. The concept also would result in the protection of 51 acres of that parcel as a park rather than have it remain in the urban expansion area, ensuring its recreational, cultural and ecological values are maintained for future generations. If the proposed OCP amendments and rezoning are approved, the next step would be to proceed with the land sale process.

**Public Art Policy** – A notice of motion was put forward for the District to create, and fund, a public art policy with input from the Summerland Arts Council. Council agreed to consider the motion, along with other strategic priorities, in September.

**Note:** These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all, agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037



13211 Henry Ave, Box 159  
Summerland BC V0H 1Z0  
Tel: 250-494-6451 Fax: 250-494-1415  
[www.summerland.ca](http://www.summerland.ca)