



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Begins Preliminary Budget Discussions

Sechelt, BC – December 10, 2020 – At the November 5 and 6 Special Corporate and Administrative Services Committee meetings, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board began preliminary budget reviews that will be followed by Round 1 and Round 2 budget meetings in February and March.

“Each year the SCRD brings forward projects that are either in-progress or delayed, as well as proposed new projects for consideration at upcoming budget deliberations,” says Lori Pratt, SCRD Board Chair. “Due to COVID-19 and taxation impacts, the 2020-2024 Financial Plan had to be amended, therefore many projects from 2020 were deferred into 2021, including several new staffing positions.”

For 2021, 94 new proposals were presented to the Board for consideration, and an estimated 113 projects are being carried forward from prior years. Carry-forward projects and the associated funding must be included in the 2021-2025 Financial Plan.

Other projects that have been approved that will have financial implications starting in 2021 and beyond, include new long-term debt servicing for Church Road well water metering and several other short-term capital equipment financing such as fire truck replacement.

There are also a number of large-scale projects planned for 2021. These include the regulatory requirement to complete the Sechelt Landfill-Stage H closure, Chapman and Edwards Lake Dam improvements, water treatment plant upgrades for South Pender and Regional Water and the Coopers Green Hall project.

Emerging items that will have financial and resourcing implications, include the implementation of the SCR D’s Fire Services 2019 Strategic Plan, initiatives addressing regional solid waste issues, capital renewal funding for wastewater facilities around the SCR D, funding for lost revenue to operate the Community Recreation facilities, and additional construction of groundwater wells to better safeguard our drinking water supply.

The *Local Government Act* stipulates that a Regional District must adopt a Financial Plan Bylaw annually and institute a public participation process to present the plan. The Financial Plan in the form of a bylaw must be adopted by March 31 of each year.

“The development of the plan includes several different stakeholders, such as community partners, member municipalities, and the public,” says Chair Pratt. “This requires coordination with all the various groups in moving toward the adoption of the Financial Plan.”

Round 1 budget deliberations consider a wide range of projects and cost-based priorities including those from community partners and stakeholders, such as libraries, museums, youth services and economic development entities.

Budget meetings are open to the public and are scheduled to take place on February 1 and 2, 2021 for Round 1. Round 2 budget meetings are scheduled for March 4 and 5, 2021. Agenda packages and information on how to participate electronically will be available at www.scrd.ca/agendas-2020.

“A number of the large-scale projects planned for 2021 come at a significant cost which will result in increases on utility and property tax bills in the coming months,” says Chair Pratt. “What I want our community to know is that these projects are necessary for us to sustain services that we all depend on each and every day in the SCR D.”

The full 2020 Carry-Forwards and 2021 Proposed Initiatives Report is contained within the November 5 and 6 Special Corporate and Administrative Services Committee Agenda Package (Annex E and F) at www.scrd.ca/agendas-2020.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter using #SCRDBudget2021 for regular updates on the 2021 budget.

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