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COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor activities and updates for September 2024.

- The September edition of “Notes from Council” is on my website:
<https://christophernorthcott.com/category/notes-from-council/>
- Attended Regular Meetings of Council on September 4th and September 18th.
- On September 5th I attended the ORRSC Board Meeting virtually over Zoom and it is business as usual at the Planning Commission. They are having to assist with development officer duties in some municipalities, as well as provide some contract services for non-members. The Town of Taber has hired ORRSC to provide it with an Assessment Review Board. There was an excellent presentation on Extreme Modular Buildings: <https://www.extrememodularbuildings.com/> . One of the things they specialize in is setting up satellite fire halls in new development and or disaster recovery centres. The nice thing about these buildings is they can be used for as long as they are needed in one location then folded-up and moved. One of the presenters for this company was Paul Tessier. Paul used to work for MPE Engineering and sits on the City of Lethbridge MPC. The Village of Arrowwood appointed him as one of their appointments to the Chinook Subdivision and Development Appeal Board in the hopes that he would develop some experience (being located in Lethbridge). Should there be interest, Paul and his colleague would be happy to provide the same presentation for County Council.
- On September 11th I attended a four-hour budget meeting at ORRSC as a member of the Executive Committee. We discussed various budget scenarios with our new finance person and CEO to address a re-appearing revenue shortfall that arises from over-estimating the revenue from projects and subdivision while keeping member rates as low as possible. Many municipalities around the table have looked at hiring their own planner in the past and quickly realize that it comes at a cost upwards of a quarter million dollars. While there is a ceiling for high-assessment members (of which Vulcan County is one), there is also a floor to ensure a minimum cost of service for small municipalities. It is anticipated that the floor will need to go up given the growing reliance of small members on ORRSC for development, especially when there is CAO transition and the Development Officer role is suddenly lost. Anyway, you can expect a new direction on budgeting from ORRSC that I will do my best to explain in the context of our interim-budget discussions.



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- On September 19th I attended a virtual meeting with Dr. Craig Coburn and Angelo Nwigwe of MITACs at the University of Calgary. MITACs has closed out of the University of Lethbridge so we are now working with them out of Calgary. We did receive an extension of the Missing Graves Cemetery Project, however, we didn't find out about it until the last week of August, rather than in May or June. As a result, we lost our student intern and Dr. Coburn has had to line up a new person who is one of his PhD students. That said, we have an extension on the project to wrap everything up by the end of August 2025. We have secured all funding from our stakeholders and the Community Foundation of Lethbridge and Southwest Alberta to complete this extension, as well as the development of the GIS profiles for all eight cemeteries, incorporating the missing graves findings into those profiles. The additional time also allows us to use Ground Penetrating Radar where necessary.

Constituent Matters:

- Have dealt with road complaints south of HWY 529, as well as north of HWY 534 in the Berrywater area.
- Sat down area councillors to review Mark DeBoer's thoughts on regional water funding on September 4th and then attended regional water meeting in Arrowwood with municipal partners on September 18th.
- I also attended the meeting of the Village of Champion Council on September 16th with Regional Fire Chief Doug Headrick and CAO Nels Peterson for the presentation and explanation of the fire invoice.