



Christopher Northcott,
Councillor, Division 6
(403) 423-0158
Christopher.Northcott@vulcan.ca

COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor activities and updates for October 2024.

- The October edition of “Notes from Council” is on my website:
<https://christophernorthcott.com/category/notes-from-council/>
- Attended Regular Meetings of Council on October 2nd and October 16th.
- Municipal Development Plan Committee met on October 1st and October 31st. We will be receiving a final draft shortly for committee members to provide feedback on. It has been a tedious process working through each section and going over wording.
- The Board of the Twin Valley Water Commission met on October 3rd and October 24th. We reviewed our budget and discussed ways to make the Commission more financially sustainable. Members were in agreement that the operating costs would all be factored into the calculation of the water rate, including all water line debentures, while the contribution to capital reserves would be raised separately and divided four ways between the membership. As such, the water rate is increasing to \$2.87 per cubic meter while the contribution to capital reserves for 2025 will be \$150,000 or \$37,500 per member municipality.
- Attended retirement party for Kim Sansome on October 4th after working on contract with Vulcan County for forty years. Councillor Laurie Lyckman also attended the retirement party.
- Attended SAEWA Board meetings on October 4th and 25th, as well as vendor presentations on October 18th. The Board has heard from three potential vendors.
- Attended ORRSC Executive Committee meetings on October 10th and 17th. The Executive has spent an extensive amount of time working on its budget, as well as discussing operational challenges for the organization, including succession planning. For the Commission to cover annual fixed expenses through membership fees, rather than unreliable fee for service and subdivision fees, membership fees will increase for 2025. It is planned cover these fixed costs with membership fees over a three-year period, easing all members (large and small) into these changes. For 2025, the mill rate is estimated to increase by 0.031, the fee ceiling will raise to \$108,000 (based on 2024 equalized assessments), and the fee floor will increase to \$5,000.00.



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- Attended Vulcan District Recreation Board on October 15th. This Board had a lengthy discussion on how much to budget for community recreation and culture grants. The consensus was that an annual amount of \$30,000 seemed appropriate and affordable for the district. Otherwise, the Town's Community Services Manager reviewed his budget with the Board and it was approved.
- Attended Champion Recreation Board meeting on October 29th in the Village Office. They have accumulated funds over the last number of year from the village contribution which has been earmarked for the Champion Pool, although worded somewhat differently in the minutes. Will discuss with Mark and Nels the best way for the Board to manage those project fund going forward.

Constituent Matters:

- The Champion District 20 Fire Association had a tremendously successful fundraising event in the Champion Community Hall on October 19th. They raised well-over \$20,000. While I was not able to volunteer and help with the event, I was able to order and pick up the meat at AW Meats, as well as connect with some of the event sponsors and donors to the silent auction.
- Received an inquiry from a resident at Lake McGregor Country Estates regarding the Vulcan District Recreation Board. It was the day after the Board's meeting, however, I suspect that I will be communicating further with this community about the Vulcan District Recreation Board prior to next October.
- Followed up on a few road complaints. I was not able to attend the Coffee With Council in Milo on October 30th, however, I was pleased to hear that there was a strong turnout from Council.