



WHISTLER

REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: July 21, 2020

REPORT: 20-069

FROM: Corporate and Community Services

FILE: 4350

SUBJECT: FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN 2020-2024 AMENDMENT BYLAW NO. 2288, 2020

COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Corporate and Community Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider giving first, second, and third readings to the “Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020”.

REFERENCES

Appendix “A” – Schedule A of “Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020”

Appendix “B” – Schedule B of “Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020”

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This Report seeks adoption of the “Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020”, a bylaw to amend “Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Bylaw No. 2258, 2020” for the purposes discussed below.

DISCUSSION

COVID-19 Reopening

The RMOW has, since March of this year, been reacting to ongoing changes in the operating environment as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. On June 23, 2020, RMOW’s safe reopening strategies were presented to Council (Admin Report 20-055). Staff was directed at that time to prepare a budget amendment consistent with the strategy as outlined. This is that amendment. From a fiscal perspective, the reopening has implications for both revenues and expenditures, relative to what was expected in May. Facilities and Programs have undertaken limited re-openings. This changes the outlook for both revenues (Program Fees, MPSC admissions) and expenditures (staffing to support operations). Visitors are returning gradually to the community. Parking revenues in the second quarter of the year have recovered more quickly than the RMOW expected at the beginning of the pandemic, as have Transit Fares. Provincial agencies have extended relief to the community in areas like Recreation and Transit; these appear as grants revenues and as reduced operating expenditures respectively. These changes are also incremental to where expectations were in May. The planning context that existed at the time Council adopted “Five Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw 2258, 2020” has changed, and as promised the RMOW is adjusting the plan itself to consider the realities of this new environment.

Preparation of the revised 2020 budget remains guided by a wide range of plans and policies, including in particular the RMOW Corporate Plan, and is further informed by information gathered throughout the year through committees as well as ongoing surveys and studies. Some example contributors include the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG), Mayor's Task Force on Resident Housing, as well as input associated with the Official Community Plan and Vision Update.

New Project: Cheakamus Crossing Phase 2 – Road and Utility Infrastructure

An infrastructure project is proposed to facilitate the proposed Cheakamus Crossing housing development located at Parcel A and future parcels for Phase 2 housing development. This project will implement the required utilities to service the proposed housing projects. The work will be completed over three years and the scope is to include: clearing of road allowance, installation of storm, sanitary sewer, water main, and District Energy System (DES) infrastructure. Total value of the project is currently estimated at \$5.8 million. A grant is being sought that would potentially fund 73 per cent of the estimated project cost. Application for the grant was supported by Council resolution on February 18, 2020. The remainder of the expenditure (27 per cent) will ultimately be funded by the developer, but it will be managed and financially backed on an interim basis by the RMOW. Spending related to this project will appear in three different areas in the project budget: T001, E205, and E320, in line with the capital accounts in which the project components will ultimately appear.

OTHER POLICY CONSIDERATION

Section 165 of the *Community Charter* requires municipalities to prepare a five-year financial plan to be adopted annually by bylaw. Once adopted, the plan is in effect until it is amended, and may be amended by bylaw at any time.

The recommended resolutions included within this Report are consistent with the goals, objectives and policies included within OCP Bylaw 2199, 2018.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The five-year financial plan sets the budget for the next five years, and is prepared annually. It can be revised at any time by bylaw, and is being revised to reflect proposed changes. The budgeting process is premised on a longer term outlook in order to maintain relatively stable year to year fluctuations in fee and tax rate changes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The "Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020" is being presented at a Regular Council Meeting consistent with *Community Charter* requirements.

SUMMARY

This Bylaw, the "Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Amendment Bylaw No. 2288, 2020" is to amend "Five-Year Financial Plan 2020-2024 Bylaw No. 2258", in order to reflect changes in the proposed operational and project spending plans in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the re-opening strategy presented to council June 23, 2020 (Admin Report 20-055).

Respectfully submitted,

Carlee Price
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

for
Elizabeth Tracy
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES