



Engine 2 replacement, the brand new Engine P1 Pumper Tender delivered in January (see article below)  
Staff Photo



# From the Bear Pit

## Regional Council Newsletter

February 22 2021

### 2021 Virtual Budget Open House



As a result of current Public Health Orders, the annual Preliminary Budget Open House will be held virtually, in a round-table format on March 3, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Centre.

Participants can connect to the virtual forum at any time and questions can be asked live or passed to the moderator during the event. Questions can also be emailed in advance to [Admin@NorthernRockies.ca](mailto:Admin@NorthernRockies.ca).

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021

**TIME:** 6:00 PM—7:00 PM

**VIRTUAL MEETING LINK:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83356119152>

**PRELIMINARY BUDGET:** <https://nr.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/172990>

### Takashi's Animal Rescue Society Closure

Council received letters from the president and vice-president of Takashi's Animal Rescue Society (TARS), advising of the imminent closure of the shelter that has been maintained on Laura Richter's property for the past five years.

Without support from the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) or the Municipality, the Society is not able to meet the time and financial commitments necessary to continue to operate the shelter. They experienced unanticipated need for their services, both locally and from outlying communities that made it necessary to operate the shelter on a full-time 24/7 basis that is not sustainable by the current operator, who also runs a business from the same location.

TARS is requesting support to develop a free-standing shelter with paid staff to meet the need for humane animal rescue in the Northern Rockies. Council requested that staff investigate the animal control contract with an eye to including animal rescue/welfare services in the contract's scope when it is next renewed. [2021-02-09 Letter from TARS](#) | [Letter from TARS VP A. Belair](#)

CouncilCast



Did you know that you can watch Regional Council meetings (even special meetings) from the comfort of your own home? Click to visit the municipal YouTube channel by searching NRRM or accessing [www.NorthernRockies.ca/councilcast](http://www.NorthernRockies.ca/councilcast)

### 25 Year Award for Fire Chief James Childs

The province awards the British Columbia Long Service Medal to people who have completed at least 25 years of paid or volunteer fire service. The medal recognizes their dedicated and selfless service to their communities and province.

James Childs has served Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies for 25 years, working his way through the ranks to his current position as Fire Chief. We are fortunate to be able to call upon his experience and grateful for his dedication to our region. Congratulations Chief!



### New Fleet Additions Enable Fire Rescue to Retire Engine No. 3

Approved in 2019, Fire Engines No. 2 (19 years in service) and No. 3 (26 years) have been replaced, as indicated in the findings from a 2015 Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) that spoke to the need for apparatus to meet grade standards to maintain existing community fire insurance ratings.

Also as recommended in the FUS, one engine (No. 2) will be maintained in reserve, to ensure an adequate response in the event that the main apparatus is out of service i.e. for repair or maintenance.

Engine No. 3 no longer receives insurance credit grading whether in-service or as a reserve due to its age. Council requested that options for disposal of Engine 3 be explored, including donation or other means consistent with the [NRRM Purchasing Policy](#).

[Administration Report # 10/21](#)

### Also of note...

- Council received for information correspondence from Diane Nicholls, RPF-ADM, Chief Forester, MFLNRORD regarding potential concerns about COVID-19 transmission during the coming tree planting season. [The Provincial Tree Planting Program and COVID-19 Protocols](#). [Attachment](#)

- Council [rose and reported](#) an in camera resolution to contribute \$85,000 to the Community Forest Limited Partnership operating budget with the remainder being requested from community Forest partner Fort Nelson.

