

Councillor Stephen Dafoe Boards and Committee Reports

MEETING 1 - Arrow Utilities Board Meeting Friday, January 24, 2025

I attended the Arrow Board meeting at the facility on Friday, January 24.

1 - Committee Reports

The Board received updates from the four recently created committees: Audit & Finance Committee, Advocacy Committee, Board Development Committee, and Governance & Human Resources Committee.

2 - Administrative Reports

Executive Director and staff gave updates on operations, including Operations and Incidents and Contraventions.

Audit Plan - Received an update on the audit plan for this year, which Admin does not expect the process to be different. Wasserman will again do the audit - second year of doing so. Asset Retirement obligations are part of that as with municipalities. The draft audit will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee prior to the next Board Meeting.

3 - Train 4 Update

Project Cost and Funding Update Report was given. The project still stands at 195 million with a \$2.02 million contingency. Funding allocation sits at:

- \$30 million – Alberta Provincial Debenture (approved on June 16, 2023)
- \$32 million - TD Operating loan (approved on June 14, 2024)
- \$50 million – Alberta Provincial Grant Fund (\$38 million to date)
- \$83 million – Additional TD Operating loan or Alberta debenture

The Administration will evaluate and access the best approach for funding flexibility,

4 - Board Motion

Initially floated at the Audit and Finance Committee, TD offered ARROW an increase to its current overdraft limit from \$2 million to \$5 million. Given the number of line breaks over the past while, Admin sees it as a recommended direction. The discussion included setting barriers to how Admin would use overdraft space. A revision of the policy on how the Administration would use the Commission's operating line of credit will also come forward to the Board. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5 - Bylaw Update

The Bylaw outlines controls for the discharge of pollutants into the sewer system. The last major revision was in 2016. This update is a minor revision with some housekeeping items and no significant changes.

It has been reviewed twice by the Technical Advisory Committee-(Administration from the member municipalities.)

The Board gave the first reading to the *Quality of Wastewater Bylaw*.

After the third reading, municipalities will have two years to update their Source Control Bylaws after final approval.

FIRST READING PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6 - Board Development Committee

The Board Learning and Development Policy was presented and approved. This policy came out of our committee work to require members who go to conferences to first put in a request and show reasons why they want to attend and second bring back a report if they are permitted to go. In the past, each member had a substantial budget to attend conferences yearly. This policy and this term have changed that. The Board Committee will review the policy every four years.

POLICY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7 - Member Municipality Request

ARROW received a request from Parkland County to reconsider its application of overstrength charges for rural residential wastewater treatment. Parkland presented its concerns and how it affects their residents. After discussion, the Administration will craft a response to Parkland County.

Motion to meet with Parkland County Administration to review the concerns and report back to the board.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MEETING 2 - Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC)

I attended the January 23 CSAC meeting at the Cultural Centre. Despite the meeting being short-handed for voting members, enough eventually arrived to form a quorum.

MDP UPDATE: The committee received an hour-plus detailed presentation on the status of the Municipal Development Plan with a fair amount of discussion and questions around the table.

Seniors' Programming: FCSS presented a brief overview of its role and work for the benefit of the two new members present. Our FCSS Adult & Seniors Programmer, Kathleen Cesarin, provided a comprehensive report and presentation on all the work she does for our seniors in an allotted 28 hours per week. The key work is to prevent isolation for seniors. This has included several in-person programs and visits. Highlight has been a 50% uptake on the snow removal program for seniors.