



INFORMATION REPORT

To: Curtis Slingerland, Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Board of Directors, Central Coast Regional District

From: Erin Nevison, Deputy Corporate Officer

Meeting Date: February 22, 2024

Subject: Update - 2024 Budget Engagement Campaign

Voting Entitlement: None – information report.

Purpose: To provide a report on the 2024 budget engagement sessions; how they went, the comments from residents, and attendance.

Background Summary:

In accordance with Policy F-20 “Budget Preparation and Engagement” (passed June 8, 2023), the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) has been in ongoing engagement and preparation for the 2024 budget (Five-Year Financial Plan) since August 2023.

From August 2023 to now, Administration has:

- August 2023: Sent a bulk mail out with information on the budget process, timelines, and how to engage to all CCRD post boxes (that can receive flyers).
- August 2023: Posters (with information on budget process, timelines, and engagement information) were posted throughout the Bella Coola Valley in the notice boxes, and were posted at community message boards throughout the region with help from those living in Bella Bella, Dawson’s Landing, Denny Island, Ocean Falls, and Wuikinuxv.
- August – September 2023: A budget survey was released to hear resident feedback on the 2024 budget. Weekly social media posts were made during this time to gain attention to the survey and encourage feedback. All comments received were included in the October 12, 2023 agenda distributed to the Board of Directors and the public for the October 12 board meeting. There were 124 respondents to the survey.
- February 2024: A draft budget was sent to be posted at community boards by residents in Bella Bella, Dawson’s Landing, Denny Island, Ocean Falls, and Wuikinuxv for residents to review.
- February 2024: Two community budget consultation events occurred.

Budget Engagement February 12th and February 13th:

Administration held two public consultation events for the 2024 budget on February 12th and February 13th.

On February 12th, the CCRD Chief Financial Officer Yene Byun held an online budget presentation at 2:30 PM for all valley residents. The event was live and was recorded. The recording is now available on the CCRD website in ‘2024 Budget’ as well as the slides from the presentation. There were 4 people in attendance online at the time.

On February 13th, CCRD staff held an in-person public house at the CE Centre at the Emmanuel Church. Staff prepared posters with Bella Coola Valley CCRD provided service information including information on local service areas (C, D, and E) and valley wide services. The event ran from 12:00 to 7:00 PM. There were roughly thirty people that attended throughout the day.

Both events had feedback forms available for residents to provide comment on the 2024 budget. The feedback form, as well as all engagement information (PowerPoint slides, etc.), were made publicly available on February 9, 2024. The survey ran from February 9, 2024 to Friday 16, 2024 at 9:00 AM to ensure the comments received could be added to the February 22, 2024 agenda. Any late comments were added as late items or in correspondence to the agenda.

Results of the Feedback Form:

There have been 22 (as of publication February 16th, 2024) viewers online. There was a total of 30 feedback forms received. All comments received (including post-its from the in-person engagement session) are below. There were a couple of people who submitted multiple forms (one resident had issues with the form and informed us). All comments were added below.

Demographics:

- **Electoral Area Participants:** Majority of respondents lived in Area C (17 respondents), with Area D at 8 respondents and Area E had 3 respondents. There were no respondents from Area A or Area B.
- **Demographics:** Majority of respondents were 65+ years old (16 respondents), 6 participants stated they are 45-64 years old, 6 respondents were between 24-44 and we had two 15-24 year old participants.
- **Sessions Attended/Watched:** The majority of respondents attended the in-person session (18 people), 7 people reviewed the February 12 online video, 3 people attended both the online and in-person sessions, and one person attended the online, live engagement session. One respondent registered as attending or reviewing none.

Please note – comments that were deemed inappropriate, cruel and/or rude, included swearing, comments identifying specific individuals (such as individual staff members, etc.) were removed from the public report. These comments will be presented to the Board of Directors in the in-camera/closed February board meeting. Some comments were not legible and/or staff updated the spelling to ensure clarity (areas where spelling was corrected for clarity purposes is outlined in square [] brackets).

Next steps:

As per Policy F-20 Budget Preparation and Engagement, the Board of Directors will be presented with the final version of the budget with tax implications. The Board will consider any final changes, hear any final delegations, review the feedback and comments from public consultation, and provide any final direction to staff for the budget. The public will be encouraged to submit feedback in writing for this meeting. Delegations will be accepted for the February meeting but limited to 60 minutes (1 hour). The Corporate Officer will adjust delegation presentation lengths (limiting presentation times to a maximum of 5 minutes) to maximise the number of delegations that may present in the 60-minute delegation period.

There will no delegations accepted for the March 28, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as per Policy F-20. The CCRD's public input session will be offered as it normally is.

All comments are in Appendix A – Budget Engagement Comments, below.

Options:

None – for information only.

Implications:

None – for information only.

Policy, Bylaw or Legislation Considerations:

Policy F-20 Budget Preparation and Engagement

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- Advances Strategic Plan in Category: _____
- Regular Business - does not advance Strategic Plan.
- Consider adding to the Strategic Plan and allocating resources (staff time, funding) to the project.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Directors of the Central Coast Regional District accept the comments received from the budget engagement sessions and thank the residents who gave comment on the feedback forms and attended (or watched) the budget engagement sessions.

Submitted by: 
Erin Nevison, Deputy Corporate Officer

Reviewed by: 
Curtis Slingerland, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A - Budget Engagement Comments:

Respondents:

Electoral Area A: 0

Electoral Area B: 0

Electoral Area C: 17

Electoral Area D: 10

Electoral Area E: 3

Regional Services Comments:

General Operations:

- Far too many staff.
- Reduce the directors' expenses. For the size of the population served this is out of line.
- Confusing.
- Satisfied with current costs. An increase to support additional staff would be supported.
- Nothing has changed in 20 years. Why this sudden need for my money.
- Concerns about massive price hikes in proportion to service changes.
- Do not exist.
- Why do you need my age?
- This budget is bloated, look where you can cut staffing and costs. Also caps on expense funding. I worked for government and there was a huge amount of oversight and accountability for expenses. There are duplication of services. For example office admin can take care of house numbering and lighting stuff. Also there is a 7% increase in this area for 2024. Why? These are things tax payors want to know about. Also General operations takes up 46% of the budget.
- The board has allow[ed] the CAO to much authority to hire staff.
- Need to make cuts to general operations, there is way too many staff and their travel and expenses should be cut.
- My choice is 0. Select button would not go below 1.
- Staff Wages and expenses? Since Directors cut their expenses, staff expenses should be examined and similarly cut.
- I choose zero but select button would not go below 1. No detail so how can there be transparency. For this presentation, if this section was itemized the public will begin to understand it.
- 25,000 from Growing Community grant to office renos is an outrageous misuse of this fund..., Directors seriously discussed priorities for months...and then staff slid this in rather than using funds for community priorities??'
- More \$ cuts needed - no need for expanding or renos to office & reduce expense accounts.
- Cuts still needed... no need to reno office AND this is the area most people wanted reduced expenses.
- Make more cuts... in staff, wages, expense accounts. NO renos to office.
- Cut staff expenses, no additional hiring, cut Director stipend.
- Too much spent in the past on trips by Directors to UBCM and other conferences. Has the budget for '24 been decreased for this expense?

Emergency Management:

- This service has been dormant for a long time. What are the reasons for the failure of the tripartite agreement for emergency management on the Central Coast?
- Consider partnering with VCH emergency coordinator. This area does not require a full time emergency management personnel. VCH has the expertise and is one of the main players in an emergency event.

- Pretty good.
- As a remote area, more money could be spent towards supporting emergency services (SAR).
- Would like to see more pushing for MOTI engagement for funding and MOTI involvement for quarry feasibility studies. Would like to increase budget to allow more in community travel and participation.
- Worked good the last times it was needed.
- Should surplus be allocated for unforeseen disasters?
- Bill of expense.
- Strongly feel that LOCAL coordinator is needed, NOT someone who lives far away! Even if that person likes the valley and visits often, not good enough in a real Emergency! We NEED someone right here!
- Lower our property taxes.
- Person does not live here? Can they even get here in a big event? What exactly do they do and what would they do in an emergency? Defer to provincial emergency services? If that is the case, waste of money.
- The prerequisite that that the emergency coordinator live in CCRD not living here is a non starter.
- Curious on why this position is required when there is a provincial emergency program person already living in the valley??
- Person needs to live here to observe local conditions, garner information from local long time residents and to be on site if disaster strikes.
- Some good ideas but she is getting carried away applying for grants... even 'free' grants end up costing time and money...case in point the cultural humility training grant... At the very least should be locals doing the training, not an outside nation.
- Person needs to live here to learn seasonal conditions, learn from long time locals and be on site in case of an emergency.
- Seems good but there is too much room for unnecessary overfocus on applying for grants which may be time consuming and costly to administer and if grants like the Cultural Humility grant can't be led by a local person perhaps it should be considered that it is not appropriate that it be done at all?...
- Hire a local! Make more cuts in expenses. No Tax \$ for this until you follow your Bylaws and have committee to oversee the work of the staff person - who should NOT BE WORKING REMOTELY & SHOULD LIVE IN DISTRICT!
- No grant matching funds from tax dollars.
- I see no evidence of activity. I have seen no communication to the public of plans in place. There seems to be NO PLANS FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO SANDBAGS!! These need to be procured before the next flood.

Economic Development:

- Pleased to see recent improvements in the CCRD website. Problematic that EDO lives outside the community. If no one local applied (there are many capable people), maybe it's time for the CCRD to take a hard look at why it is not a desirable employer.
- Would love to see something happen. This position has been in play for years there is no evidence of economic progress in the community.
- A huge waste of \$.
- This is a problem.
- What development?
- More money could be spent towards creating economic opportunities. I understand initially more would have to be spent to create a much needed opportunity in the community.
- Beautification project (small, clean town view, etc.).
- Small business grants or assistance provided through taxation to help small businesses get off the ground. Creating things like Yale, BC to a small business focused town.

- No need to change what's working.
- Which local groups benefit? Specific would be helpful.
- Begin discussions clear and transparent discussions with province on changing our funding model.
- Also a non local person? If it is, the concern is no vested interest in the community and its future.
- The economic officer must be a resident of the region.
- It would be great to meet this person to see what his thoughts are?
- Person needs to live here to learn area strengths and local residents needs , skills.
- There should be NO funds spent on 'projects' until the bylaw requirements are met...a local committee in place to provide oversight ...esp. since the current staff member lives out of the valley and has no idea about our community...cut the tax requisition amount of 59,000 and do not provide the 97,000 to 'match funds ' with grants applied for of 59,000 The repeated remark by the EDO in his report to the Board in the Sept meeting ...that he was working on 'Hail Mary' projects is horrifying. Why [s]pend any time at all on things he feels are last ditch attempts..., either they really aren't worth considering, or he, being an outsider, does not understand why these were on the table in the first place...He needs the guidance of a local committee If locals are not interested in doing thus then does that not say that the whole idea is a bit 'off base'/ unnecessary... just because some govt official thought money should be spent on their idea of 'cultural humility' dies mean we need to but that idea [...]
- Person needs to live here to be able to learn strengths of the area and source local skills.
- No Tax money should be allotted for 'grant matching' until and unless Bylaw conditions are met...there needs to be oversight by a local economic committee ...particularly since the current EDO is out of town and definitely out of touch with community needs and priorities. If, as stated in a report to the Board he is dealing with 'Hail Marys' clearly he doesn't understand why projects he feels have 'no hope of being successful it is obvious that he doesn't understand local priorities and needs the help of a local committee before he is turned loose to apply for irrelevant grants that require tax dollar support.
- No matching funds for grants until projects are reviewed by a local economic development committee as required in your bylaws ...so next year...cut this from the 2024 budget.
- Hire officer who LIVES HERE.
- Hire LOCALLY - someone who lives here.
- No matching funds for grants until projects are reviewed by a local economic development committee as required in your bylaws ...so next year...cut this from the 2024 budget.
- Appears to be a waste of \$. Is there any outcome measurement/accountability/deliverables expected.

Land Use Planning:

- An updated Official Community Plan is long overdue!
- Great idea let's see some progress not just shutting down.
- Ban old growth clear cuts.
- Consult us, we are the experts.
- None.
- Land use was signed twenty years ago on February 12th.
- Housing is such an ongoing issue. Further funding or taxation on seasonal rentals would be greatly appreciated.
- Derelict buildings for within CCRD – Bella Coola.
- Not enough for common workers.
- Any red tap to be aware of with the grants? Removing and code changes could prove incredibly expensive?
- Lower our property taxes.

- The development applications costs should be the responsibly of the developer of the property.
- Developers need to pay all costs from building projects to dismantling when use ceases.
- Cut the 20,000 tax requisition in this function. What is the teality [reality?] of 1000\$ in App Admin costs? How many staff hours does this represent? It seems like a small amount, but it adds up.
- Developers need to pay all costs from start of project to dismantling at the end of useful life.
- Reduce the proposed 20,000 from taxes \$\$\$ in this area.

Feasibility Studies:

- Please defer to a year that the communities can better afford to undertake feasibility studies.
- Set some priorities for the community and follow through.
- Set some priorities for the community.
- Consult us, we are the experts.
- Poorly done.
- Enough of them. Quit raising our taxes!
- Similar to economic development, more funding to create a well functioning and sustainable community is greatly appreciated.
- Rezoning options for changing properties outside of the ALR.
- Potential purchasing options of pieces of land to utilize under utilized land for economical development opportunities like affordable housing.
- To many studies, costs too much.
- Good to see reductions. Would benefit to see what studies are required and why?
- Cost too much.
- Good place to trim budget.
- No explanation of what the studies are to achieve and possible costs to taxpayers
- Would be great if the CCRD spent less on this.
- Can't afford any.
- What is the average cost to have one of your consultants do a feasibility study? It appears that with 43,0000 brought forward, it is not necessary to add any additional amounts. The only realistic upcoming study would be for the Denny Island wharf...the other two..911 is a pipe dream of some sort and dog control at this time only requires a well designed local area survey way off na [sentence ended like this.]
- Can't afford any.
- What does a feasibility study actually cost? If there is already 43,000\$ in this fund why throw in another \$15,000 in this fund There is really little need for any studies then this is not the time to build that fund by unnecessarily applying tax dollars from this year's funds...No funds for 'pipe dream' projects like a local 911 study.
- ENOUGH \$\$\$ SPENT!
- No more feasibility studies.
- Stop doing more studies.
- The feasibility study for the running of the swimming pool was a waste of money. Experts from outside the valley are not in touch with the realities including positive resources of a very small place.

Grant-in-aid:

- Grant in Aid is directly funded by property taxpayers. It is not, nor ever was, intended to fund other levels of government, or organizations that are fully funded by government/tax dollars, such as school districts, regional district commissions, or First Nations. If this is not actually illegal, it is most certainly immoral.
- When required.
- Useful for community groups.

- Just more tax money.
- Which non-profit groups benefit? A breakdown would be much appreciated.
- Are government authorities eligible for grant-in-aid?
- Not enough.
- Lower our property taxes.
- Don't hire grant writers. Very disappointing to here [hear] at last meeting that the composting study money was sent back to government. Would have been a good community project.
- Just a budget item no explanation we're [where] the money is proportioned to.
- Who monitors that funds get to applicants.
- Please carefully consider how this could possible need 500 to 'advertise', and certainly the amount of staff time spent to administer does not warrant 1000\$ in App Admin... As in a few other functions 1000 may not seem significant but it adds up...What is the reality of 1000...how many staff hours does thus represent?
- Who oversees dispersal of funds to end user.
- What type of 'advertising' would actually cost 500\$... make a cut here...Also as with several other functions ...how is the 1000\$ arrived at for Apportioned Administration...What is the actual cost of staff time spent on advertising, receiving and allocating the 22,000\$ surely not 40 hours?
- WE DONT NEED A NEW GRANT WRITER WHEN GRANTS ALREADY ESTABLISHED ARE NOT BEING MANAGED PROPERLY.
- Need to manage grants already started.
- Cut advertising \$\$ AND app admin.

Library (VIRL)

- Very little local control. C'est la vie.
- Adequate.
- The VIRL no is a valued service. We should consider running our own library.
- Good.
- Great resource!
- An important service – increased access and amenities would be supported.
- Top notch.
- Very few people use this.
- Would board members wages weigh in on projected costs?
- Get rid of it.
- Quit using average property tax amounts as that doesn't reflect that at best, 25% of the properties are paying the majority of tax collected with no consideration of whether the owner can actually afford to pay or not.
- What is causing this budget to increase?
- Fix cost.
- Valuable to enhance general well being and education of all residents. Very little control over costs as VIRL sets rates
- What were the discussions around this increase with VIRL.
- Necessary to enhance the education and general well being of all residents. Very little control of costs as VIRL sets the rate.
- What actually discussions with VIRL about their proposed increase...the library is necessary but what is the justification for this much of an increase?
- Don't have last years (2022) actual expenditure figures – so unable to tell if budget is more or less service.

Additional Comments/General Comments:

- My feeling is we need more federal money through the band to take pressure off the tax base and I would suggest more is done to reduce expense.
- Please consider sending only the Chair and the CAO to the UBCM Convention, and perhaps only the Area A director to the AVICC Convention. Nothing is gained by parading the entire board down to UBCM, at significant cost to the tax payers. In

fact, valuable time is wasted on introductions for five people. Chair, CAO, and a well reasoned briefing note would achieve as much, or more, and cost the tax payers far less. The entire board attending presents as very arrogant.

- It's all costing too much \$.
- Building more government trashes the community.
- Not enough community input who making decisions.
- Thank you for offering multiple engagement pathways and creating an accessibility focused engagement in both styles – for those that do not wish to be in person and prefer an online environment and also the opposite.
- We desperately don't need this many CCRD people.
- Not enough time to make a comment.
- Lower our property taxes.
- General Operations needs more transparency. How much is spent in each area of staffing? More detail How many staff and contractors who live out of town are being paid and what for? Generally more transparency in this area could satisfy people's concerns. The way things look generally is that the present increases are not sustainable within our small tax base. A small amount of property owners are paying for services used by many residents. It would have been nice to have an public interactive budget meeting. I found it hard to follow the online presentation.
- More clarity the average taxpayer doesn't understand the way it is presented you are going to get the answers you want it's just another useless Survey.
- Not sure why there needs to be approximately 90,000 set aside for office renovations??? And I would hope that staff aren't getting raises when so many people in the valley are struggling.
- Not enough detail on Operational budget. Needs to be itemized for transparency. Other classifications need to be defined with an explanation of their respective functions.
- Up from 688,000 to 747,000???? The community has REPEATEDLY said that this is not acceptable! Thank you Jim for taking the lead in cutting Directors expense, Now consider the financial and 'emotional' impact of making a cut to Directors stipend.. After all no one is 'in this for the money', The 25,000 from the Growing Communities fund allotted to Office Renos definitely is inappropriate ...The viewing of Board meetings shows that Directors had other priorities for 'community projects' How did this get 'slipped in'? Office renos should definitely not be an option at this time!
- I wonder how many residents skip this survey because they don't understand the budget or what the services entail. The budget as presented is likely in the accepted format in the world of finance but I think the average person would need it explained in words.
I found the in person presentation Feb. 13/24 . which was misnamed as "consultation", very frustrating because of lack of detail, ie breakdown of expenditures.
- Keep the overall increase in this section to 0 like was done in other sections...remember there was already a 325% increase last year ...and then an over budget actual cost...Most survey respondents DID indicate that they wanted cuts made here...why ask, if you don't intend to listen.
It is totally irresponsible to spend so much in tax \$\$ on communicating with us (summer survey, open house and this survey) if there is no serious intention of paying attention to what is being said...What has been the costs involved in this 'public engagement?.
- Cut the 1000 App Admin in all the functions...What staff time is actually spent on each certainly not 1000\$... a small point but it does add up.
- Show commitment to local economic development by designing jobs for locals!
Cut staff expense accounts similar to cuts made in Director's expenses!
- NO office reno contingency ... no renos needed.
Make CUTS to staff expense accounts.

- More cuts needed!

C and D Services:

Hagensborg Waterworks:

- What was the reason for the CCRD taking on this Improvement District/Service? It certainly is not being run more efficiently. How much staff time is allocated to this service?
- Need more flushing during high use times in spring summer as lines get so dirty.
- The Board needs to resist the downloads from senior governments.
- They still have a boil water advisory.
- What is "grant funding project"? Payback or something else?
- We have to always boil our water. I have a skin problem.
- Whatever you do, NO CHLORINATION!! In this modern world, we can do better than chlorination! Pure water is worth more than gold!
- I'd like to see some progress on this project. There seems to be significant funding available.
- Lower our property taxes.
- What is the plan with the millions of dollars still sitting there from the previous waterworks district.
- Would be nice to get an update from the CCRD on where they are on the system upgrade??
- N/A. Confusing. I am in Area C but not in Hagensborg Waterworks.
- N/A I am in are C but not in Hagensborg Waterworks

Hagensborg Fire Protection:

- I would like to see the Hagensborg Fire Dept. avail itself of the free/very economical training offered by Cariboo Regional District VFD's.
- No concerns.
- Good service.
- Why spending \$40k on a part time co-ordinator fire departments have done well for over 50 years.
- Support needed for all fire departments. Extra costs needed for position to manage new purchases.
- Big expense hike in operations, care to elaborate?
- If false info is being spread, tells us the facts.
- I think many small communities are dealing with the limitations of volunteer fire departments – which none the less have served us well over the years [.]
- I choose zero but select button will not go below 1. Not applicable to me. This section is confusing because I am in area c but not in Hagensborg Fire Protection.
- I choose zero but the select button would not go below 1. This question is not applicable to me. I am in area C but not in Hagensborg Fire Protection.
- We do not need to fire a supervisor for the Fire Chiefs. But they do need the support of the Regional District when they request # new equipment, etc.

Any Additional/General Comments:

- Lots of fuzzy information, could be easy to exaggerate [word was unclear] concern.

C, D, and E Shared Services:

House Numbering:

- Pretty straight forward and doesn't require a contingency fund. It takes 10 minutes to assign a new house number.
- Seems like a simple task and from talking with folks who used to do it, it is.
- It was done by a student as a summer job.

- We have house numbering already [.] Why are you hiring another employee when the survey results said cut taxes of staff.
- Needs more visibility.
- Would appreciate house numbering to Google for accurate locating servicing.
- If you don't want if your choice this is not a communist country.
- Neutral.
- Do not need.
- Lower our property taxes.
- Admin staff at office can do this. They did before. Very small amount of work.
- I thought it had been completed.
- Is this not a completed issue? Needs explanation of what is being budgeted.
- What is the teality [reality] of 1000\$ in App Admin costs? How many staff hours does this represent? it seems like a small amount but it adds up.
- Is this not completed. What is budget money used for.
- Cut the 1000 App Admin in all the functions...What staff time is actually spent on each certainly not 1000\$... a small point but it does add up.
- A realistic look at these budget amounts indicates its unreasonable. And if no houses are numbered how is the 40 hours spent on this function?
- How is the 40 hours spent?
- Cut the 1000 App Admin in all the functions...What staff time is actually spent on each certainly not 1000\$... a small point but it does add up.
- The amount of work to administer this should be negligible. There is no likely development of new housing in the next year.

Bella Coola Airport:

- Is there now a tax requisition for this service? If so, there should be a matching contribution on behalf of the Nuxalk Nation.
- Adequate.
- We need it.
- Don't know.
- Good enough.
- Neutral.
- Difficult to understand what budget figures relate to when such generalizations are given. E.g., Bella Coola airport – I understand the CCRD owns other buildings in addition to the terminal buildings, but these are not mentioned. Where do they fit in re: income and expenses. What type of "income", what type of "expenses"?
- Good.
- Why does the CCRD use a huge power point presentation when what people are mainly interested in where their taxes are being spent, beyond wages and travel cost.
- No need to hire a person with a title just hire a causal help to look after the day to day needs of the airport.
- Need to know what buildings are owned/operated by CCRD. My guess is that most of the general public.
- How many buildings in addition to the terminal building does the CCRD own/manage/maintain? Is it feasible to use some un occupied space for board meetings or public meetings?

Centennial Pool:

- I have no word, or very few. This service was operated efficiently by a volunteer commission. How much paid staff time is now being spent on this service? And where is the Contribution Agreement that should be in place?
- Dismal performance from the Board and Management.
- Waste of money. Plenty of other swimming areas.
- Why does the pool have an "Operation Budget" if the pool is not operating.

- There was 3 million dollars from Interfor and match funds from Mr. Dosagh's election promises economic development was stating we will do it out [our] Way.
- Glad that the tank is getting repaired no way that the taxpayers would be able to afford the maintenance of the pool. We have a very small % of taxpayers.
- Don't use.
- Looking at yearly potential service fees for an indoor portion/pool would be beneficial for the valley in a year-round use.
- Close it!
- More transparency on issues, please.
- 10 tubes of silicone.
- Lower our property taxes.
- Glad to see the renovation project may go ahead.
- Will the pool upgraded or closed. Careful of continually reducing services while increasing staffing. Not a good look.
- Get on with building a new one, keep volunteers involved.
- Very necessary to see this through.., with the guidance of John and the pool committee.
- Let the pool commission run/manage the pool and hire local expertise.
- Stop wasting money on studies & get the new pool built.
- Get the project done.
- I appreciate the Board's efforts to support this.

Valley Street Lightning:

- Pretty straight forward. One question: were (and when were) the Valley Street Lighting and Bella Coola Townsite Streetlighting services merged?
- Adequate.
- The power bill is how much?
- Lights at major intersection enough.
- Need lights from tower to 4 mile.
- Consider improvements.
- Do not need.
- The new lights are stupidly bright! If I lived near one of those streetlights I would be complaining big time! Light pollution at night!
- No need to hire someone from out of town consultant for this.
- Non issue status quo.
- What is the teality [reality] of 1000\$ in App Admin costs? How many staff hours does this represent? it seems like a small amount but it adds up.
- Already established. Is budget \$ for maintenance?
- Again ...What does the 1000 in apportioned admin actually represent...This seems like an insignificant amount but when it is inserted into several functions it adds up...How is 1000 arrived at? What amount of staff time would actually be spent on this...cut it in half in each function.
- Cut the 1000 App Admin in all the functions...What staff time is actually spent on each certainly not 1000\$... a small point but it does add up.

Bella Coola Parks and Recreation:

- Considering the use of this service, there should be a Contribution Agreement in place with the Nuxalk Nation.
- Sure would be great to see the rink resurfaced consider the pickleball group in this as well to make the rink an all season recreational facility.
- OK.
- Why were toxic chips places at the playground?
- More money could be spent to increase services.
- Too many parks.
- Neutral.

- More lies.
- Keep it simple there are good volunteers that make it work.
- Foster volunteerism and have local committees choose playpark designs from commercial suppliers or local artisans.
- Would like to see repaving of tennis courts for pickleball while paving is being done on the ice rink and skateboard park. School Board may contribute a good portion of the costs. Need request by CCRD.

Solid Waste Management:

- \$105k (approximately), versus \$180k (approximately), is not in keeping with the spirit nor intention of the Contribution Agreement. The tax requisition for this service should be reduced to match the NN [Nuxalk Nation] contribution, if the current staff cannot address the Contribution Agreement to increase the contribution of the Nuxalk Nation.
- Concerned folks may dump illegally in the bush due to high tipping fees.
- The old landfill had socializing and tourists. The new place is unfriendly. A lot of dead wildlife.
- Happy that the composting has been cancelled, we know [how] to compost.
- A commercial shredder would be good.
- It [s] working, what's the problem.
- Please stop gouging businesses.
- Income – I notice 'Local Taxation' is approximately 70,000 + compared to Nuxalk Nation contribution. It may be wrong but it seems, per capita, Nuxalk members on reserve are at least 50% of valley total population. Please make a good effort to make this more equitable.
- Lies.
- Without REAL reuse-repair-upcycling facility, we're doomed.
- I recognize it is a major concern for the future and could be very expensive to close the landfill.
- Apparently the plan is for no service level within 5 years? What will we do then? It looks like the Nuxalk Agreement has lapsed and has not been re-negotiated. They are supposed to match local taxation. To add tax increases here is unfair and throwing good money after bad if we are not going to catch up anyway and if we do not have money from the Nuxalk for the dump. What is the plan for getting the agreement completed? Who at the CCRD is responsible for getting this done?
- Do scare the taxpayers with the cost of putting the land fill to bed I was first on the board in 1986 the land fill was a problem then it was nearing its end that was 37 years ago if things a[r]e improved how it run it will be still operating 37 years from now stop throwing those imaginary figures out there for shutting it down.
- Would be great to see the board investigate purchasing adjacent land to continue to use the landfill location.
- To think this community can raise your projected amount of money and the landfill will soon be "full" is unrealistic. Lobby our provincial and Canadian govt's. to stop global manufacturers from building failure and shortened life spans into their products
- Why isn't an increase being required for Nuxalk Nation? The current ratio does not reflect current usage...Was the CCRD not asked to up their contribution to the Nation for townsite water? Why aren't the fed govt policies for SWM [Solid Waste Management]
- In rural and indigenous communities being investigated? Es [unsure of word]?
- What about the Nuxalk contribution...It is not in line with current usage What about federal policies for rural and Indigenous communities. Why is this not being investigated, [end of sentence]

Additional Comments/General Comments:

- Contribution Agreements are needed for several services. It is unfair and insulting for the taxable properties to be carrying virtually all of the cost burden. This cannot wait another ten years for a revised funding framework. Make it fair now, then lobby senior governments for change.
- Stray animal management/ shelter or migrate out of the valley.
- We want less government.
- Nope! Keep up the good work – its apparently a very thankless job. But on the bright side you have passionate sign makers available if there is a need in the future.
- Taxes too high, very little services.
- As always, more info to public access is better.
- These are very valid community concerns about rising property taxes. We are not a large community and have a limited tax base – many residents have limited income,
- I find it lacking that there is no opportunity under "Communication and Engagement "to write a comment!
- What purpose has this survey served? It is not addressing the huge tax increase of 2023. We need townhall meetings where the CCRD board of directors and staff can answer taxpayers' questions, and all attendees can hear the discussion. Taxpayers need to learn how our governance works so they can better understand what our board and staff are dealing with.
- Far too much \$\$ and too little sincere interest spent on Public engagement.
- Take a realistic look at these amounts in budget.
- Check out the actual amount /time on those functions - pretty unreasonable!

Area E (Townsite)

Townsite Street Lighting:

- What is the teality [reality] of 1000\$ in App Admin costs? How many staff hours does this represent? it seems like a small amount but it adds up.

Bella Coola Fire Protection:

- N/A, other than this department could also benefit from support/training from the Cariboo VFDs.
- The fire protection in the past was mixed. I appreciate there are some volunteers.

Bella Coola Waterworks:

- The water has been wonderful.

Additional Comments/General Comments on Improvements:

- More than lip service is required. There is better consultation, on the face of it, but the board is not receiving the information/advice very well. In fact, the board appears to be busy arguing with the taxpayers who are paying virtually all of the bills.
- Not enough time to comment.
- Why is there only an option for where do I live...What about where is my business located?

How to improve the engagement next year:

- The board needs to become more visible and engaged with the community to build trust.
- Consult us, we are the experts. Why do a survey and ignore the results.
- Reduce the CCRD staff to minimal. This is a sleepy smalltown that has lost its world renown reputation.

- Lower taxes, a cut of staff and hiring of consultants. Stop hiring. Reduce staff. Monitor Director and CAO expense claims.
- Keep us in the loop between times.
- Cut taxes, cut CCRD jobs.
- More transparency and more convenient dates. Tax hikes scare everyone – more info is always better. Money must be spent wisely.
- Mostly lies.
- The current funding model is not sustainable. And how can we approve anything with all the pertinent info? A+ on the shiny posters.
- Comparisons to previous years financial statements would help. The consolidated audited statements aren't helpful with details.
- Surveys as you presented here are not worth the paper it's written on.
- Giving people a few more days to fill out the budget feedback form would be nice.
- What did all this cost?? It would have been much more effective just to meet with AND LISTEN TO Residents in the first place, isn't that the Directors jobs are?
- Townhall meetings
- More 'real concern' for public opinion...and far less \$\$ spent on fake 'public engagement.
- Sincere interest in listening to and considering public opinions.
- More time to complete survey after information sessions.
- Not enough notice about sessions & not enough time for survey was given.
- Even this survey has flaws ... had to retype everything. And why can't score be 0 on all sections? It stays at #1.
- Sincere interest in listening to and considering public opinions.
- Need some explanation. Would welcome newsletters or newspaper articles. Would like an actual expenditure column from previous year (2022) to compare to present yr. budget.