

June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting of Sparwood Council

Petitions, Delegations and Other Presentations

Quarterly RCMP Update

Presenter: Staff Sergeant Svend Nielsen, Elk Valley RCMP

- Staff Sergeant Svend Nielsen presented the RCMP quarterly update covering January to March 2026.
- Nielsen highlighted several policing statistics from the reporting period, including:
 - Two business break-and-enters, which he noted was unusual for Sparwood.
 - Two vehicle thefts, including one incident involving the use of a vehicle without the owner's consent.
- During the February highway closure between Sparwood and the Alberta border, RCMP officers provided additional patrols and responded to traffic incidents.
- Elk Valley RCMP began using the HealthIM mobile application during mental health crisis calls. The application:
 - Supports officer decision-making during mental health-related calls.
 - Allows officers to complete a mental health screening through the mobile application.
 - Enables information collected during the assessment to be securely shared with hospital staff.
- Nielsen provided fraud prevention presentations to residents at the Sparwood Seniors' Centre.
- RCMP officers visited Sparwood schools on five occasions during the reporting period.
- Current policing priorities include:
 - traffic enforcement
 - impaired driving
 - community visibility
 - prolific offender management
 - South Country patrols
- Summer traffic enforcement is planned for Michel Creek Road.

Community Services Organizational Excellence Update

- Community Services staff presented an organizational excellence update as part of a new initiative for each department to provide annual presentations to council.
- Department highlights included:

- **Administration:** installation of an elevator at the Recreation Centre, collaboration on summer camps, addition of a new fitness instructor and replacement of flooring in the front desk area.
- **Youth Action Sparwood (YAS):** celebration of its 10th anniversary, delivery of 25 programs with 753 youth registrations, continued success of Rock School and ongoing Columbia Basin Trust funding.
- **Aquatics:** repairs to pool and hot tub leaks, continued school swimming lessons, support for the Elk Valley Dolphins swim club and ongoing challenges recruiting lifeguards.
- **Maintenance:** improvements to the Community Hall, kitchen and other municipal facilities.
- **Facilities:** expanded security and key-card access, upgraded lighting in the pool foyer, installation of a covered shade structure at the dog pound and creation of new office space in the Municipal Office.

Bylaws

Bylaw No. 1373, 2026 Election and Assent Voting Bylaw

- Staff reported that the bylaw consolidates and modernizes Sparwood's election framework.
- Council adopted the bylaw.

Bylaw No. 1374, 2026 Development Cost Charges Bylaw

Presenter: Patrick Sorfleet

- Staff presented a proposed Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw intended to help recover a portion of the infrastructure costs associated with community growth.
- The accompanying background report identified approximately:
 - \$1.5 million in growth-related water infrastructure costs.
 - \$6.7 million in sanitary sewer infrastructure costs.
 - \$1.7 million in protective services infrastructure costs.
- Staff presented a proposed schedule of development cost charges. The proposed charge for a new low-density residential dwelling is \$15,536.
- Council discussed the proposed rates, how they compare with neighbouring communities and the importance of seeking feedback from developers, realtors and industry representatives.
- Council gave first and second reading to the bylaw.
- A public open house was scheduled for June 24 at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers to gather feedback on the proposed bylaw.

Business

Community Funding and Support Request

Sparwood Minor Ball Association

- The Sparwood Minor Ball Association requested \$1,500 in Category 2 Community Funding and Support to offset field rental fees through a cash-back program.
- Staff reported that \$7,243 remained in the 2026 Category 2 funding budget. Approval of the request would leave a remaining balance of \$5,743.
- Council noted that the Sparwood Mixed Slow Pitch League had previously requested assistance with field rental fees.
- Discussion included the new hourly field rental fees introduced for the current season and whether the fee structure should be reviewed before next season if it proves unaffordable for user groups.
- Council approved the \$1,500 funding request. The motion carried with two councillors opposed.

2025 Annual Report

- Council approved the 2025 Annual Report.

Committee of the Whole

Draft Cross Connection Control Bylaw

Presenter: Darrell Kaisner

- Staff presented a draft Cross Connection Control Bylaw intended to support compliance with Sparwood's operating permit and protect the municipal drinking water system.
- Staff explained that cross-connections occur when the potable water system is connected to a non-potable water source, creating the potential for contaminants to enter the drinking water system through backflow.
- The proposed bylaw establishes requirements for the installation, maintenance and annual testing of backflow prevention devices.
- Council discussed several implementation questions, including:
 - whether residential irrigation systems would require check valves
 - costs for homeowners
 - whether requirements would apply to existing homes or only new construction
 - whether annual testing would apply to residential or commercial systems
 - how the program would be administered
 - annual inspection costs
 - reporting fees for inspections and backflow testing

- the overall level of risk posed by cross-connections
- Council requested additional information regarding the anticipated cost to homeowners before proceeding.
- Council also requested clarification of the proposed fines schedule.

Internal Reports

Staff Report

Payments Expended for April 2026

- Council received the report. No discussion occurred.

Bylaw Enforcement Month-End Report

May 2026

- Council received the report. No discussion occurred.

These notes are published as part of the Documenters Canada project, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Inspirit Foundation. These notes are released under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence and may be freely used with attribution to Documenters Canada.