

Arrowsmith Residents Association (Area F)
Meeting - March 25, 2025
Coombs, BC

There were approximately 40 people in attendance

1. Call to order at 7PM by Miranda Scott, Chairperson

2. Introductions of guest speakers

3. Review of Minutes of February 18 meeting

Minutes of previous meeting February 18 and topics arising tabled at this time to allow for special presentation

4. Review of agenda for March 25, 2025 meeting

Similarly tabled to allow for special presentation

5. Taxpayer Alliance: Presentation by Wayne Stark and Rudi Widdeshoven

5.1 Rudi presented information on the upcoming referendum request for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre in Qualicum Beach. The referendum is to ask for taxpayers permission to borrow 30 Million dollars for upgrading and enlarging the centre. The request does not include operating costs. The loan will be carried by the taxpayers of the RDN for 20 years.

Rudi stated that the North Nanoose Residents Association has shown a strong 'No' from its surveyed members. It is strongly suggested that we all need to vote on April 5 and also to attend the boundary meeting for Area F On May 8 or 13. It was stressed that the improvements need to be considered at a later time due to the economic times facing the taxpayers of the RDN

5.2. Wayne Stark representing the Taxpayers Alliance of the RDN presented an overview of the budgets presented by the RDN prior to Dec 31, 2024 and currently as of March 25, 2025. He reported that the budget was not passed at the RDN today at the RDN meeting but that it would be brought to vote again this Friday possibly.

The presentation highlighted where potential overruns and perhaps lack of attention to planning detail is creating a significant cost increase to the taxpayers. This budget also does not reflect the increases in taxes if the ravensong referendum is passed and the requests for a new hospital tower at the NRGH is approved.

It was suggested by attendees that perhaps some of the projects could be deferred or reduced in scope in keeping with the economic times we are in. The taxpayers of the RDN are facing up to a 90% increase in taxes over the next 5 years.

Thanks to both Rudi and Wayne for their presentations and volunteerism!

6. New Business tabled until next meeting with the exception of the following:

6.1 RDN Referendum re: loan for Ravensong Centre Loan April 5.

6.2. Boundary Study Meeting: May 8, 6:30 - 8:30 Bradley Centre and May 13, 6:30 to 8:30 Arrowsmith Hall

6.3 A show of hands of the members attending the meeting indicated that there was no support for the approval of the loan for the ravening expansion - Please ensure that you vote!!!

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Next meeting will be held at the Hall on the fairgrounds. Stay tuned for the date and time.