

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WEBSITE COMMENTS

Comment 1

"When I moved here 10.000 people now 40.000 people. What do you do with all the money you get?? Worse now than ever. We pay for services that aren't there. Police fire clean water streets falling apart. I maintain the road by my house so ederly don't get hurt. Please stop Airbnb so families can find homes."

FVRD Response:

The purpose of property taxes is to fund services, such as schools, maintenance of roads, police services, transit, hospitals, etc. Property owners pay property taxes to the Province. Not all property taxes go to the FVRD. For example, the portion of property taxes that fund RCMP services are given to other agencies because the FVRD does not provide RCMP services.

The approach for taxation remains conservative and focused on fiscal management. Where possible, Staff continue to focus on securing external funding to offset the tax burden on property owners and in many cases proposed increases are below inflationary levels, which were nearing seven per cent at the end of 2022. The FVRD manages approximately 120 unique service area budgets which provide General Government, Protective, Transportation, Environmental Health, Environmental Development, Recreation and Culture, as well as utilities services.

The FVRD provides several fire protection services for Electoral Areas; however, does not have an operational role in police services, or road maintenance. There are new project initiatives for fire protection such as new fire truck purchases, as well as expansion of the FireSmart Program which has been supported by Electoral Area Directors.

The FVRD provides permitting and inspection services for new construction; however, does not have an operational role in expanding housing availability.

Comment 2

"Are we prepared for a drought or flooding"

FVRD Response:

The FVRD provides Emergency Management services to the Region, including preparedness, response, and recovery measures for disasters and recognizes that changing environments and weather patterns increase the potential for hazardous events. Since the 2019 Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) audit, the FVRD made many improvements, such as separate Emergency Management and Fire Services, Emergency Management organization, bylaws, Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) facility, an Electoral Area H evacuation plan, etc. The FVRD's ongoing initiatives include emergency planning, organization and community preparedness, as well as Emergency Support Services and EOCs.

Comment 3

"1. Work with BC Ministry of Mines to "TOTALLY STOP ALL GRANDFATHERED ACTIVE QUARRY /GRAVEL PITS WITHIN FVRD ELECTORAL AREAS". -The rock dust air pollution is extremely harmful to all citizens/families in close proximity to these active mines. - Mines ignore "blasted "FLY ROCK" TO NEARBY HOMES AND ANIMALS. - Mines have ignored MOE/DFO regarding endangered cutthroat trout in Creek/ stream, also having salmon IN SAME AREA PER DFO DOCUMENTATION FROM 1948! Mines permit operator completely ignore community complaints to enforce compliance to remedy problems. Home /buildings have ongoing air and ground vibration damage from high level ongoing permit blastings and likely aquifer damage has happened but no testings done to ensure aquifer safety. FVRD NEEDS TO NEGOTIATE THIS "LACKADAISY" MINES approach of compliance to COMMUNITY SAFETY CONCERNS. 2. Our aquifers in all FVRD electoral areas require "full lidar analysis" to ensure no loss of potable water to homeowners. FVRD NEEDS TO Plan to ADD THIS COST TO OUR NEW BUDGET COSTS! SAFE POTABLE WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR US HUMANS TO LIVE! 3. FVRD needs to WORK WITH MOF to ensure safer harvesting methods not to CLEARCUT TREES CAUSING SLIDES WITH RAIN WATER RUNOFF FOR BOTH CROWNLANDS AND WOODLOTS in all electoral areas. FVRD NEEDS TO NEGOTIATE WITH MOF FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL HARVESTING TO ALSO NOT DAMAGE ENDANGERED BIRD AND WILDLIFE, BEES, AND NOT TO USE CHEMICAL SPRAYING that can leech into endangered salmon/toad streams and into our potable water aquifer sources. 4. Costs for RCMP AND EMERGENCY services, CRISIS Events etc. need better coverage for our Electoral areas so definitely increase our tax basis to have increased RCMP designated with MORE COVERAGE, not this current RCMP occasional coverage. 5. FVRD MUST WORK WITH FHA TO REINSTATE MISSION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TO HAVE FULL HOSPITAL SERVICES IE MATERNITY, ICU, SURGERY, CARDIAC, PEDIATRICS, LOCAL REHAB. WITH PT & OT, PSYCHIATRY needs with HIGH LEVEL DR. /RN SPECIALISTS AS WE USED TO HAVE BEFORE FHA DOWN GRADED OUR "HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL" MMH HOSPITAL SERVICES. ARH IS NOW OVERLOADED WITH THEIR LOCAL HIGHER POPULATION NEEDS NOW. So expansion of MMH FOR LOCAL MEDICAL SERVICE NEEDS NOW IS VERY VITAL! 6. FVRD MUST CO-ORDINATE WITH BC Ministry of Transportation to have multi Electoral area road damages from ATMOSPHERIC RIVER 2021 FLOODING AND SLIDE EFFECTS TO OUR Roads being PROPERLY REPAIRED INCLUDING THE WOOD BRIDGES TO BE UPGRADED TO CONCRETE. FLOODING EFFECTS OF 2022 TO THE LOCAL ROADS HAVE ONLY RESULTED IN MINOR REPAIRS TO some POTHOLES. Thank you for implementing these URGENTLY needed requests!"

FVRD Response:

1. The FVRD has a service area for administration of Commercial Gravel Operations which collects fees, does permitting and compliance work, as well as monitors noise, dust baselines, and groundwater, and performs dust suppression.
2. The FVRD's ongoing initiatives include increasing noise and dust monitoring and reporting, water sampling, and aerial photos and LiDAR of mine sites.
3. The FVRD performs due diligence by following all environmental regulatory requirements. The FVRD does not perform wide-scale chemical spraying and all treatments are localized. The FVRD does not have an operational role in forest harvesting or clearcutting.
4. The FVRD does not have an operational role in RCMP services.
5. The Fraser Valley Regional Hospital District (FVRHD) has a funding role for healthcare capital and works with the Fraser Health Authority (FHA). Members of the public are welcome at the FVRDHD Board meetings and public participation and feedback is welcome.
6. The FVRD provides Emergency Management services to the Region, including preparedness, response, and recovery measures for disasters and recognizes that changing environments and

weather patterns increase the potential for hazardous events. The FVRD continues to repair damage that resulted from the Atmospheric River and has had several successful claims with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to assist with costs.

Comment 4

"I feel that the consultation process and information provided on the budget for the FVRD is woefully inadequate. I have inspected all the documents, and although I regularly work with large budgets in my workplace, I was unable to attain any reasonable understanding of the individual area budgets as most of them contained much of the same information and are best described as skeletal in nature. I am further dismayed at the lack of transparency in the information provided for each area. The amount of time given for the public to inspect the budget was incredibly short and I have inferred from this that the FVRD does not value a meaningful consultative process which allows for fulsome commentary and feedback from its taxpayer base. I am grateful to Director Cory Cassel for posting the link on my community Facebook page so that I was aware of the process and could inspect the budget, as otherwise I would never have known these budgets even existed, and I extend my thanks to him for making it possible for me to comment before the deadline."

FVRD Response:

Each year the FVRD's process is evolving in efforts to meet and/or exceed the Local Government Act's requirement for public consultation of the Financial Plan. We continue to strive for transparency balanced with providing meaningful information at the right points in time. Staff appreciates all public feedback and will consider these concerns during the next budget process.

OTHER COMMENTS

- The Finance Department received one phone call from an Area C resident requesting for taxes not to exceed 6%. The individual was encouraged to document his comment on the *Have Your Say FVRD* website.
- There were no visitors to reception.