



AGENDA

Meeting: June 15, 2020 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

Virtual Meeting: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/4032955> passcode 123123)

We, the undersigned, hereby agree that a Special Meeting of the Council of the Town of Bassano will be held virtually on **June 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** to attend to the following items:

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **EXCUSED FROM MEETING**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
None
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
5.1 Bassano Outdoor Pool Operations
6. **CLOSED SESSION**
None
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ron Wickson	
Deputy Mayor Tom Rose	
Councillor Kevin Jones	
Councillor Doug Barlow	
Councillor Jackie Seely	
Councillor Irvin Morey	
Councillor John Slomp	



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: June 15, 2020
 Agenda Item: 6.1

Bassano Outdoor Pool Operations

BACKGROUND:

On June 9th, 2020, the provincial government announced the phase 2 Relaunch that states swimming pools may open. The original Relaunch guidelines suggested swimming pools would align with phase 3. Timelines for each of the Relaunch phases have been dependent upon the number of cases.

In consultation with the operations team, former pool manager, and Alberta Health Services (AHS), administration completed an analysis to outline what would be required to open the Bassano Outdoor Pool.

2020 Operating Season: July 15 to August 31, 2020 (6.5 weeks)

Financial Management	<p>The 2020 municipal budget was amended to align with the pandemic. Tax Rate Bylaw 900/20 included an amendment to the pool and most of the operational costs were eliminated as explained previously.</p> <p>The projected difference to operate the pool for 6.5 weeks is \$80,000. The allocation of resources must be redirected from the transfer from Recreation & Culture Reserve.</p> <p>2020 Recreation & Culture Reserve (planned): \$64,063 2020 Pool Adjustment (projected): <u>-\$80,000</u> <i>Difference:</i> <u>-\$24,063</u></p>
Operational Set-up	<p>It takes on average 4 weeks to set up the pool for operations each season and is completed in April and May. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning the pools and the filters, - Filling and heating the pool, - Setting the chlorination, - Ordering supplies and inventory (chemicals), - Circulating and balancing pumps, and - Obtaining approval from the Public Health Inspector to operate. <p>Manpower required: 2.5 (Public Works Supervisor, and 1-2 assistants)</p>
Human Resources	<p>During a normal season, the pool must be staffed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 pool operator (Lonnie Raymond) - 1 pool operator/tester (contact operator) - 1 Manager

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7 shift supervisors - 9 junior guards - Administrative support <p>After the operational set up (4 weeks), the pool operator spends on average 3 hours per day monitoring and maintaining operations.</p>
Covid Operations	<p>To operate the pool, many operational adjustments would have to be made. Some examples of this include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased staffing to ensure adherence to public health policies. 2. New facility schedule. A policy would be required that addresses limiting users, addressing usage from out-of-town patrons. 3. The pool would not be programmed (e.g. swimming lessons). 4. Flotation devices are not permitted, all toys would be removed. 5. New cleaning protocols for life saving devices. 6. The hot tub is not permitted to open.
Community Benefit	<p>COVID-19 is a global pandemic and has changed many people's lives. People have been in social isolation. Recreation provides an outlet for people which can improve their mental health and well-being. Getting people out and active may help rehabilitate a new sense of normalcy.</p> <p>It would create new employment opportunities in Bassano.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunities may be created.</p> <p>It is a feel-good benefit for the community.</p>
Economic Benefit	<p>The Town's vision it to be "the most attractive and affordable urban community under 2,500 in Alberta where industry leaders want to invest, where tourists come fore a new experience, and where people choose to live, work, and play."</p> <p>The Bassano Outdoor Pool is a key asset that supports the community deliver on it vision. This asset attracts tourists from all over southern Alberta to the community which in turn supports and helps drive the local business community.</p>

Operational Concerns and Risks

The personnel consulted to develop this report expressed many operational concerns and risks that council must consider:

1. Ability to hire and train staff to work at the pool. Each guard must have their proper certification to be lifeguards. Many of the previous years' guards' certification expired. Ensuring they obtain required training over the next 4 weeks is not guaranteed.

Without minimum staffing requirement, it is not safe to open the pool. Hiring may prove to be a challenge.

2. Individuals hired to work at the pool typically range from 14-18 years in age. Their responsibilities are significant (guarding patrons and ensuring people are safe). It is not appropriate to include pandemic management responsibility on the youth.
3. If the guards are required to perform lifesaving practices, their proximity to the individual impacts their personal safety whether in the water or when preparing to do CPR.
4. It is unclear how social distancing could be monitored/maintained in the pool. Outdoor groups are permitted up to 100 people, while practicing social distancing of 2-meters. Cohorts of 15 are permitted, however, there is no way to verify a 15-person cohort.
5. It is unclear what the mental state of patrons will be. Social isolation impacts everyone differently. There is no time to train guards on how to deal with personal mental health and that of patrons.
6. Municipal staff were retrained for new jobs. Shifting operations to start up the pool for 6.5 weeks will result in the following:
 - a. Redirecting all public works staff to pool operations. Regular and scheduled projects such as: sanitary line cleaning, crack filling, 2017 capital project repairs, road resurfacing, and beautification.
 - b. Administration is working with every user group and many businesses to help them relaunch. Administration's time would be redirected from these tasks as well as strategic priorities to plan and oversee operations.
7. The relaunch phases may be revoked at any time based on transmission and positive cases. There is no guarantee that the pool would remain open for the 6.5 weeks.
8. Filter upgrades were not completed this Spring due to covid and our inability to work in confined spaces. Additional chlorination is required under the pandemic guidelines. Old sand and additional chlorination requirements are expected to cause challenges for the operators.

Simply put, the level of stress that this action will put on the municipal employees is not justifiable. The Town is trying to recover from pandemic operations, adherence to public health orders, and keeping town people safe with added cleaning and management practices. I am concerned for the health and safety of all municipal employees. The overload of work is not manageable. Council must carefully balance the community/economic benefit against the health and wellness of the Town.

OPTIONS:

#1 – That having thoroughly assessed the pros and cons of opening the Bassano Outdoor Pool this season that the Town of Bassano does not open the facility in 2020 recognizing public health and safety as the highest priority.

#2 – That having thoroughly assessed the pros and cons of opening the Bassano Outdoor Pool this season that the Town of Bassano direct administration to redirect all municipal forces to prepare to open the facility deeming the community benefit as the highest priority.

CAO COMMENTS:

Earlier this week, Alberta Education announced a comprehensive re-entry plan for the upcoming school year allows schools and parents to prepare for learning while putting student and staff safety first

The plan offers guidance on a wide range of operational issues including hygiene and health requirements, student learning, transportation, and diploma exams. It also addresses mental health and psychological supports for students and staff.

School authorities will plan for all three scenarios for September:

1. In-school classes resume (near normal operations with health measures)
2. In-school classes partially resume with additional health measures
3. At home learning continues (in-school classes are cancelled)

The preferred and likely scenario is that students will return to daily in-school classes at the beginning of the year. The government will share its final decision by Aug. 1 on which scenario will be in place at the beginning of the school year. However, school authorities are asked to prepare for implementing any of the three possibilities during the upcoming school year, including on short notice.

The pandemic has brought on a lot of change in people's lives. The outcome of returning to school may also impact the Town's ability to hire and maintain staff near the end of the summer.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

This is an operational matter.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That having thoroughly assessed the pros and cons of opening the Bassano Outdoor Pool this season that the Town of Bassano does not open the facility in 2020 recognizing public health and safety as the highest priority.

Attachments: None

Prepared by: Amanda Davis, CAO