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NPHF requisitions to increase 10 per cent

Kristin Dyck

Member municipalities of North Peace Housing Foundation (NPHF) were notified of a 10 per cent increase in the overall requisition amount in a letter dated February 1.

According to the letter, the 2023 Municipal Requisition Summary was approved in November, 2022 at a Board of Directors' meeting. The total requisition amount for 2023 has been set at \$3,436,400.

The NPHF is a requisitioning body as defined by the Municipal Government Act. As a result, the annual requisition is divided amongst the

foundation's 12 member municipalities through equalized assessments.

For the Town of Grimshaw, who pays approximately four per cent of the total requisition, the increase means a \$15,249.89 difference between 2022 and 2023.

For the Village of Berwyn, who pays 0.5 per cent of the total requisition, the increase works out to \$2,594.79. The MD of Peace, with 4.88 per cent of the requisition, will be on the hook for an additional \$16,472.10. The Town of Manning, with 1.84 per cent of the requisition, will see an increase of \$6,844.96

The County of Northern

Lights, as the municipality responsible for the largest percentage of the requisition in Mile Zero-Banner Post coverage area, and the second largest percentage amongst the 12 municipalities, will need to collect an additional \$69,687.74.

Each municipality collects the funds for these requisitions in the same manner that requisitions are collected for Alberta Education, through property taxes. NPHF sets the tax rate for the requisition and this tax rate is the same throughout the entire region.

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DAN ARCHER

Grimshaw Trojans hosted a basketball tournament from Friday, February 10 to Saturday, February 11, 2023, at the Field House in Mile Zero Regional Multiplex. Pictured above and below is action from the Trojans versus Peace High Nomads game Saturday, February 11. Peace High won that game 55-18. See page 6.



John Bak appointed Mayor in Berwyn

Kristin Dyck

Residents of Berwyn have a new mayor.

On February 9, the Berwyn council chose to appoint Coun. John Bak to the mayor's seat in an uncontested appointment.

Mayor Bak is the only member of the Berwyn council with more than a few months experience. The remainder of the Berwyn council was elected in by-elections between October 2022 and January 2023.

"It's pretty new, but I am honoured to be there," said Bak to Mile Zero-Banner Post.

Bak went on to say that council is in the process of determining their budget for 2023 and has a capital budget discussion coming up at the end of the month. Bak said he anticipated having to make some big decisions in order for the Village to be in compliance with the Viability Plan, as it was published in January, 2018.

"We're trying to figure out this mess, because of the



FILE PHOTO

John Bak pictured at a candidates forum held in Berwyn November 2, 2022.

thoughts, young. We got a mixture," Bak said.

Regarding the tensions that had existed amongst councillors prior to the February 9 meeting, Bak said those issues are now considered "water under the bridge, done."

"Like I said, we've got new councillors, new ideas, let's see where it goes," Bak said.

The mayoral appointment that took place on February 9 was made necessary following the resignation of former Mayor Kim Steeves on January 31.

At the last meeting of the Berwyn council in January, a request for decisions was presented to council regarding the appointment of the Village's mayor and deputy mayor. The request for decision asked council to consider an earlier request made by Bak to have the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, at that time, step down to allow the full council an opportunity to appoint both positions.

deputy mayor, Both Steeves and Johnson were appointed to their positions at the Village's 2022 organizational meeting held in October. This meeting was attended by all three Village councillors elected at that time.

On January 26, Steeves said she was not prepared to step away from the mayor's seat, while Johnson said she would like to step down from the position of deputy mayor.

"I think I will change my position," Coun. Johnson said on January 26.

At that point, former Mayor Steeves told Coun. Johnson that she needed to provide a letter to the CAO stating that she would like to resign from the position of deputy mayor. Once that letter had been received, council could appoint her replacement.

After some more discussion about the timing of the Village's organizational meetings, Coun. Bak made a motion stating that the Village of

However, no organizational meeting was held on February 9. When asked by Mile Zero-Banner Post why the meeting did not take place, council replied that the organizational meeting was no longer required following the resignation of Steeves on January 31.

While the most prominent purpose of the Village's organizational meeting is to annually appoint the mayor and deputy mayor and assign councillors to various boards and committees, an organizational meeting also gives councillors an opportunity amend the time, place and dates of regular council meetings for the coming year, assign signing authority for the Village, and review the councillor remuneration schedule.

The resignation of Steeves triggered the requirement for council to appoint a new mayor, reassign signing authority, and review councillor boards and committee appointments. All of these items were addressed as part of the regularly scheduled meeting held February 9.

Council did not however vote on a new deputy mayor. When asked after the meeting if Johnson planned to resign from her position of deputy mayor, Johnson said she had become comfortable with her appointed duties and had chosen instead to remain on as Berwyn's deputy mayor until the next organizational meeting in October, 2023.



IN THE REQUISITIONS TO INCREASE 10 PER CENT

"Budget projections show how that the Foundation requires a 10 per cent or \$312,400 increase in the requisition to cover the inflationary costs of goods and materials, and other cost pressures including utilities, food and groceries, reduced revenue in our facilities as a

result of the pandemic, and the winding down of provincial funding to cover the cost of COVID-related expenses and increased vacancies," wrote Executive Director Tammy Menssa in a letter to the municipalities.

According to a report included in the February 7

NPHF board meeting agenda, the overall occupancy rate for the NPHF lodges in 2022 was 76.6 per cent. Occupancy rates for both social and affordable housing each saw 9 per cent increases between January 2022 and December 2022 with the social housing portfolio topping out at 80 per

cent occupancy and the affordable housing portfolio showing a 96 per cent occupancy rate in December, 2022.

Of the 20 per cent unoccupied spaces in the social housing portfolio, eight per cent were showing as non-lettable in December,

while three of the four per cent of unoccupied spaces in the affordable housing portfolio were listed as non-lettable in December, 2022.

Social housing units include seniors' self-contained apartments and the community housing and rural housing programs. The

affordable housing units are homes available with a minimum rent reduction of 10 per cent below market rates. These units are available at Garden Court in Peace River, and in Cadotte Lake as part of the sustainable remote housing initiative.



Team Alberta North's gold winning volleyball team. From left to right, Aneesh Jhanwar, David Villiger, Reece Hutchison, Hudson Forbes, Coach Peter Peraino, Carson King, Cooper Paulovich, Jackson McGillivray (behind), Trysten Kim, Tino Kwatara, Caiden Kim and Coach Helly Kim. Photo courtesy of Jackson McGillivray.

Manning athletes bring home medals from 2023 Arctic Winter Games

Dan Archer

Team Alberta North advanced to the men's volleyball finals in the 2023 Arctic Winter Games in Wood Buffalo, Alberta. The men's team won gold in volleyball after beating Team Yukon in the finals on February 3.

The games were held from January 29 to February 4, 2023, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Team Alberta North were the best players in straight sets when they competed against Yukon.

The members of Team Alberta North first played as a team just a week before the Arctic Winter Games began.

"Our team only had one weekend together one week before the games. And then once we got to the games, we had one day of training as well. Then we got right into it pretty much," said Manning volleyball player Jackson McGillivray.

McGillivray is an athlete who is driven to improve his athletic skills in volleyball.

"I want to grow in the sport and do to best of my ability in the game that I can," said McGillivray.

The young athletes from Team Alberta North stayed in Athabasca Lodge during the games. The lodge in Fort McMurray became Athlete's Village during the Arctic Winter Games.

"We were at a place they called Athlete's Village. It was like a workcamp,"

for the athletes.

McGillivray said Athlete's Village was divided into a girl's and boy's section. "In the middle, there were hallways that led to the lunchroom. There was a pool table room. A party room, where we could go hang out and play some board games and listen to music. And they had a movie room for us to watch movies," McGillivray said.

The games organizers kept the athletes stimulated when they weren't competing.

"They brought some puppies one day. And there was a mantra day for you to go and meditate," said McGillivray. "You could use your mind to relax a little bit."

During the games, McGillivray sensed that Team Alberta North could advance over the competition during their second round-robin against Team Yukon.

"After our second robin, we kind of felt like we were going to take it. We were very

confident of ourselves. In the final game, Team Yukon spooked us a little bit, because they played a lot different. They picked out our weaknesses," said McGillivray.

"It was actually a really good game," McGillivray recalled. "We just pushed ourselves a little more."

McGillivray would have preferred to have extra training time before the games began. "I would've been playing a little bit better," he believed.

"Other than that, I wouldn't have changed anything," McGillivray said.

McGillivray graduated from Paul Rowe in 2022. He is coaching at Paul Rowe with his father. In the future, he hopes to play college-level volleyball. He is also interested in taking a course in psychology.

McGillivray summarized his experience as memorable time, where he bonded with teammates and other

participants at the games. "All the times we had in Arctics were just memories to never forget. We didn't just make a friendship; it was family."

Team Yukon earned silver, and Team Northwest Territories strived for bronze in the volleyball men's finals for male players born in 2004 and later at the finals on February 3.

Manning volleyball player Cooper Paulovich was also on the gold medal-winning team with McGillivray.

Manning provided Team Alberta North with more gold medal winners in different categories of sports. Macy Robinson and Elly Stone won golds in female hockey. Joshua Eligado earned gold when he represented Manning in men's basketball on Team Alberta North.

Dear Adeline

Dear Adeline,
Will you be my Valentine?
I'll hold you close to my heart,
That we will never ever part.
Close to me close to you,
Please help me put on my shoe.
Love is great love is true,
If you wouldn't forget me I wouldn't forget you.
That's what Valentine is all about.
Down on bended knee,
Sweet Adeline will you marry me?
And they lived happily ever after.
After a short illness, the good Lord came
and took them away,
May they Rest in Peace from day to day.

Stella Pashko, Manning AB

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Clarification...

In the article Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (HFCRD) supporting Ukrainian students in their division published in the February 8, 2023, edition of Mile Zero-Banner Post, Superintendent Betty Turpin was quoted as saying: "We've taken in immigrant children before. We have different nationalities in our schools. The Filipino population, where English is their second language, and the Indian population, where English is their second language." Turpin was referring to

