



building communities together

2019 Business Plan Benjamin Water (1887)

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Working in partnership with communities, large and small, to make the Cariboo Chilcotin a socially, economically and environmentally desirable region to live, work and play.

Department/Function Services

- The Cariboo Regional District has acquired the Benjamin water system effective January 1, 2019.
- The system is comprised of a groundwater well, a pump house, associated pumps, reservoir and distribution piping that services 43 parcels.
- The system meets domestic needs only and does not provide water for community fire protection.

Capital improvements planned for 2019, following acquisition, are a backup generator, pumphouse roof repairs, monitoring/alarm system and a new well pump. Service line replacement is proposed for 2020.

Operational costs will be collected by way of a user fee set at \$350 per year. Taxation will be collected by way of an annual parcel tax of up to \$165, expected to begin in 2019. The Benjamin Water Service Establishment Bylaw No. 5127 and Benjamin Water Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 5128 provide function authority.

As Electoral Area A is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2019 Goal

Goal: Completion of required system improvements.

Rationale: Several improvements are required for the system including a new backup generator, pump house roof shingles, remote monitoring/alarm system, new well pump/casing extension and service line replacement.

Strategy: Complete required improvements in 2019 and 2020.

Overall Financial Impact

The annual user fee of \$350 per year is projected to be sufficient for the current five-year plan; however, the operating budget will need to be reviewed following operation of the system for the first year. The function currently has no capital reserve funds.

The Board allocated \$39,000 of Community Works Funds for a 1/3 contribution towards system improvements, and approval for project funding via petition to borrow through MFA has been obtained.

Significant Issues & Trends

The Public Sector Accounting Board now requires local governments to report and record tangible capital assets. At some time in the future, local governments may be required to amortize these assets over their useful life.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter, and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.