My Vermilion Highlights from Council

November 17, 2026

Delegation

Kieron Hunt, Planning Lead, FBM – Vermilion Retail Market & Gap Analysis Presentation via Zoom

Kieron Hunt with FBM presented the Vermilion Retail Market & Gap Analysis to Council via Zoom. The retail market & gap analysis is an economic development study that examines the community's existing retail businesses, local consumer spending patterns, and potential opportunities for new commercial development. The study identifies areas where residents may be spending money outside the community and determines which retail sectors could be supported locally. The findings provide the Town with data driven recommendations to support business attraction, retention, expansion, and long-term economic growth.

Presentation of Lt. Col Craig's Sword – Vermilion Armoury Historical Society

Don Henry with the Vermilion Armoury Historical Society presented Lieutenant Colenel W.C. "Chum" Craig's sword to the Mayor and Council. Lt. Col. Craig was a distinguished First World War veteran who enlisted in Vermilion in 1914 and became one of the youngest Lieutenant Colonels in the Canadian Army. Craig played a significant role in Vermilion's military history, raising and commanding the 194th Battalion, consisting of 937 men from Vermilion and surrounding communities. November 17, 2026, marks the 110th anniversary of the battalion's departure for England. His sword will be proudly displayed at the Vermilion Armoury, which bears his name, in recognition of his service and lasting contributions to the community. Special thanks were extended to Ian Edwards for his work in documenting Lieutenant Colonel Craig's history.

Business Arising from Prior Meetings

Grant Application – Sanitary Trunk Main Replacement Project (Phase 3 & 4)

Council for the Town of Vermilion authorized Administration to submit an application under the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) for funding toward the remaining phases (Phases 3 & 4) of the Town of Vermilion Sanitary Trunk Main Replacement Project. The Town of Vermilion is preparing to resubmit an application under the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) for funding assistance toward the remaining phases of the Sanitary Trunk Main Replacement Project, estimated at $4.15 million. The project will address aging infrastructure, capacity constraints, environmental risks, and support future community growth. Council authorization is required to proceed with the application ahead of the November 30, 2026, submission deadline.

Transportation Voucher Program Policy No. 26-07

Council for the Town of Vermilion approved the Transportation Voucher Program Policy No. 26-07 as presented. The Transportation Voucher Policy aims to provide affordable transportation options for seniors aged 65 and older and individuals experiencing mobility challenges. The program will help reduce transportation barriers, improve access to essential services, and promote independence. The policy also allows approved agencies to distribute vouchers and provides the Vermilion Health Centre with up to 20 vouchers per month to assist individuals facing emergency medical transportation barriers. Transportation Voucher fees will be governed under the Town's Fees and Charges Bylaw, as amended from time to time.

Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter Management Policy

Council for the Town of Vermilion directed Administration to update the 1997 Sidewalk, Curb and Gutter Policy and bring it forward to a future committee of the whole meeting for review and discussion. The policy guides infrastructure inspections, maintenance, and replacement priorities based on condition, pedestrian safety, drainage, and available funding. Given the age of the policy and evolving infrastructure needs, Council directed Administration to update the policy to better align with current asset management practices, financial sustainability, and Council's strategic priorities. The updated policy is anticipated to be brought forward for Council's review in 2027.

Road Maintenance and Improvement Program

Council for the Town of Vermilion directed Administgration to undertake a review of the Town's road maintenance and improvement practices and develop a Road Maintenance and Improvement Policy for Council's review and consideration in 2027. The policy will provide a consistent, transparent, and data-driven approach to infrastructure investment decisions, considering road conditions, safety, traffic volumes, and long-term asset management. Administration has begun collecting roadway condition and traffic data to support the development of a five-year Road Rehabilitation Plan.

Fleet Replacement

Council for the Town of Vermilion directed Administration to develop a Fleet Replacement policy outlining life-cycle expectations, replacement criteria, and long-term fleet planning practices. The policy will establish consistent criteria based on asset age, condition, usage, maintenance costs, and expected service life, while supporting long-term financial planning and responsible asset management. As such, Administration removed the proposed light- and medium-duty fleet replacements from the 2027 Capital Plan. The formal policy will come forward in 2027.

2027 Operating and Capital Budget

Council for the Town of Vermilion approved the 2027 budget with a total operating revenue of $10,002,123; with operating expenditures of $17,243,490 plus requisitions of $2,308,886 resulting in municipal taxation levy of $9,550,254, and the 2027 capital budget which has total capital revenues of $2,528,213 to support total costs of $2,528,213. Council for the Town of Vermilion accepted the operating plans for 2028-2030 and the five-year capital plans in principle. Administration provided a detailed presentation of the draft 2027 operating and capital budget at the November 3, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting. This budget was developed in alignment with the Town of Vermilion Council's strategic plan, considering transparency and financial stability. Administration completed changes to the budget presented on November 3, based on the feedback received from Council. A change log detailing each change is attached to the agenda for reference. At any time during a budget year, Council can amend the operating or capital budget by resolution.

Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 8-2026

Council for the Town of Vermilion gave first reading to Bylaw 8-2026, being the Fees & Charges Bylaw. As part of the 2027 budget process, Administration reviewed all of the fees and charges throughout the Town's operations, and consolidated them into a single reference document. Each year during the budget process, Administration will review and update the Fees & Charges Bylaw. Historically, some rates were approved by Council resolution, some were approved by boards and committees, and some were approved by Administration. Although the attachment includes 2026 rates for comparison purposes, several of those rates have remained unchanged for a number of years. The rates shown in the comparison table reflect the current rates in effect prior to the proposed increases for 2027. Moving forward, all fees and charges will be approved by Council annually through this bylaw as part of the budget process to ensure consistency and proper governance for fees charged by Administration

New Business

2027 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Allocations

Council for the Town of Vermilion approved the 2027 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) allocations as recommended by the FCSS Advisory Committee. The proposed allocations include $20,000 for Catholic Social Services, $5,000 for FOCUS Society for Support Services, $15,500 each for Vermilion & Area Brighter Beginnings and Vermilion Play Development, $10,000 for the VIBE Mental Health Program, $8,000 for Walking Through Grief Society, $27,500 for the Senior Support Program, and $2,200 for community projects. These allocations will support preventative social programs focused on mental health, families, children, seniors, and overall community well-being throughout 2027.

Financial

October 2026 Accounts Payable Listing

Council for the Town of Vermilion received the October 2026 Accounts Payable Listing as information. The accounts payable listing is posted and available on the Town's website for easy reference for the public.

These Highlights of Council are an informative summary only, as official minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next regular meeting of council.