

File: 3760-01

January 5, 2022

Canadian Home Builders' Association – Central Okanagan (CHBA-CO)
216–1884 Spall Road
Kelowna, BC V1Y 4R1

Attention: CHBA-CO Members

Re: January 2022 Update

2021 was a record year for building activity in the City of Vernon. There were 434 building permits issued and 371 new residential units created, and a total construction value of \$173.5 million. With the current applications in the queue, it looks to be a strong start to 2022.

Currently, the average building permit processing time for new single family dwellings is approximately 3 weeks. Processing times can increase depending the complexity of the project or incompleteness of the application package.

The Current Planning Department has added 4 new staff members to the team with an additional 2 positions still in the recruitment stage. Three of these positions are new, permanent full time staff approved by Council.

Work is being done on initiating the Development Working Group, comprised of industry representatives and municipal and Regional District of North Okanagan staff representatives, to establish an ongoing dialogue between the City and the development industry. The first meeting of this new group will likely be in late February or early March.

The proposed new Building Bylaw #5900 was presented for first, second and third readings at the Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2021 and will be presented for adoption at the Regular Council Meeting of January 10, 2022. Building permit applications submitted following the adoption of the new Building Bylaw will be required to demonstrate compliance with Step 1 of the Energy Step Code for new Part 9 residential buildings. The December 13, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda – with the new Building Bylaw beginning on page 170 - can be found at:

https://www.vernon.ca/sites/default/files/docs/meetings/agendas/211213_Reg_Agenda_Pkg_0.pdf

If you have any questions on the City of Vernon implementation of the Step Code, or require any further information, please feel free to contact the undersigned at 250-550-7683 or sknuhtsen@vernon.ca.

Sincerely,

Shawn Knuhtsen
Manager, Building & Licensing/Chief Building Official

