

The motions recorded in **SRD 658/24 through 661/24** represent a critical fiscal milestone for the **\$122 million to \$131 million REC-REATE expansion** of the Strathcona Gardens Recreation Facility 658/24, 659/24, 660/24, 661/24. By adopting **Bylaw No. 569**, the Board has secured the necessary "bridge financing" to ensure that construction and contractor payments remain uninterrupted.

1. Technical Function: The "Bridge" to Permanent Funding

Bylaw No. 569 serves as a **Temporary Borrowing Authorization Bylaw**, providing the short-term capital required to manage the project's cash flow.

- **Closing the MFA Timing Gap:** The Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) only issues permanent long-term debentures twice a year 2. However, the Regional District must pay contractors and suppliers continuously throughout the build.
- **Utilizing Existing Authority:** This bylaw does **not** authorize new debt . Instead, it allows the District to draw down funds temporarily against the **\$64,670,000** already authorized by the foundation **Bylaw No. 342**.
- **Variable-Rate Efficiency:** Under this program, the SRD draws funds as needed via variable-rate promissory notes 3. Once the final costs of the redevelopment are known, permanent debentures (with a term of up to 30 years) will be sold to fully retire this temporary debt.

2. Governance Context: "Forward" Through Collaboration

The procedural handling of these motions is a primary exhibit of **functional governance** during a term otherwise defined by "administrative friction".

- **Cross-Block Partnerships:** You (**Director John Rice**) moved all four motions, successfully partnering with members of both the "pro-stability" majority and the "rural block" 658/24, 659/24, 660/24, 661/24.
- **The Rice/Whalley Partnership (SRD 661/24):** Notably, the final adoption was seconded by **Director Gerald Whalley** 661/24. This cooperation on high-stakes recreation debt is significant given the previous **"hot mic" scandal** and the rural block's past attempts to **scuttle funding votes** for this specific facility.
- **Restoring Order:** The smooth passage of this bylaw—moving from introduction to final adoption in a single session—proves that when the Board adheres to the **Bylaw No. 544 Procedure rules**, it can protect major infrastructure from "hostage-taking" politics.

3. Strategic Significance for the 2026 Election

In the context of your **"Forward or Backward"** campaign, the adoption of Bylaw No. 569 is a powerful factual asset:

- **Protecting the REC-REATE Project:** As Vice-Chair of the Commission, you have delivered the fiscal mechanics to ensure the region's largest capital project stays on schedule and avoids **administrative delays** during its final, high-stakes permitting phase.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 658/24 to 661/24** ensures that the Strathcona Regional District remains in a stable, professional environment. This bylaw protects Area D residents' investment in **Strathcona Gardens**, ensuring it transitions from a legacy liability into a

modern wellness center.