

The YouTube link provided corresponds to the official recording of the **Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Board Meeting** held on **February 25, 2026** 1. This session addressed a range of regional health, infrastructure, and financial initiatives. The key deliberations and outcomes from this meeting include:

## 1. Radon Testing Results: The "100 Test Kit Challenge"

Pam Warrington presented the findings of the 2024–2025 winter radon testing program 1.

- **Health Context:** Radon is a naturally occurring gas from decaying uranium in soil and is identified as the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers in Canada 1.
- **Encouraging Data:** Of the 117 tests completed, only **2% of the homes** were above Health Canada's threshold of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, significantly lower than the provincial average of 10% 1.
- **Mitigation:** For homes with high levels, sub-slab depressurization systems can resolve the issue. Low-income households may qualify for up to \$1,500 in assistance through the Canadian Lung Association 1.

## 2. Rural Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

The Board reviewed a staff report on expanding EV and e-bike charging infrastructure across rural areas 2.

- **Major Hurdles:** Staff identified significant challenges, including a lack of SRD-owned land (many ideal spots are on Ministry of Transportation property) and BC Hydro's strategy of prioritizing high-volume urban hubs over rural networks 2.
- **Tie Vote:** A motion to direct staff to continuously explore passive EV/e-bike grants and partnerships was **defeated in a 7–7 tie vote**, reflecting a split in the Board regarding committing staff time to a cooling EV market 2.

## 3. Sayward Natural Gas Feasibility

The Village of Sayward requested a study on extending natural gas to the valley 3.

- **Conflict of Visions:** Director Gerald Whalley opposed the study as an unrealistic "pipeline dream," citing high switchover costs for residents and safety concerns 3. Other directors argued that gas is essential for future North Island commercial and industrial expansion to bypass electricity grid constraints 3.
- **Amended Outcome:** Rather than launching an independent, expensive feasibility study, the Board passed a motion to **write to FortisBC** to gauge their commercial interest in assessing or funding an expansion 3.

## 4. Financial and Asset Management

The Board successfully adopted several critical financial bylaws to ensure administrative continuity:

- **Bylaw No. 631:** Officially adopted the **2026–2030 Financial Plan** following a public comment period where no submissions were received 4.
- **Bylaw No. 635:** Approved short-term **temporary borrowing** to finance ongoing infrastructure improvements at the **Strathcona Gardens** recreation complex 4.

## 5. Regional Grants and Community Support

- **Wildlife Support:** The Board approved a **\\$12,000 regional grant-in-aid** for the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) to support its wildlife rehabilitation operations 4.
- **Senior Support:** The Board endorsed a **\\$25,000** grant application to BC Healthy Communities. If successful, the funds will be used in partnership with the Cortes Island Community Foundation to create a senior-focused accessibility assessment and action plan 4.