

■ GREY HIGHLANDS: \$2.2 million owed

Talisman owners to present plan

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The owners of Talisman want to discuss another option for the resort.

Grey Highlands chief administrative officer Dan Best announced at Monday's council meeting that Bill Minnis, president and chief executive of Talisman Resort, has asked to present an alternative proposal to a tax sale of the main resort. He will appear before council on April 22.

"They are coming in with a proposal on how they would like to move forward on the property," said Best, who didn't know the details of the proposal.

The municipality is owed just

over \$2.2 million in back taxes and unpaid water and sewer charges for the main property, which includes several buildings and about 200 acres of land.

Best said the sale of two other parcels of land disposed of through a tax sale last month has been finalized.

A 104-acre property known as Old Smokey located at the top of the ski hill went for \$200,502, which exceeded the amount owed on the property of \$52,801.05.

The 50-acre parcel of land at 116 Shivlock Sideroad was sold for \$211,200, far in excess of the \$39,977.21 owed in back taxes.

"The transaction on these two

properties have been completed and the ownership of the properties have been transferred," he said in an interview Tuesday.

However, no one bid on the main Talisman Resort Property in the tax sale conducted by Grey Highlands.

The municipality is mulling over what to do next. Best recently outlined three options available to the municipality — do nothing, hold another tax sale or take possession of the resort and develop it, or sell it through more conventional real estate sales.

But before any decision can be made, council wants to know more about the condition of the

buildings and the property.

"Knowing the condition of the property is key to getting bidders in a tax sale," said Coun. Lynn Silverton.

Coun. Paul Allan warned that the cost of professional evaluation could end up costing more than the amount of money owed on the property.

Councillors passed a motion Monday giving Best the authority under the municipal act to exercise the right of power of entry. It allows the municipality to bring in professionals to evaluate the condition of the buildings. He's to report back on April 22 on the details of the process.

"Council authorized me to

take the necessary steps to execute that next step . . . I'm going to come back and report in terms of what that process is," said Best.

He described a review of the property as part of a due diligence process prior to a decision about whether to hold another tax sale or take ownership of the property.

Some councillors expressed concerns over the condition of the buildings on the resort property which have been left unattended. Coun. Lynn Silverton described doors being left open and windows broken without any signs of security and even people staying there sometimes.

"Police have been called to attend the property, but how many occurrences I don't have any idea of that," said Best, who noted the municipality is taking a hands-off approach and leaving care of the buildings to the current owners.

Grey Highlands resident Marg Russell asked council why it wasn't taking steps under its property standards bylaw to protect the building.

Best said it goes beyond the property standards bylaw and had broader implications.

"For all intents and purposes it's a private property. . . I'm very cognizant of the process and the legal aspects of it," he said.

Thanks & Regards

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Thurs
4/11/13

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