Village of mEATH pARK nEWSLETTER

June 2017

# Hello

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| Did you know that you can now pay your village taxes through online banking?  Please contact the administrator for more info.  Tax notices are normally sent out in late June |
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* What a eventful past few weeks we have had. It has been nice to see some many people taking advatage of the waste bin and the compound. We are currently on our fourth bin and will be extending the use of the bin into the first week of June. Gate is open daily at the compound from 9:00 am till noon. The street have been drying up nicely with the exception of a few soft spots. In the next few weeks hopfully we can have dust control applied to high traffic areas to keep dust down this summer.
* The village will be putting on a ratepayers appreciation bbq open to all residents on June 13, 4:00pm till 7:00pm at the seniors hall.
* Crime has been on the rise in the area. We would like to remind residents that all crime and suspicious activity should be reported to our local rcmp (306-426-2630) or crime stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. This past week council had the opportunity to meet with our local MLA Nadine Wislon to voice concerns on this issue and a few others and the provinical government is more than aware of the issue of rural crime.
* Council would like residents know that our decision to hire a bylaw officer and a tax collection service was to be able to free up administrative resources to focus on other areas. It also provides a fair process in which council no longer gets to pick and choose which properties are sent letters for clean up or for tax arrears . This responsibilty belongs to the bylaw officer now regarding unsightly property.
* By now everyone should have gotten their notice of assesments in the mail. We believe assesment values have gone up for almost everyone. Talking with other municipalities assesment values across the province have gone up. Council will be discusing reducing our minimum tax and millrate at our next meeting to combat rising assesments.

As noted in the previous newsletter council has been looking into options so we can start replacing aging infastructure. We expect within the next year the federal government will anounce phase 2 of the Clean water and wasterwater fund at which time we will apply for funding. It should be known that is a cost sharing grant, 50% Federal, 25%Provincial, 25% municipal, which means we will still be left with a large sum to finance. After reviewing costs to operate and maintain our current water and wastewater infastructure it has been determined than we need to increase water and sewer rates to be able to safely operate and maintain current infastructure. Our current rate of $66.66 per month will rise slowly to $86.66 by the year 2020. On top of this we will immediately introduce a infratructure levy of $7.50 per month. Levy funds collected will be deposited into a saving account for future infastructure replacment projects.

For transparency the following items impacted the desison to raise rates:

**Capital upgrades to our water treatment plant, and water distribution system**

**Aging infrastructure renewal**

**Government regulations**

**Water treatment process upgrade, possibily using our existing plant and adding a front end reverse osmosis system**

**The current state of our water distribution system**

**The need to build a reserve fund for infrastructure renewal**

Council believes that we should put a priority on replacing sections of our water distribution system as it is causing us the most issues and repair costs have been rising over the past decade. It should be known that if we apply and are accepted to receive grant money to replace a portion of our distribution system water rates would have to rise further to more than $100 per month. The question we have for residents is: Would you be ok with paying more for water if we can replace failing water mains and were able to produce better quality water and better reliability.

Here are some current water and sewer rates in the province for comparison

(Based on 7,000 gallons per month) -Saskatchewan average

Meath Park- $66.66

Albertville- $77.50

Annaheim-$225.96

Rose Valley-$133.00

Spalding -$151.50

Prince albert-$134.85

Prince albert rural- $189.88

Shellbrook-$110.11

All of these comunitys except the last three are all similar in size to our village. The above rates also don’t include infrastructure levys.

* Pet tags for the year 2017 are available at the office and are $10 per pet. Pet owners are required to liscense their pets in the Village. Please stop by the office
* Council has entered a new contract with greenland waste for garbage and recyling services. We were able to resign at a significatly lower rate than our last contract which saves us serveral thousand dollars per year which has been most welcome as our government revenue funding as declined this year due to lower pst revenues and a lower popluation in the village.
* We have been continually updating our Village website will more information for resident. Recent updates have added bylaws and village meeting minutes for your viewing. You can also find contact info for village council at:
* <http://villageofmeathpark.wixsite.com/vomp>

-We also urge our residents that our on social media to Follow and or Like our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts.

- Communities in bloom is still active in our community and is looking for members to help out. Please email Krissy at [Krissylwood@inet2000.com](mailto:Krissylwood@inet2000.com) for more info.

Sincerely

Michael Hydamacka

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