



TOWN SUPPER - MEETING NOTES

“Building a Strong Community”

Many residents have expressed an interest in receiving information regarding the Second Annual Town Supper held on May 23rd, 2019 as they were unable to attend due to other commitments. The following is an overview of the meeting based upon notes taken by Jennifer Jungwirth and Jacque Griffiths. Thank you Jennifer.

A short break was taken after the roast beef supper for citizens to view the information tables and ask questions of the presenters. Thanks to the Community Hall for an excellent meal.

WELCOME. Ryan White, Deputy Mayor brought greetings and relayed Mayor Renee Horner’s apologies as she was unable to attend due to illness in the family. Ryan discussed safety in town. The use of the WhatsApp group to keep citizens informed of suspicious activity and reminding us to dial 310-RCMP to report anything of concern. To register for WhatsApp contact Councillor Ben Leveque. Ryan also reminded us to not leave our keys in our vehicles, doors unlocked and not to post on face book that the family will be away from the house for extended periods of time. The Town is looking into using cameras on town buildings with an option to share video links directly with the RCMP. There is an opportunity over time to have as many cameras as we require under the usage fee. Information was also shared regarding the development of walking paths in the town and information on this year’s Aberdeen Days June 21st and 22nd.

WHEATLAND LIBRARY. Kim Hebig the Director of the Wheatland Library reported that the regional library has been given a small increase in funding from the Provincial Government. She also praised Louisa Neufeld our library manager for providing 146 programs that were attended by 1122 patrons and a 12% increase in circulations as well. Kim gave an overview of the resources available through the Wheatland Website www.wheatland.sk.ca for books, music, videos, newspapers etc., emphasizing the provincial access under SILS. Information was also shared on the Wheatland Executive Advocacy committee initiative to improve communication among all stakeholders regarding library governance and resources at the local and provincial levels. Councillor Griffiths will be involved in this initiative.

SASKATCHEWAN SENIORS MECHANISM (SSM). As part of the SSM Seniors Strategy Brian Harris talked about the steps being taken by SSM across the province to lobby for a seniors strategy. Saskatchewan is the only province that doesn't have any advocacy or ministry specifically allocated to the welfare of seniors, in fact Saskatchewan has nothing in place.

Brian reviewed the preliminary results of the SSM survey which indicated the priorities in six key areas as well as identifying that the preference would be for a Seniors Advocate and/or Minister for Seniors. Priorities were identified under Healthcare, access to primary/basic health care in the community in which I live and timely access to specialists and medical procedures were priority items. Under Public Transportation, affordable transportation to get to medical appointments and to visit family and friends. Under Available and Affordable Services, homecare to assist with medical and personal care and assistance with yard work and home maintenance. Under Housing, having affordable services available to enable me to stay in my own home and being able to choose where and how I live. Under Finances, ensuring all services are affordable and much needed increases to public income support. Under Community involvement, being safe in my home and community and reducing the possibility of becoming isolated. A draft report should be available by June 30th. For more information go to www.skseniormechanism.ca Brian also thanked the town for their resolution to the SUMA convention supporting a seniors strategy for Saskatchewan.

COMMISSIONAIRES BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT. Les Speers gave a short presentation on the role of the commissioners in enforcing the Town By-Laws. He emphasized that they would be taking a community approach of education and awareness to ensure the by-laws were understood and complied with. The Commissioners will take over by-law enforcement beginning June 1st, 2019

EMERGENCY MEASURES (EMO). Kerry Rolles from the Public Ministry of Government Relations presented on Emergency Management and encouraged citizens to develop their personal plan and visit <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx> for more information.

Kerry reviewed some of the major disasters that have taken place in Saskatchewan and emphasized that emergencies can happen at any time so individuals and communities need to be prepared. Prepare your emergency kits based on "What ifs". Some items to include are water, first aid kits, flashlight, solar radio, canned food, can opener and important documents. The goal is to make a disaster resilient community with a group of dedicated local residents.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE 2018-19. Councillor Jacquie Griffiths identified the projects completed to-date. The town received grants for the completion of the lift station and lagoon from the federal government (\$1,500,000.00) and the provincial government (\$750,000.00) with the remaining cost to the town of \$750,000.00. The lift station is complete and the lagoon is very close to being completed. Once it is in full operation the old lagoon will need to be decommissioned. This will require testing to identify the correct procedures required for the decommissioning process. Additional monies have been set aside from the grants to cover the cost of these expenditures.

The Town of Aberdeen Asset Management Plan has been completed and the strategic plan updated to include the findings from the plan. The Plan was completed, with the assistance of Catterall and Wright Consulting Engineers, and identified that our infrastructure, sewer system and water meters are in good/fair condition. A GPS topographical survey was completed which identified quite clearly the priority items to be addressed. There is ongoing work to be completed on a few “red” items identified in the report related to soft spots on roads, sidewalks, swales, manhole restoration, and culverts. These will be priority items for our maintenance department over the next few months. The Asset management plan and Strategic Plan are available for review at the Town Office www.aberdeen.ca

OPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY INPUT. Discussion took place around the development of walking paths. Feedback was, and continues to be, welcomed on what area(s) a walking path should be developed. Comments indicated that a paved path would be more appreciated as we already have gravel surfaces in town, also the path should be wide enough to accommodate people biking and walking.

Weed control in the town was discussed. Specifically on empty lots on main street, McDonald/Hamm development areas and 5th by the pump station. Now that so many sprays are no longer allowed to be used the town is very limited on how they can deal with the weeds. Mowing more often was suggested however there is a process that has to be followed by the town before being allowed to mow or spray on private property. This would fall under the by-law enforcement.

CN rail crossing was discussed regarding the bumpy surface and the storage of railway ties. Susan Thompson, Town Administrator, has contacted CN continuously but has received no satisfactory response. Citizens were encouraged to contact CN directly; their contact number is identified by the rail crossing.

Questions were asked regarding the dust control substance that was being used. Councillor Tracey Grand'Maison indicated that an environmental study had been completed. The information is available for review at the town office.

For additional information on any of these topics please check the relevant websites, call the town office (306-253-4311) or contact your council members.

- Mayor, Renee Reimer Horner
- Deputy Mayor, Ryan White
- Councillors, Brian Vandenberg, Tracey Grand'Maison, Jacquie Griffiths, Ben Levesque, Floyd Wudrick.

WE HOPE TO SEE MORE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OUT NEXT YEAR. PLEASE LET US KNOW:

- WHAT DAYS AND TIMES WORK FOR YOU (spring, fall, day or evening)?
- WOULD YOU PREFER THE SUPPER AND A MEETING OR JUST AN INFORMATION MEETING?
- IDEAS ARE WELCOME FOR 2020 INFORMATION TABLES/PRESENTATIONS

Some Quotes from the meeting:

"This is the second year an open meeting like this has happened and I think they are a great thing to offer our community. It's nice to express opinions without having to be put on an agenda. It's a great way to see how others in the community are feeling about things in town."

"This type of forum is important for people to attend. It's not about getting up in arms and complaining about things we aren't happy about. It's about offering our opinion on things that are happening in town, and will be happening in the upcoming years."

"Well organized and lots of valuable information, hope to see more people out next year".