

717 Main Avenue West | P.O. Box 420 | Sundre, Alberta, Canada T0M 1X0 | T. 403.638.3551 | F. 403.638.2100 | E. townmail@sundre.com

## Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - February 2018

Do you ever wonder what is being accomplished with your tax dollars? Here are a few examples of some of the success stories in the past while. There is a longer list that we will be posting soon on our website.

You may have heard that Council and staff have a very serious concern about the capacity of our wastewater treatment plant. Those capacity issues are partly due to leaks in our underground pipes (some pipes are 50-60 years old). Our water treatment plant treats much more than we use because, under pressure, treated water squirts out of cracks in the pipes. This water is then “sucked in” (infiltration) by the leaking sewer pipes that are in the same general underground location. Our wastewater treatment plant, therefore, treats a lot of treated drinking water because of those leaks in both systems.

Our staff and contractors completed a leaking water main and lift station manhole replacement project, by the skateboard park, this Fall. This project alone saved 5 litres per second of otherwise lost treated water. That translates to about 432 cubic metres per day. If we sold that much water it would provide about \$350,000 in revenue, per year, to the Town. That manhole fix meant that the infiltration to our treatment lagoons dropped by 200-300 cubic metres per day (of what was really treated drinking water). Sewage lift station pump times were reduced by 4.5 hours per day, which extends the life of that system. This project was a great initiative brought forward by staff at the Operations Department and it is a very “good news story” that we should all celebrate.

That “fix” means that we may have as much as 15-20% more capacity in our Wastewater Treatment Lagoons. The crisis we have all been concerned about, spending as much as \$14 million to upgrade our lagoon system, may be able to be phased in as we grow, and continue to find more leaks, fix them, and make our current system more efficient. Thank you to all the Operations staff and contractors for all the great work you are doing behind the scenes to help save us all money in our utility rates and taxes.

Except for the carbon levy the Province added, that the Town is responsible to collect from you, did you notice your utility rates did not increase this year? Significant “fixes,” like the project described above, are ongoing. On **Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 PM**, at the Town Office in Council Chambers, please join us to find out more about the 5 Year Capital Plan for the Town of Sundre. Road projects, building maintenance projects, parks and trails projects, water and wastewater projects, planning and expansion of service projects, and more will be outlined. You will get a chance to find out what some of the ideas and priorities are, and Council and staff want to hear from you in this Public Information Meeting. We all hope to see you there 😊

Did anyone notice that by 10:00 AM last Sunday, after a fresh snow, the paths and sidewalks that the Town is responsible for, had all been swept, and most intersections in Town were sanded? Thank you to the staff and contractors for that good work.

Did you know that the arena has a “new-to-us” ice resurface machine? Staff were able to buy a used 2013 Calgary Flames Zamboni, saving \$55,000 versus purchasing new. Did you try the Outdoor Ice Rink that is available for public use by the skateboard park? Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make the rink available to all.

These are only a few of the projects that happened last year using your tax dollars. Please call me at 403-559-7352 if you want to talk more about these projects, or any other Town matter.

Terry Leslie, Mayor