

## **Mayor Report**

**November 19, 2019**

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In this report and on behalf of Council, I would like to provide some basic information to all residents regarding various utilities and services within the Summer Village.

### **Utilities**

With the exception of the sewage lagoon, the Summer Village of Sandy Beach does not own or operate any utilities, such as gas, electricity, telephone, internet, and cable/satellite television or water services. Such utilities services are provided by various vendors, (i.e., Ste Anne Gas Coop, Fortis, Telus, etc.), and resident with questions regarding these services should contact the service/utility provider directly.

Potable water is coming to the Summer Village as part of the West Inter-Lake Water Commission. This water transmission line will bring water to the edge of the Village and in the form of a water station and may be in operation sometime in 2020 or early 2021.

Due to recent concerns regarding reported gas line leaks, the Summer Village has contacted Ste Anne Gas and asked the following questions:

1. Does Ste Anne Gas routinely check for leaks of its lines within the Summer Village?
2. Can Ste Anne Gas inform the Summer Village when the initial gas lines were installed within the Village?
3. Does Ste Anne Gas have a plan to replace the gaining gas lines within the Summer Village? And if so, when and on what schedule?

### **Fire Services**

Neither the Municipal Government Act of Alberta nor any other provincial legislation requires any Alberta municipality to provide fire suppression services or have a written fire plan.

The Summer Village currently has an agreement with Sturgeon County Fire Services for fire suppression services. Any 911 call requesting fire services will result in Sturgeon County Fire Services being dispatched to an address in the Summer Village.

By contract agreement, Sturgeon County invoices this Summer Village for all fire services provided, and the initial bill is paid by the Summer Village. In turn, the Summer Village invoices the property owner to whom the service was provided. The owner may then submit the invoice to their insurance company for payment. If the fire service invoice remains unpaid by the property owner, the Summer Village will add the amount owing to the property tax. A penalty of 3% will be added the first day of each month,

starting July 1<sup>st</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>, and then an 18% penalty will be assessed on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

Obtaining homeowner insurance, including fire suppression coverage, is the sole responsibility of the property owner. It is suggested that renters also obtain homeowner insurance.

### **Emergency Management Services**

Separate and apart from fire suppression services, the Alberta Government has legislated that all Alberta municipalities have in place an emergency/disaster plan. A new regulation, the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR) comes into force January 1, 2010 and will prescribe that the Incident Command System (ICS) is to be used.

The Summer Village of Sandy Beach has had both an Emergency Management Policy and an Emergency Operations Plan in effect since November 2008. Further, the Summer Village is also now a member of the Regional Emergency Management Agency for the 12 summer villages in Las Ste Anne County East.

Two elected officials have been appointed to the Regional Emergency Management Committee and both have completed the only required elected official training, namely the Elected Officials Education Programme (Munis 101). Both elected officials have also completed the voluntary training, including Basic Emergency Management, Incident Command System 100 and Incident Command System 200.

The Summer Village has also appointed a Director and Deputy Director of Emergency Management for the Village who also serve on the Regional Emergency Management Agency. Both appointees have or will have completed the required training by June 2020' including Basic Emergency Management, Incident Command System 100 and Incident Command System 200.

Alberta Health Services has published a free guide "Personal and Family Disaster Preparedness Guide" and can be obtained through them. A limited number of copies of the Guide may be available at the Summer Village administration office.

### **Firesmart**

Firesmart was developed by Partner in Protection and with the participation of the Alberta Government. The suggestions and guidelines provided through the Firesmart information programme assists municipalities and individual homeowners to reduce the risk of wildfire to homes and neighbourhoods.

The Summer Village initially contracted to widen the boulevards within the Village in 2012. A firesmart preparedness survey, funded by the Alberta Summer Village Association was completed in 2014. In 2017 Council appointed a Firesmart Committee, consisting of two community members and one elected official, to provide guidance and suggestions for the Village to ultimately become a certified Firesmart community.

One project, completed in October 2019, that was recommended, saw the installation of reflective individual property address signs and new street signs, including arrows pointing to the locations of lot address. A second project, vegetation mitigation, along Lakeshore Drive was applied for and received approval also in 2019 and forest cutting and clearing is set to being in November 2019.

The Summer Village is only responsible for lands owned by the Village. Individual property owners have sole responsibility for any Firesmart initiatives on their property.

A free Firesmart Homeowners Manual is available at the Summer Village administration office.

Hopefully the information above is useful to resident and property owners within the Summer Village.

Mr. Mike Buda, who has been with the Firesmart Committee since the start, has indicated he is stepping down. Council and the committee members wish to thank Mike for his dedication and hard work on this committee.

As a result, Council is seeking another community member to sit on the Firesmart Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon Drybrough, Mayor