

TOWN OF MILESTONE – 2016

MUNICIPAL CAPITAL PROJECTS & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Town of Milestone has benefited from population growth through residential development. Population growth comes with many benefits but is not without challenges.

The past couple of years have seen several large capital projects completed and in various stages of construction. Community growth, aging infrastructure and government requirements have provided challenges for all of us but council feels we are moving in the right direction.

The lagoon expansion was completed in the summer of 2015 at a cost of approximately 1.4 million. This project was necessary as our current lagoon had exceeded capacity and this upgrade ensures our community complies with federal regulations and the growth of our community.

The expansion to the water plant began with an application to the Building Canada Fund in 2008. While the initial application was not approved, 6 years later, unused funds were allocated to the Town of Milestone based on their 2008 application. The scope of the project remained the same, but the costs had increased significantly. Initially the application was for approx. \$659,000 but project costs have increased to over One million dollars. Town Council determined that it was in the best interests of the residents of Milestone to provide a potable water source. Provincial and Federal funding for this project is apprx. \$450,000.

We have experienced a few delays due to engineering and suppliers of the Reverse Osmosis but we hope to have the plant operational later this summer or early fall.

2016 Budget and Tax Policy Information

The 2016 Operating and Capital Budget was considered and passed by the Council of the Town of Milestone on April 12, 2016.

The following Tax Policy information was passed and applied to the Total Taxable Assessment for the Town of 33,336,420:

2016 Municipal Millrate – 6.101 mills

Base Tax – \$50.00 – Ag Land, Res Land, Comm Land

Base Tax - \$650.00 Land& Improvements – Ag, Res, Comm

Applying the above Tax Policy to the Taxable Assessment results in a Municipal Tax Levy of approximately \$431,187.72.

The 2016 Millrate remains the same as 2015. The Base Tax threshold was increased by \$100.00 collectively for Land & Improvements for each assessment category.

Municipal Operating Revenues, excluding any capital grant allocations that may be received, total \$818,156; Operating expenses, excluding depreciation of asset calculations and capital purchases total \$787,799.

2016 – Municipal Election year

2016 year is Municipal Election Year with municipal elections Province wide scheduled for October 26, 2016. For information on Municipal Elections candidate and voter eligibility visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/elections/election-procedures>.

2017 – Assessment Revaluation Year

2017 is a reassessment year in the province of Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) will be updating property valuations to reflect a base date of January 1, 2015. The Town of Milestone will be provided with preliminary 2017 assessment information in late 2016. Once the information is received it will be reviewed by the Council and information on the impacts of the 2017 Revaluation will be sent out to ratepayers by the end of 2016.

Yearly Compliance Report for Drinking Water

Saskatchewan Environment “Drinking Water Quality and Compliance Regulations” requires that at least once a year waterworks owners (The Town of Milestone) provide notification to consumers of the quality of water produced and supplied, as well as information on the performance of the waterworks in submitting samples as required by the “Permit To Operate Waterworks”. This is to notify, pursuant to these regulations, that a summary of the Town of Milestone’s water quality and sample submission compliance record for the January 1st 2015 to December 31st 2015 time period is now available at the town office.

This information can also be seen on line at

www.saskh20.ca.

TRAFFIC/PARKING

PARKING: In accordance with the town’s TRAFFIC CONTROL BYLAW, council is requesting your cooperation

in ensuring that your vehicle(s) **(THIS INCLUDES RV's, Camper Trailers, and Utility Trailers etc.)** are not parked on the street for more than a 24 hour period. The extended parking of vehicles etc. is not only in violation of the Bylaw but it also creates undue and unnecessary hardship for street cleaning, street maintenance and snow removal operations. It can also hamper sight lines and creates a hazard when school children are travelling to and from school. Also, if you are parking your trailer for extended periods of time on your property and/or on part of the boulevard, please be cognizant of your neighbor. It may be blocking his view or may be causing them an inconvenience you may not be aware of. Your consideration will be appreciated by all concerned.

Also please ensure your vehicle is parked on the right-hand side of the street having regard to the direction in which the vehicle was proceeding. If your vehicle is not parked in that manner and is hit or sustains damage, you may be liable for damages and your insurance may be void. Also, it is in violation of the town's traffic bylaw and you may be fined if not parked in the proper manner.

BACK LANES: There have been some problems when the lanes are used after a rain. Not only do the lanes get rutted up badly but in some instances the adjacent private property has been damaged. Council is requesting your cooperation by not driving in the lanes after a rain until they have dried out.

BUILDING AND LOT DEVELOPMENT YOUR PROJECT - YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Each year a number of inquiries are made to whether or not Building Permits are necessary for all kinds of different types of development.

First and foremost, all municipalities in Saskatchewan are responsible for the orderly and regulated development within their municipal boundaries. As well within today's mortgage requirements, insurance requirements and an onus on **ALL** municipalities to ensure residential and commercial buildings are constructed to a minimum standard, it is only appropriate to advise and re-enforce the Town of Milestone Building Development procedures and policies.

There are important steps to follow when considering building development and lot development. Building Permits are required when: new construction is contemplated; major building renovations where structural changes are necessary; and when buildings are moved into the municipality.

Prior to any construction or alteration of buildings, the proper municipal approval must be obtained. Plans for new construction and major renovations are subject to the Development Permit Application process. The Development Permit Application and construction details must be submitted so the Town's Building Inspector may review the development permit application, accompanying building plans and specification to apply the National Building Code of Canada Regulations and Provincial Fire Regulations. Once the plans have been reviewed by a building inspector appointed by the municipality, and alterations made if necessary, the municipality may approve the Development Permit Application. **NO WORK MAY COMMENCE UNTIL THE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AND BUILDING PERMIT HAVE BEEN ISSUED.**

Owners and contractors should be aware that when the Building Inspector performs onsite inspections to review development conformity to regulations, any deviations or deficiencies found outside of what was approved on the Building Development Permit Form, costs to remedy such alterations or deviations are the owners' responsibility. The municipality shall not be held liable for such costs. **IT IS the responsibility of the owner and contractor to follow the proper building and development codes.**

Not all types of development require Development Permits. Such things as decks or sheds less than 100 square feet, fences, or cosmetic work like window replacement, siding or shingling do not require Building Permits. It should be noted however, in the case of fences and sheds, requirements under the Zoning Bylaw still require to be adhered to with regards to building yard requirements.

These steps ensure your building, whether residential or commercial, may be constructed in accordance to any national, provincial and local

regulation. Again this is extremely important as financial institutions and the insurance industry are becoming more and more focused on ensuring their investments are meeting minimum construction and development standards.

When considering building a fence, the property owner should contact the municipality to see if property pins may be located. The Town does not guarantee that this constitutes a legal survey. If property lines are in dispute, it is the responsibility of the property to contact a surveyor to establish the lot pins in their proper location. The cost of such work is the responsibility of the property owner.

Payment options: Tax and utility payments can now be made online thru most financial institutions. Additionally, for your convenience, we will be setting up a pre-authorized payment program. Please contact Arlene at the Town office if you are interested in setting up pre-authorized payments or if you have any questions with regards to online payments.

Members of the council are as follows:

Mayor: Jeff Brown
Councilors: Judy Moorhead, Rena Ohrt, Bev Siebert, Mike Sjodin, Greg Treleven & Ian Wourms.