

PUBLIC MEETING

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

at the Senior Citizen's Centre, 310 Albert Street  
Radisson, SK

Present: Mayor Dave Summers, Councillors Kirk Maxwell, Marion Fehr-Stead

RCMP Cpl Erin Charabin and Cpl Kim Nording (part of the meeting)

Staff: Foreman Kyle Gage, Administrator Pat Peacock

Approximately 70 residents were in attendance (the signature sheet attached does not represent the attendance)

Absent: Councillors Michelle Dubyk, Darren Harris, Suren Chetty

Mayor Dave Summers called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Everyone was welcomed and thanked for attending. Questions will be taken after the presentation.

Mayor Dave explained to everyone that \$180,000 is needed to pay back Education Taxes to the school board, as with the new changes in Government of Saskatchewan. The funds which should have been remitted to the school board monthly were used to pay operating expenses; because of the huge over expenditure with the water treatment plant. There is no concern of missing funds. The remittances will now be submitted directly to the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Town Office furnace issues, the fixing of fire hydrants which will be fixed this winter, are creating a burden larger than the existing line of credit can bear. Mayor Dave also, encouraged residents to vote no to the school at the bi-election on December 6<sup>th</sup> as there are other more urgent issues.

Mayor Dave then switched the presentation to the garbage and recycle carts question. The Town of Radisson is the only municipality within the 16 to 43 Waste Management program that has weekly garbage pickup and the question was could you work with a biweekly collection. He suggested that additional carts could be provided at an additional cost.

The meeting was then opened to the residents.

Gerald Piwowar: Thought at a previous meeting that additional carts were free to residents.

*Response: Yes, Councillor Marion Fehr-Stead agreed that previous administrator Darrin Beaudoin did say that. An apology was issued to the crowd and were assured that the previous agreement would stay valid.*

Sara Lynds: Would we decrease the costs by half with biweekly collection

*Response: It would; the exact amount is unknown at this time*

Kathy Allen: Instead of borrowing money, what about collecting the back taxes and overdue utility bills.

*Response: That's a wonderful suggestion but collecting these amounts is not as easy as it sounds.*

Don Harris: Concerns with adding utilities to taxes, why not shut the services off.

*Response: There is legislation that utilities cannot be turned off until spring.*

Gerald Wiebe: Municipal Council can act on these areas by the Municipalities Act.

*Response: Yes, Gerald there is.*

Kathy Allen: In regard to the extra costs of the Water Treatment Plan – Why wasn't the public informed.

*Response: It wasn't kept a secret; perhaps Council could have made it more aware but instead they were dealing with the problems.*

?? : Should the residents pay the school tax directly to the school board

Gerald Wiebe: re: mailout letter, with regard to the fire pump replacement this winter and the generator. Is Council undertaking the proper process?

*Response: Yes, Gerald; Council is doing the proper process. There is an Engineering firm coming out soon to do the reporting required by legislation and advise Council of all the changes necessary.*

Gerald Piwowar: Explain fire pump and generator.

Response: Regarding the fire pump – In the case of fire, the fire pump would ensure the residents and fire department would have adequate water supply.

Presently, in the case of fire; the fire department would take all the water from the houses but the system would not be able to keep up so firemen would experience pressure loss as well.

Generator – In the case of a power outage, the water plant would keep running and avoid any water advisory conditions.

Larry Raynard: Garbage pickup only biweekly in the summer? What about the smell.

*Response: If that becomes an issue, we will look at it again at that time.*

Brad Penno: Concerns that slipped through the cracks. What will happen in the future? Going forward the Council is between a rock and a hard spot.

*Response: Thanks Brad*

Rob Gust: Can garbage and recycle be in the same week, so its isn't so confusing.

Response: Thanks Rob, that's a great suggestion

Larry Raynard: What is the cost of pickup?

Response: IT works out to \$14.00 per person. Its on a per capita base.

Robin Baker: There is a generation gap at this meeting, the mostly affect by garbage pickup are not present here tonight. Suggest the question goes on Facebook. She has frustration with the misappropriation of funds! Why isn't Council doing an Audit? What is the plan for repayment.

*Response: Council has additional help in the office from a retired Administrator and at this time, we do not feel an audit is necessary.*

Gerald Piwowar: How far behind are school taxes?

*Response: The past 2 years, while we were dealing with the additional water plant costs.*

Brad Penno – Council has a responsibility to transparency.

*Response: That's true*

Art Flath – stay away from Gen X for a generator

*Response: Duly noted; thanks for that tidbit.*

Kathey Allen: Where does it go from here?

*Response: Council and staff are working toward getting it all fixed, either by borrowing or doing an agreement with Government of Saskatchewan to clean up the past due and it is being paid monthly the past few months.*

Brad Penno: Negotiate with the government, see what the penalties and interest is compared to the costs of borrowing.

*Response: Yes, we will do that. Pat has been a little busy getting to know our community and working alone in the office but with the addition of Sharon; it will all get done.*

Sarah Lynds: costs of long and short term borrowing. What are the ramifications? This shouldn't affect the tax rate at this moment.

*Response: Council hopes that it can be figured out without a great impact on the resident but also reminds you that taxes have not increased for a few years other than the addition of a minimum tax.*

Donna Ridgewell: The minimum tax was raised this year.

*Response: This year was a re-evaluation year and the increases or decreases were related to the SAMA assessment changes.*

Barb Leschyshn: What are the options being explored. This bill needs to be a priority.

*Response: We are exploring all the options we can.*

Duncan Stead: In regard to the pump and generator; can an infrastructure charge be added to water billing.

*Response: That is a very real possibility since the utilities are to stand alone and be self-sufficient.*

Barb Leschyshn: Concerned about the amount the \$225,000 will cost including interest.

*Response: Again we are looking to do this as cheaply as possible.*

Gerald Wiebe: Commented that infrastructure is aging – has anyone thought about costs or repair and placement.

*Response: Yes, Gerald, Council is aware that the infrastructure is aging. Council has some of the lines inspected by camera often. We know that it's the connectors that are failing not the pipe. Again we will need to keep increasing utility costs to cover these repairs.*

Terri Mitchler: Brought to everyone's attention that the Transfer Station is located in the old recycle building and is now being operated by her son, Shawn and that people can come Wednesday 1-5 pm or Saturday 1-6pm.

*Response: Thank you Terri, we should have had that on the agenda for tonight as well.*

Robin Baker: Where do we throw light bulbs? Suggests once every 6 months a place to get rid of glass at the transfer station.

*Response: The 16 to 43 Waste Management Site by Hafford will take them, it is believed there are no costs for dropping them there.*

Don Harris: Complimented the Council on the great job they do to look after the town, with a job to take care of as well.

Fern Raynard: Wanted clarification on the Town Hall.

*Response: Yes, this should have been on the agenda as well. The Hall report says it is at the end of its life. Council knows there are several organizations with things in the hall and will allow everyone to get their things out. Council wants to shut the utilities off to the hall by the end of December as this will save the town \$20,000 in expenses.*

Terri Mitchler: Request that the Town hall be used for storage. Suggested Council consider adding on to the Communiplex to make it a more multi-functional place and have the town hall there.

*Response: The hall is unsafe and therefore cannot be used as storage; for liability reasons people could not safely enter it willy nilly. The Communiplex could be a consideration; it would need to be looked at down the road. The land under the hall belongs to the Town so once the hall is demolished that could be a future location for another hall. There would have to be consideration for a parking lot there as well.*

Mayor Dave adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm. He advised that Council will remain in the building to further discuss issues with individuals should anyone wish a more private conversation. He thanked everyone for attending and for the orderly input and respect everyone showed during the meeting.



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Mayor David Summers



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Administrator Pat Peacock