

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Community Centre followed by the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph. I'm grateful to both Major Robert Mein from the 20<sup>th</sup> Independent Field Battery (Royal Canadian Artillery) as well as Corporal Travis Norton of the RCMP for their participation in the program. Al Litchfield, Chaplain for the Stirling Fire Department, was kind enough to once again act as our Master of Ceremonies.



Council was pleased to hear from Sergeant Brad Noss from the RCMP this month. Sergeant Noss is the Commanding Officer of the Raymond Detachment and typically attends Council meetings once per quarter to provide updates on local crime statistics, discuss Council's priorities and touch base on other public safety issues or concerns in the community. Property related incidents such as



theft, fraud, break and enter are down 17% this quarter compared to the same time last year. Persons related offences such as assault, threats and harassment were basically the same as the prior year. Council appreciates the continued engagement of the RCMP in our community and the ongoing direct communication with Council. You can download the Alberta RCMP app on Google Play and through the Apple App Store to search local crime stats, report non-emergency complaints and access other information.

A big focus for our meetings this month was the preliminary operating and capital budgets for 2025. Our Administrative team has been working hard to anticipate all the required projects in the next few years and meet all the legislative requirements for municipalities. Council was pleased to hear that there is no proposed increase to the mill rate for property taxes. Once again, Administration has worked hard to find efficiencies to offset most of the impact of inflation. Council must approve an interim budget before the end of the calendar year. The budget will then be updated early in the new year as the province confirms the education portion of your tax assessment and other programs like municipal contributions to policing costs.

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As part of the budget discussion, the leadership of the Stirling Fire Department presented their five-year strategic plan. The department continues to focus on ongoing technical training and professional development for our volunteer members. In addition, the department has developed an asset replacement strategy to ensure they are well equipped while at the same time continue working within the Village's budget constraints.



Council heard from the Stirling Seniors Club this month as a delegation to our November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Club members outlined concerns with cleaning and maintenance of the Senior's room at the Community Centre as well as procedures for event bookings. Council appreciates the Club for bringing their concerns and suggestions forward for consideration.

Another delegation this month was a local resident who provided additional input on the proposed Land Use Bylaw. Suggestions were provided with respect to business signage, streetlights and other ways to maintain the look and feel of a historic community. Council appreciates the additional feedback and ideas.

Got an idea, suggestion or concerns? Consider registering to speak as a delegation to an upcoming meeting. Council meetings are generally the first and third Wednesday of the month beginning at 7:00pm. You can find the delegation form online here <https://stirling.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Policy-001-08-Schedule-A.pdf> or stop by the office.

Christmas at the Kiosk has been moved this year to the Community Centre. Join in the fun and holiday festivities on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Rumour has it a special visitor from the North Pole will be in attendance. Watch for details on the Village website and Facebook page.



Trevor Lewington

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."* – Aesop

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