



## Mayor's Monthly Message

### April 2023

Council was thrilled this month to receive \$2.2 million in provincial funding towards the upgrade of our lift station and twinning of the forcemain to the lagoon. This strategic investment by the Government of Alberta represents about 71% of the cost of the project with the remainder to be funded by the Village from reserves and new debt.

The project will provide additional capacity to help us cope with extreme weather events like heavy rainfall and will provide us with capacity to accommodate future residential growth. *(Pictured during the cheque presentation on April 26 from L to R: CAO Scott Donselaar, Deputy Mayor Larry Nilsson, Taber Warner MLA Grant Hunter and myself.)*



You can expect to see the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in three locations around the Village in the coming weeks. They will be located at the pool, Village office and the Fire Hall. We received grant funding resulting in the units being made available to us at no cost to the Village.

As the number of electric vehicles on the road in Canada continues to grow, it is important that travellers be able to access charging infrastructure – especially since we are located just off the main north/south route of the CANAMEX corridor. This is particularly important if the federal government's regulations requiring all new passenger and light trucks sold in Canada to be electric zero-emission vehicles by 2035 remain in place.



This month Council received the Annual Financial Statements and Operations Report from Ridge Utilities. The Village is the sole shareholder of Ridge Utilities making it a "municipally controlled corporation". An annual report to Council is required under the Municipal Government Act.



Page 2

The company continues to slowly gain market share across Alberta. Council extends appreciation to the volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors for their continued work. Council remains optimistic about the future revenues that this venture could return to the Village and broader region. Learn more on the website [www.ridgeutilities.net](http://www.ridgeutilities.net).

Council also received the report of our independent third-party auditor and reviewed copies of the 2022 Audited Financial Statements for the Village. The auditors provided a clean audit opinion meaning that no errors, deficiencies or major concerns were found in our financial reporting practices, policies and procedures.

Council appreciates the efforts of our administration to ensure the integrity of our accounting and financial reporting. A copy of the audited financial statements will be posted to the website in the coming days. You can review prior year statements on the website as well.

Did you know that we have a reciprocal business license arrangement with Raymond, Magrath, Barons, Picture Butte, Coalhurst and Nobleford? That means your Stirling Business License is valid in and recognized by each of these communities. Unfortunately, the Town of Coaldale has withdrawn from the program this year. Visit or call the office to learn more.

The Stirling Fire Department will be hosting an open house and “push in ceremony” next week on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> as a new-to-us Rescue Pumper Engine as well as a recently acquired Command Truck are officially put into service.

The tradition dates back to the late 1800s, when fire departments used horses to pull a fire apparatus to fires. After fighting the fire, the crews would wash and ready the horses and the apparatus in preparation for the next call, then they would push the apparatus into the station's bay.



*Please Join Us*

The Stirling Fire Department cordially invites the Public to attend a traditional Fire Service Ceremony as we place our newest fire engine and command truck into service.

**PUSH-IN CEREMONY**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3**

**7:15 P.M.**

**STIRLING FIRE HALL**



Page 3

### Mark your calendars!

The Stirling Memorial Cemetery Society will be hosting its annual clean up day at the cemetery on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 am. Please bring rakes, shovels, gloves and enthusiasm. Refreshments will be served. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome as we work together to trim trees, pick up leaves and trash as well as level headstones.



In the spring cleaning mood? The Stirling Historical Society is hosting the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Garage Sale on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Registration will open at the Village office on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trevor Lewington

**"It's not necessary to go far and wide. I mean, you can really find exciting and inspiring things within your hometown."** — *Daryl Hannah*