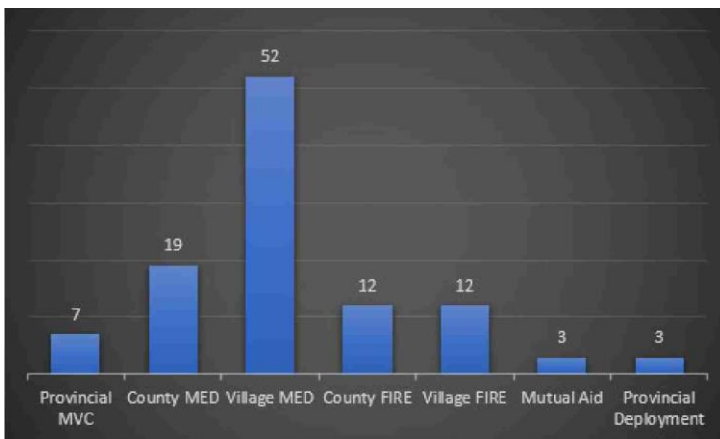




January 2024

Council reviewed a letter received from the Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Alberta's Minister of Environment and Protected Areas. The Minister has asked all Alberta municipalities to develop a water shortage plan in the event of continued drought in our region. Some of the lowest levels of snow pack ever recorded continues to be a major concern when combined with low water levels in reservoirs. The Province has formed a Drought Command Team and is gathering information from industry, the agriculture sector and municipal governments on a strategy moving forward into the spring to respond to any potential drought emergency. You can learn more about the water situation in southern Alberta by going to www.abwater.ca.



Council was pleased to hear from Chief Birky this month when he presented the 2023 Year-In-Review on behalf of the Stirling Fire Department. Stirling's incredible volunteers responded to 105 incidents last year or roughly 2 calls per week. In addition, they supported 3 separate deployments to the Edson area to aid in efforts during the wildfire season. The vast majority of calls were

related to providing medical first response within the Village. It's reassuring to know that while waiting for an ambulance that must sometimes come from as far away as Lethbridge that our local first responders will be there to lend a helping hand.

Council was provided with an annual report on our solar generated income. The Village's net zero projects have helped to offset the increase in electricity pricing and provide much needed non-tax sources of revenue to the Village. The Village's administration team continues to look for energy efficiency projects in our buildings and operations to further reduce costs.

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An electrically net zero municipality powered by:

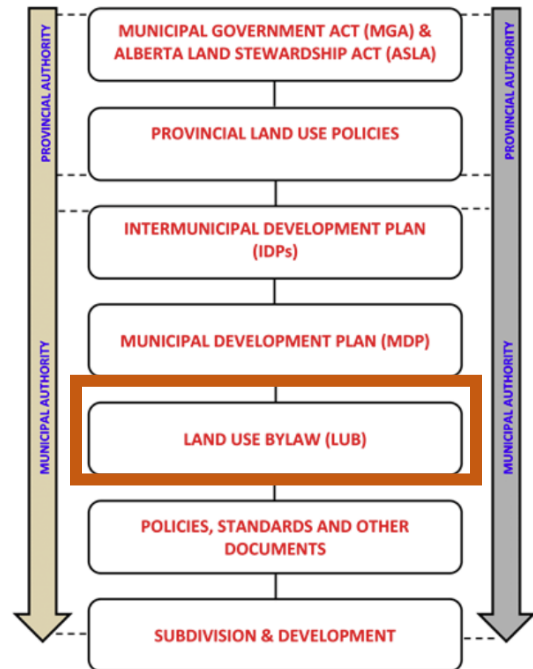




Council has met as the Municipal Planning Commission for the last few months reviewing numerous proposed changes to the Land Use Bylaw. The land use bylaw was last updated in 2008 and much has changed in the world during the last 16 years.

Some of the issues debated include:

- changes to land use districts where moved in homes would be permitted
- fascia signage on businesses
- the potential for a licensed restaurant but prohibiting liquor stores and other licensed facilities
- restrictions to severely limit the potential for retail cannabis stores (provincial law does not allow the Village to prohibit them completely)
- changes to allowable building heights for both residences and accessory structures
- adding more discretionary uses in the commercial zoning
- adding more discretionary uses in future industrial zoning
- harmonizing our land use bylaw with other statutory plans including the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan, the Intermunicipal Development Plan and our own new Municipal Development Plan.



Once the bylaw receives first reading it will be posted on the Village website for review. Council is required to hold a public hearing to consider community input as well as consider amendments before further readings. Keep an eye on the Village website and social media for updates.

Trevor Lewington

“There are things about growing up in a small town that you can’t necessarily quantify.” – **Brandon Routh**

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