



October 2023

Council extends appreciation to our public works team and responsive contractors for their diligent efforts in completing a repair to our main water supply line as a result of a valve failure. The repair was completed in about five hours during the first real wintry blast of the season.

Repressurizing the system takes several hours after that and must be done slowly to ensure water returning to the system does not damage other valves in the network or create additional issues for homeowners.

Council also appreciates everyone's patience with the water outage during the repair as well as the resulting boil water advisory. We are keenly aware of the inconvenience these types of failures can create and it underscores the importance of our focus on the master infrastructure plan for the Village.

Replacing and upgrading aging infrastructure is our top priority when it comes to using limited capital budget funds. We're pleased that the Government of Alberta previously announced over \$2 million in funding for the sanitary sewer force main and lift station project that will begin in the spring. We have also applied this fall for further funding under the same program for upgrades for valves, pipe on the main waterline and reservoir system.



Fire Prevention Week takes place every October. The Stirling Fire Department hosted an Open House at the Fire Hall on Friday, October 13th. Prizes and activities were sponsored by Potentia Renewables and the Stirling Wind Project. I'm pleased to see our new energy project neighbours become more active in our community.

The department was also fortunate to receive support from CPKC in the form of funding to support the purchase of HAZMAT (hazardous materials) suits and equipment. There are many dangerous goods that pass by near our community by road and rail. Specialized equipment and ongoing training is critical to ensure Stirling's first responders are prepared to deal with a wide range of potential risks.

Emergency situations like the recent water system failure or a potential hazmat spill can and do happen. Are you and your family prepared? Everyone with a smart phone should have the Alberta Emergency Alert app downloaded. Households should have 72 hour kits with key essential items including water. Links to resources can be found on the Village website.

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A huge thank you to the almost 50 volunteers who sorted through clothes and other donations for the FCCS Clothing Exchange on October 18th. Great to see people clearing out their closets by providing the donated items while supporting other community members who could make use of the items and help repurpose them.



Council held its annual organization meeting this month. Council reappointed me as Mayor and Larry Nilsson as Deputy Mayor. I appreciate the trust and support of my colleagues to continue in the role of Mayor and serve our community. Council also reviewed and approved the members of various committees and boards in our community. There were no significant changes.

Council explored a twinning relationship opportunity with a “sustainable city” in China but ultimately decided that the partnership would not add value. Council also expressed concerns about China’s human rights record and aggressive approach to trade with Canada.

Council voted to hold Fortis franchise fees flat with no increase. Stirling has among the lowest franchise fees in the region at 12%.

The Administrative team is building budget scenarios for next year and will be bringing forward recommendations to Council in November for debate.

Happy Halloween! Stay safe out there.

Trevor Lewington

“Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other.” – David Spangler

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