



Mayor's Monthly Message

December 2018

Council continues to work on the recruitment and selection of a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Village. We received a total of 24 applications in response to the recent job posting that closed at the end of November. Council will be conducting in-depth interviews with shortlisted candidates in late December. Council appointed local resident Scott Barton as our interim CAO on a short term and part-time basis. We appreciate Scott deferring his retirement with the Town of Raymond to provide the Stirling team with support.

We are excited about the prospect of a proposed medical clinic opening in our community. The municipal planning commission has approved the development application but many other factors still need to be resolved by the private parties involved in the project. The ambitious plan would see a part-time physician, dentist and chiropractor provide services under one roof. A pharmacy and future plans for physiotherapy services are also being considered. This would be a significant addition to our Village and an important enhancement to the services available to residents. Council has been asked by the proponents of the project to consider potential tax relief and the provision of other services like snow removal to help offset the risk of the project. Council has discussed some of these requests but is also mindful of the existing store front and home-based businesses in our community. Ensuring fairness and equity will be an important consideration.

I was pleased to be invited to Calgary on Monday, December 17th to participate in an announcement for the latest round of renewable energy project approvals by the province. The Stirling Wind Project was one of the development projects approved. The Project will be approximately 113 megawatts (MW) in size and is anticipated to be under construction in 2019. The project involves the installation of up to 32 wind turbines, an electrical collection system, access roads and the construction of a new wind collector substation, called the Red Coat Substation located about 5 kilometers north of the Village across Highway 4. Council will continue to work with the project developer to ensure opportunities for employment, sourcing of local materials/supplies and direct investment in our community are an integral part of their decision making processes. You can find the latest updates on the project on their website at: <https://stirlingwind.com/>.

At this festive time of year, it's important to remember fire safety and the problems sometimes created from overloaded power bars, unattended candles and the general hectic pace of the season. There are some great reminders available from the Office of the Alberta Fire Commissioner at this link: <http://www.ofc.alberta.ca/ofc-winter-fire-safety>.

Finally, let me wish you and your families all the best for a very Merry Christmas and healthy New Year!

Trevor Lewington, Mayor

c: (403) 330 3701

e: Lewington@stirling.ca