



Mayor's Monthly Message

November 2018

There are several key focus areas for Council this month including the development of an interim 2019 operating and capital budget as well as the completion of discussions with the staff team on a new multi-year Employment Agreement. A budget for 2019 must be passed prior to the end of the year but is normally revised in the spring once transfers from provincial government sources are confirmed. It is expected that a provincial election will also be called for the early part of next year that may further complicate our local budget process. Council's budget discussions are centred around protecting the services and programs we enjoy while finding efficiencies to minimize the need for property tax increases.

A delegation attended our meeting on Wednesday, November 7th to communicate their concerns around the recently announced resignation of the Village's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). I appreciate the obvious passion and concern for our community from all those who attended. The CAO position is key to the efficient and effective operation of the Village as well as building a strong community. The delegation asked a number of questions in their presentation which I have attempted to address, in part, through this month's message.

An ad hoc sub-committee of Council was formed on October 11th to provide oversight for the recruitment and selection process for the CAO position. Councillors Edwards, Foss and Nilsson have been working to update all the official documents related to the CAO role and ensure we have a pool of qualified candidates to interview. The goal is to have a candidate selected before the end of the year.

The skills and attributes required for the CAO role in addition to the key duties and responsibilities are clearly outlined in Bylaw number 449-13, the Chief Administrative Officer Bylaw. Council used this existing regulation to develop the job posting and guide the selection process. The ad hoc committee has been making revisions to the bylaw to be brought forward for Council approval to better reflect the community's needs as things have changed since the bylaw was last updated over five years ago.

I have met with our staff team and will continue to be available to provide support when necessary through this transition. Council has also engaged the services of an interim CAO on a contract basis until the role can be filled on a permanent basis. Stirling is fortunate to have a small but mighty administration who provide us with the many services we enjoy from garbage collection to snow removal to water/sewer services. We are also fortunate to have strong partnerships with regional organizations that will help to ensure uninterrupted services to our residents. For example, we can leverage a planner to support development applications through the Oldman River Regional Services Commission.

The departure of a CAO is always a pivotal moment for any community. It is natural that a change of a key community leader would cause concern. As I have noted before, I appreciate Mike Selk's leadership of and engagement in our community over the last 7 years. A new CAO will have big shoes to fill. That said, a new perspective and new ideas can also help us to move forward – together.

Trevor Lewington

Have a comment? Question? Idea? Suggestion?

I'd love to hear from you. c: (403) 330 3701 e: Lewington@stirling.ca