

MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2018

We survived the cold blast that hit us in March and we hope that Spring will be right around the corner. Despite the weather, the town staff continue to work hard and prepare for the upcoming warm season. For this month Mayor's Report, the focus will be on Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Officials and Bylaws.

A councilor's job is to work with other council members to set the overall direction of the municipality through their role as policy maker. The policies that council sets are guidelines for administration to follow as it does the job of running a municipality. A councilor will spend a lot of time while on council creating new polices and programs or reviewing the current ones to make sure they are working as they should.

For example, the Councilors (under the Municipal Government Act), have the following duties:

- To consider the welfare and interest of the municipality as a whole and, to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality
- To participate generally in developing and evaluating the policies and programs of the municipality
- To participate in council meetings and council committee meetings and meeting of other bodies to which they are appointed by the council
- To obtain information about the operation or administration of the municipality from the Chief Administrative Officer
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private at a council meeting until discussed at a meeting held in public
- To perform any other duty or function imposed on councilors by this or any other enactment or/by the council

The Mayor's Role can be summarized as follows:

- Chairperson of council
- Consensus seeker amongst members of council
- Liaison with senior elected officials
- Ex officio member on various boards and committees
- Key representative with regard to ceremonial responsibilities
- Liaison with other levels of government
- Provides advise with regard to policy development

Why do we have bylaws? Bylaws are created as a way to address issues and concerns of the local community. They are created to protect the environment, private and public property to

ensure public health and to maintain an orderly appearance in the community. A bylaw may regulate or define the rights and responsibilities of citizens by prohibiting, permitting or otherwise controlling certain activities.

The community of Gravelbourg uses bylaws:

- To address matters of public interest
- To enforce standards of conduct
- Act as a licensing body
- For planning and development

The municipality exercises its powers through bylaws and resolutions. The Saskatchewan Municipal Government Act gives our municipality certain powers that it is required to exercise, and others that it may exercise if it chooses to do so. I would encourage all rate payers to educate themselves and review the Municipal Act.

I hope this information serves to enlighten you on the basic outlines of duties required by council members and the Mayor, as well as providing a basic outline on why we have bylaws and how they are used.

Remember, residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend council meetings. Feel free to contact the town office if you have further questions.

Gravelbourg is a community with great potential. Planning for success through guidelines and policies ensure we are one step closer to reaching our goal of prosperity and sustainability. Thank you for your continued support.

Robert Bowler, Mayor
Town of Gravelbourg