



Mayor's Monthly Report

May 2018

We are still waiting for the burst of leaves to happen, harboring in Spring!!! This month I have chosen to discuss what Municipalities and Councils are charged through legislation, both Federal and Provincial, to do...provide services, keep communities safe and look after public assets.

Municipalities are governed by over sixty different Acts and regulations. We rely heavily on the office to provide us with the appropriate information and to guide us through the maze regarding these Acts and Regulations. There are times when we, as a Council, acting in good faith attempt to change things only to find out that legally we cannot or that there is a process that needs to be followed regarding any changes we want. This can take time.

We also rely heavily on public works to ensure everyday services are provided in a safe timely manner- drinking water, sewer and waste, streets, garbage removal and recycling. We have an aging infrastructure that seems to need constant repair. We are striving to ensure the repairs are sustainable or that replacement occurs. This is costly in not only parts but in human resources as well.

We are charged with ensuring that public assets are looked after. To do that municipalities are charged with producing a balanced budget unlike our Federal and Provincial counterparts who can deficit budget. We are in the process of reviewing the operating and capital budget for 2018. Once approved, you will be receiving your tax notice.

As a Council we are committed to transparency. We will be reviewing the current tax tools in place and adjusting as needed. Tax tools include the Municipal levy, the Base tax and a minimum tax. We are currently using the base tax rather than the minimum tax along with the levy to produce your tax bill.

We will also be reviewing the Utilities Budget as a separate budget. This must be a balanced budget as well. We have been experiencing losses on the water side and our public works will be looking into the causes of the losses. There have been some breaks that account for some, but there may be other reasons for the losses. Back in the good old days, there may have been some lines installed before the meter. This may account for further losses. We are committed to supplying the Town with safe water at a reasonable price and must find ways to reduce the losses. In 2017, our unaudited financial reports indicate we purchased \$856,724 worth of water from Sask Water and only billed out for \$775,037. There is a shortfall in revenue of \$81,687. This must stop. We should be showing a positive amount in revenue from the sale of water to help offset the other expenses within the utility.

We, as a Council, welcome your comments. We thank you for the trust you have placed in us and will endeavor to keep that trust.

Robert Bowler, Mayor