

**July 27, 2019**

**Mayor and Council Report**

**For presentation at the “Annual General Meeting”**

Introductions of Council & Administration

- Mayor – Gerry Keane
- Deputy Mayor – Nick Tywoniuk
- Councilor – Gregg Drechsler
- Administration
  - Marion Bancroft and assistant Kim Bancroft
  - Development Officer – Garth Bancroft
- Introduction of guests
  - Westlock County Councilor Fred Slobodian, Division 6.
  - Herman Stegehuis, Wildfire Mitigation presentation.
- Introduction of new residents to the lake.

**Council and Mayor’s update:**

Individuals acknowledged and thanked for their service to the community:

- Koni Getschell for voluntarily taking care of the library.
- Tony Galiwoda for looking after the summer village by mowing the grass, filling in the newly developed pot holes and generally keeping the summer village looking beautiful.
- New RV policy
  - The owner of any lot with a residence on it is allowed one recreational vehicle per lot. Any lot that does not have a residence on it will be allowed up to two RV units on the lot. There will be no charge for these units.
  - Extra units are allowed, at no charge, for a short period (such as a weekend but less than 10 days per calendar year) providing there is room on the lot for these units and all vehicles.
- Road work (sealing). Appears to be holding up fairly well, in spite of the cold winter and wet June/July.

- Bear warning. Bears are still around. Reminder to all residents not to attract them with bird feeders and compost.
  
- Website (SVLarkspur.ca)
  - Please look at the website and if you have suggestions, send them to administration.
  - Reminder to send your email address to the administration so your contact information can be added into the distribution list for emails and updates.
  - Thank the residents who notified administration of corrections to the website including:
    - Minimum tax is \$400 and not \$175.
    - Correction made to the “mill rate”.
  
- Intermunicipal Development Plan
  - Municipal Affairs wish to ensure all municipalities are getting the best bang for their buck and where possible the municipalities should collaborate with each other for services provided. The only municipality adjacent to the Summer Village is Westlock County.
  - An Intermunicipal Development Plan must be developed and signed off by both parties. That will also include updating of our agreements with them and updating our bylaws and policies to reflect those agreements. We have been working with Westlock Council and their CAO/Administration to develop these plans.
  - In regards to the agreements, we can expect fee increases for various services provided by Westlock County as we will pay our fair share for the services.
  - These will include:
    - Use of the landfill transfer stations
    - Winter road maintenance
    - Fire Services and
    - Emergency Services.

- Before the plan is finalized with Westlock County, public consultation with Summer Village residents will be undertaken to ensure they have the opportunity to voice their concerns.
- After that, administration will use the information collected to develop our Municipal Development Plan and a joint Intermunicipal Development Plan with the County.
- **New Sewage bylaw,**
  - An updated Sewage Bylaw has been passed and is now in effect. Highlights of the bylaw are:
    - No person shall dispose sewage onto the ground upon lands within the Summer Village of Larkspur.
    - All those with sewage disposal systems are responsible to ensure the systems are operating properly.
    - All owners shall ensure that an approved “Sewage Disposal System” is installed, maintained and operated so that it effectively treats the wastewater.
    - A Sewage Disposal System shall be installed on all properties within the Summer Village of Larkspur which are being used as permanent residences, cottages or for parking of recreational vehicles in excess of 21 days per year;
    - vacant properties that are not being used also require such installation if they have a water system, privy or outhouse.
    - Only CSA approved Holding Tanks or Disposal Fields or Treatment Mounds will be permitted to be installed (or replaced) in the Summer Village of Larkspur.
    - A designated officer of the summer village has the authority to enter onto the properties to conduct inspections and they can issue orders to ensure compliance. In addition they can issue penalties for failure to comply with penalties ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.
  - There are 2 responsible sewage haulers providing this service in the summer village, White Thunder and MoBetta. They take your sewage in approved vacuum trucks designed for that purpose and dispose of it at approved places. Remember that it is your sewage

and it is your responsibility to ensure it is disposed of properly otherwise you can be held accountable.

- Pets
  - Several residents have expressed concerns about dogs running freely and not being kept on a leash.
  - We do not have a policy for dogs and there is no requirement to keep the animals on a leash. Regardless, we encourage pet owners to be responsible neighbours and clean up after your animals.
  - Additionally, if your dog is a danger to others or other animals, they should be kept on a leash and or muzzled. There was an incident that happened last year when someone was bit and needed to receive medical attention. Incidents such as this can be reported to the RCMP and the owners could be prosecuted and face severe penalties.
- Drones
  - Residents using drones are encouraged to be aware of what the requirements are to operate them. Do not infringe on other people's privacy.
- Municipal Affairs audit of the Summer Village
  - Municipal Affairs recently conducted an audit of the operation of the Summer Village.
  - Overall the Summer Village fared well and most of the deficiencies were minor (legislative gaps). Two items that need to be addressed are:
    - requirement for an "enforcement officer bylaw", and
    - requirement for a municipal emergency management plan.
- RCMP meeting
  - Council met with S/Sgt. Al Baird in July and he provided a summary of crime in the County.
  - Westlock detachment have a total of 11 members to patrol the county and area.
  - Those resources provide 20 hours of enforcement per day with 2 – 3 members working the evening/night shifts.

- In addition the RCMP have dedicated teams that target criminals committing property crimes and they have been very successful in going after them.
- S/Sgt. Baird emphasized that thefts, break-ins and mischief should be reported to them. Although members may not be able to respond to every incident, if the incident is reported, they can identify problem areas which can lead to “smart patrols”.
- He also suggested taking preventative action.
  - Lock your home and vehicles – take the keys out
  - Consider installing security cameras.
  - Criminals prowling in an area will pick the easiest targets to break into.
- S/Sgt. Baird provided stats for the county from 2016, 2017, 2018 and this year to date. These stats are for the entire County and not specific for the Summer Village.

	2016	2017	2018	2019 YTD
Break Ins	50	44	40	32
Motor Vehicle Thefts	20	9	16	11
Thefts Over \$5000	3	4	6	3
Thefts Under \$5000	82	51	32	29
Mischief to Property	32	23	25	20

- As you can see, over the last 3 years. for the most part property crime is trending down, not increasing

- Video Cameras

- Council has looked into installing video recording cameras in the summer village and are planning to have two video cameras installed, one at each end of the village.
- The cameras will operate 7 – 24 on a continuous loop system.
- Council thanks Dave Kelly and TeraSol Systems Inc. for researching and providing a quote for the systems.