

2017 was a tough year for Sandy Beach. There was a lot of concern within the community and it was very promising to see the engagement of the community at council meetings. The involvement of 8 residents to run for office and the voter turnout shows that there is a strong desire to move forward, and look towards long term goals, to make this a healthy and sustainable place to live.

Over the last few months, the new council has hired a new permanent CAO, and has adopted the budget for 2018. It is now time to get to work, with the community's assistance, on the issues that will need to be addressed for our community to move into the future.

Some of these issues are of a serious and immediate nature and will require an effort from all of us to resolve them in a proper long term manner.

Some problems with general services are due to processes that have not been changed or modified for many years, and are out of date with new environmental, and occupational health and safety standards, as well as new guidelines for municipal collaboration, and are just not sustainable for our ever growing community.

The continuing change in social communication also demands that we look towards better and newer ways of exchanging information within our community. We require feedback between our administration, our council and our residents. In order to properly facilitate some of the desires within the community we will require resident involvement. This will require people to sit on certain committees, and form specific groups or associations, to allow us to proceed in getting grants and undertaking projects that are desired by the public.

One of the ideas that I would like to see, is a method of having more direct involvement by community members at our council meetings. I hope (with agreement of council) to allow for more questions and ideas to be brought forth during council meetings. When there is a particular topic to be discussed I would like to see that announced on our roadside sign board, and posted on the village website. (GOOGLE SV SANDY BEACH AB) We will be using the website much more to distribute information and ideas, and announce activities.

As your mayor and on behalf of council and administration I/we look forward to the challenges ahead, BUT I will stress, that we will need the input, ideas and help of the whole community to move forward.

Sincerely

Michael Harney Mayor