

MAYOR REPORT

January 21, 2021

Shout Outs

To start the New Year off on the right foot, let me open with a few shout outs.

- To members of Council who stayed home over the holiday season and did not leave the Province or county.
- To local residents who submitted photos in the Summer Village photo context – Thanks.
- To all residents who decorated their properties. The winner of the best decorated homes will be announced at the January 21, 2021 Council meeting.
- To the Silver Sage Centre for their preparation of the Christmas Care Packages, Gingerbread House decorations kits and the pocket sized community information kits.
- To all residents who continue to maintain social distance, wash/sanitize their hands, clean touch surfaces regularly and avoid group gatherings – thank you for keeping us all safe.

Firesmart

The Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta, (FRIAA), has granted the Summer Village approval for our proposed vegetation management project for 2021. Timber North will monitor the project and report to FRIAA, while the crew from Alexander First Nation will begin work in mid to late January 2021.

Two areas adjacent to Lakeshore Drive are to be cleared; one at the north end of the road and the other between the Girl Guide camp and local campground.

Regional Emergency Management Committee

I attended the January 6, 2021 Agency meeting via Zoom. The Agency –comprised of Directors and Deputy Directors of Emergency Management and CAOs of the eleven summer village of Lac Ste Anne County East are making good progress. Due to the restrictions of Covid-19, some upper level training sessions, such as the ISC 300 and above, are currently not being conducted.

The Committee, comprised of elected officials, is scheduled to meet in late February 2021.

The Agency will continue to collect information from each summer village regarding their respective facilities, available equipment and ability to have a reception centre.

2021 Rate Increases

The West Inter Lake District, (WILD) has announced that the rate for water at a truck fill station will increase from \$4.30/m³ to \$4.40/m³ effective January 1, 2021. It can be assumed this will be the rate for SV Sandy Beach residents once the water station in our Village is fully operational.

Lac Ste Anne County has increased the wastewater dumping fee to \$.55/m³ and this SV residents will likely see a slight increase to your pump out fee starting January 1, 2021. Residents are advised to have a discussion with your relevant disposal company for the most accurate costs of your pump out.

It is unknown at this time what the rate for school tax or senior's foundation tax will be as the Province typically does not issue the municipality the rate until March or April each year. Note these are taxes that each property pays but is wholly determined by the Province with the requirement that each municipality collects that tax on its behalf. Note also that the Council of the SV Sandy Beach has approved a budget with no increase to residential property taxes.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon Drybrough, Mayor