

## **Councillor Report**

### **October 2022**

**Attended:** Policing webinars Oct 3 and Oct 5

ASVA conference Oct 20 -21

Regional Municipalities meeting Oct 24

Within the discussions there are several major issues that require a new approach to how policing is currently done especially within rural jurisdictions. These would include Response times, Detachment staffing, and coordination with Social Services, Mental health AHS, Education, and emergency response such as Fire fighting, EMS and other such as Wildlife officers and Sheriffs. Proposed, is to have several Hub centers 3-4 that would handle coordination of these issues.

Other major problems are Jurisdictional and Oversight. Provinces have Jurisdiction over Policing, Healthcare, Social Services, and Education and there can be difficulties designing and implementing programs within the Federal Structure and Jurisdiction of the RCMP. This is also a problem for Oversight. There is a need for fully independent and transparent oversight and police commission boards, that are separate from Political interference, and rely on public consultation, and expert advice.

4 years ago, I attended a rural policing open house in Calahoo. One of the main problems as discussed by the officers there was the backlog within the courts and the revolving door. Even with the announcement by the province to hire more prosecutors and Judges, this is NOT occurring. Wages and workloads are the main issues, and we are losing more than are being hired. Federal law means police need to have sufficient evidence to charge within 24 hours of arrest; and court dates are now over 365 days to schedule. Going back 4 years and again updated on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month, the best protection we have in Rural areas is a LARGE DOG and LIGHTS ON YOUR PROPERTY.

We need to spend money first on fixing the Justice system before we exchange one police force with another.

## **ASVA**

74% of SV'S have a growing fulltime population. The average age in SV's is older but proximity to major centers does result in an increase in a younger demographic. The lesser cost of land outside the major centers helps to facilitate this growth. With this growth comes the need of more and consistent services, roads, streetlights, garbage, as well as greater recreational needs. ASVA is constantly advocating on the viability that SV's have shown. Historically the base of MSI for municipalities was \$125,000 with SV's getting 75% or a historical base amount of \$65,000., with other factors calculated to increase the final amount.

In this regard ASVA has proposed for the new LGFF that the Base Amount be \$72,000. Added to the base would be \$150. Per dwelling, (rather than population) plus amounts for number of km's of roads, Tangible Capital assets, and own source revenue to assessment. The reason for Dwellings over Population is that a dwelling with 1 or 2 residents require the same municipal service as a dwelling with 3-4 or more residents. The ask for more funding for SV's relates to a 0.46% of the LGFF fund and is around 1.5 million dollars.

## **EAF (Enabling Accessibility Fund)**

Projects one time grant to help people with disabilities access meeting **Internet for Hall?** Possible use of FCSS

Forest Management (Alberta Real Estate Association) Invasive species, trails (?)

Unspent MSI from 2018 and earlier need to be allocated (spent?) by Dec 2023.

## **Climate Shift**

**Increase** in insurance, implications for wells and septic, lifecycle and maintenance of Assets. Disaster management (expect fire, heat, drought, and wind). Water quality and volumes, algae, (also caused by wastewater and fertilizer).

**NOTE** Prov. Gov't expects municipalities to cover 10% of costs of disaster response. Requires consideration on how to grow/manage Reserve Funds.

## **Michael Harney**