

Town of Bassano Newsletter

The Best in the West by a Dam Site!



Community Hall

We have a challenge and would like input from the community...how can we resolve the operating deficit at the Community Hall? This is a valued asset in our community and the cost to keep it in full operation results in a -\$56,000 loss per year. This loss is covered through general property taxation which is not sustainable.

Do you have any ideas how to bring the facility to a break-even point? Council discussed a few examples:

1. *Host additional community events with proceeds applied to offset the Hall's operation costs.*
2. *Appointing a not-for-profit board to manage and operate the facility.*
3. *Consolidate operations with other local not-for-profit board to manage and operate the facility.*

If you have ideas, share them with council or administration. We would like to hear from you.

Also, be advised, effective January 1, 2019 all Community Hall rental rates will increase 5.0% per annum over the next four years.

November 26 Council Meeting Highlights

Town Hall Meeting – Strategic Plan and Beautify Bassano Initiative

A successful town hall meeting was held on November 19, 2018 where the draft strategic plan and Beautify Bassano Initiative was presented. Of the 70 residents in attendance, thoughts and ideas were passed around – comments were positive. Our vision “to become the most attractive and affordable urban community under 2,500 in Alberta where industry leaders want to invest, where tourists come for a new experience, and where people choose to live, work and play” is shared.

Next steps:

1. A final strategic planning session will be held on February 20, 2019 where council will develop an action plan in alignment with the three goals (a. Explore Regional Governance, b. Community & Economic Development, and

c. Infrastructure Renewal) as presented. At this session, council will consider all the points presented by the public to see how the community’s desires can be adapted to the action plan. For example, marketing and signage.

2. Begin implementation of the Beautify Bassano Initiative. If you are interested in becoming a “Communicator” or “Doer” please see Amanda at the Town Office.

3. Finalize the new Community Standards Bylaw. At the meeting, attendees engaged in an “unsightly” brainstorm exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to define what “unsightly” means to the people of Bassano. This is what came forth from the exercise,

Tall grass	Dilapidated fence	Weeds	Junk/garbage	Tires/old tires
Inoperable vehicles	Piles of “stuff” – scrap metal, wood, branches.	Untrimmed trees and hedges.	The unspoken, “I don’t care”.	Cars and vehicles need to be lined up in a presentable manner.
Compounded items not moving.	Abandoned buildings.	Parking lots with dirt and garbage.	Unsightly alleys.	Lacking curb appeal.
Exterior presence, siding, soffit, fascia.	Condemned or looking condemned properties.	Multiple vehicles.	Cars/boats that are surrounded in weeds taller than the item.	Removing weeds after they are sprayed.

Based on this exercise, we propose the following definition for the Community Standards Bylaw:

“Unightly Premises means a property or part of it that is detrimental to the surrounding area pursuant to Section 546 of the Municipal Government Act as characterized by visual or sensory evidence of a lack of general maintenance and upkeep, or causing a decline in the market value of property in the area; including but not limited to:

a. The accumulation of the premises of rubbish, refuse, garbage, papers, packages, containers, bottles, cans, human excrement or sewage, or the whole or part of an animal carcass, dirt, soil, sand, gravel, rocks, sod, petroleum products, hazardous materials, disassembled equipment or machinery, broken or discarded household goods.

b. The whole or part of any motor vehicle as defined in the Traffic Safety Act, as amended or repealed and replaced from time to time, as well as any tractor or implement of husbandry:

- That has no current license plate attached to it in respect of which, no registration certificate has been issued for the current year, or

- That is inoperative by reason of disassembly, age or mechanical condition.

c. Equipment or machinery that has been rendered inoperative by reason of its disassembly, age or mechanical condition and includes household appliances.

d. Animal material, yard material, ashes, building material, and garbage as defined in this bylaw.

e. Any building, erection or structure that is unsightly or has become ruinous or dilapidated.

f. Any structure, excavation or hole that is unsafe, unprotected or dangerous to public health and safety.

g. Any combination of materials that is deemed by Peace Officer to be unsightly or offensive.

h. In respect of land, includes land that shows signs of serious disregard for general maintenance and upkeep.

We want to hear from you. Did we capture your thoughts and ideas in the definition? Please vote on our Facebook page or checking a ballot at the town office by January 10, 2019.

Remember, copies of the Beautify Bassano Initiative can be picked up at the town office or viewed on the municipal website www.bassano.ca.

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General Items

We have retained the services of Amanda Davis and she will act as the Town of Bassano’s interim Chief Administrative Officer until February 1, 2020.

Facility Upgrades

Surge protection and a 3-Phase service upgrade was approved and installed at the Joint Use Facility in the amount of \$6,093.

December 10, 2018 Special Meeting Highlights

Development

To build on our vision to become “the most attractive and affordable urban community under 2,500 in Alberta where industry leaders want to invest, where tourists come for a new experience, and where people choose to live, work and play” the town must be innovative in our approach to attract and retain people and industry.

One way to do this is to ensure that the community has a variety of housing options. As such, the Town of Bassano would like to complete an economic feasibility study for a Tiny Home Subdivision Pilot Project and sought a partnership with Palliser Economic Partnership (PEP).

PEP will consider the town’s partnership request in 2019 to provide expertise and project funding.

December 17, 2018 Regular Meeting Highlights

Attention: Bassano Transfer Site Users

Effective immediately, large loads of concrete, asphalt and large wood waste will no longer be accepted at the Bassano transfer site. Items will be redirected to the Newell Regional Landfill located off the TransCanada Highway (6miles from Brooks, AB) on Highway #36.

Questions can be directed to:

Landfill Office

(403)362-5188 or

Newell Regional Solid Waste Management Authority

(403)362-9567

Hours of Operation

9 am - 4 pm

Monday - Friday

Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Closed Sundays and Holidays.

Transfer Site

Operational changes are scheduled for the Bassano Transfer Site as defined by Newell Regional Solid Waste Management Authority. Effective immediately, public and private loads of concrete/asphalt and bulky wood will be directed to the regional landfill with any applicable tipping fee(s) applied, as is the case for the other Member Municipalities. The Town of Bassano has requested that the Authority provides a clear definition regarding "large load" to ensure consistent and proper messaging for users. In addition, the town requested that informative signs are erected at the transfer site to address disposal changes. If you have question regarding the disposal of items at the transfer site, contact the Authority at 403-362-2651.

Water Utility System

Over the years, the Town of Bassano's water utility has been heavily subsidized by property taxation. This process is not sustainable. As a result, the town plans to restructure the water utility. A user pay model will be applied on June 30, 2019 to ensure the full cost of the water utility is recovered by users. Full cost includes the treatment and delivery of water, maintenance of the distribution system, basic operations and a capital reserve transfer. Refer to the Public Notice issued on December 20, 2018 for detailed information. This Public Notice is available on the municipal website (www.bassano.ca).

Be advised, that effective January 1, 2019 and until such a time that Bylaw 884/18 is adopted, a \$0.10 increase will be applied to every water rate defined in Utility Rates Bylaw 878/17.

Operations Budget

In accordance with Section 242 of the Alberta Municipal Government Act, council approved the 2019 municipal budget and 2020-2021 projected budget as amended to account for the water rate adjustment with an annual municipal taxation levy of \$1,349,752.

The town endeavours to maintain the same municipal taxation levy that was applied in 2018 over the next three-years by gaining various operational efficiencies-

and by ensuring utilities and other departments are maintained at a state of cost recovery.

Regionalization – Media Release for December 18, 2018

Local Municipalities Assess Regionalization

Municipalities in the region are evaluating how to work more efficiently together including the opportunities and challenges of regionalization under a single governance structure. This consists of assessing efficiencies, reductions in service duplication and ensuring each community remains viable and sustainable while maintaining their identity and uniqueness.

Regionalization is the co-operative effort among neighbouring communities to pool resources to create service capabilities that can be shared amongst regional members. These members include the County of Newell, Town of Bassano, City of Brooks and the Villages of Rosemary and Duchess. The region currently collaborates on a number of regional service delivery methods such as potable water treatment and delivery, waste management, physician recruitment and retention, safe communities/crime prevention, economic development and tourism. These regional services utilize economies of scale and deliver services at a lower cost giving more equitable opportunities to partners.

The working group, consisting of members from each of the partner municipalities, will meet over the coming months and will host public feedback sessions throughout the region in late January or February. Dates and times for the sessions will be announced once established.

General Items

- Next council meeting is January 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers.
- The Town Office will remain closed to the public on Thursday's indefinitely.