

**SUMMER VILLAGE OF SILVER BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING  
July 23, 2011  
10:00 A.M.  
Mulhurst Legion Hall**

Call to Order: Mayor Larry Hill welcomed everyone to the Silver Beach Annual Information Meeting at 10:15 am.

Present: Mayor: Larry Hill  
Councilors: Allan Watt  
Brad Clough  
CAO: Harold Wynne  
Protective Services: Marty McKinney  
Residents: Approximately 50

Handouts: The following handouts were provided to residents:

- Agenda
- Pigeon Lake Watershed Association Initiatives
- Summer Village of Silver Beach Newsletter, July 15, 2011
- Annual Protective and Public Safety Services Report
- 2011 Taxation Year - Assessed Values for Silver Beach Properties
- 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets

#### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Mayor Hill thanked the many Silver Beach residents who volunteered their time to clean up the community, including helping around the park in the spring; putting garbage cans away; cleaning up around the beach and roadway; and removing noxious weeds. He noted that these selfless actions of residents contribute to the overall well-kept appearance of the community.

Mayor Hill invited Ryan Devlin, Communications Director of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, to describe some of the activities that are being undertaken by the PLWA presently. Many of these initiatives are included on the handout of "summer initiatives" and events that have been planned by the PLWA.

Mayor Hill informed residents that Council had budgeted for a contribution of \$6,900 from the 2011 operating budget to support the good works of the PLWA.

#### **UPDATE OF SILVER BEACH HAPPENINGS**

##### **1. Change in Administration**

Mayor Hill explained that last fall, Council made a change in the administration for Silver Beach. The former CAO was replaced with an administrative service contracted from the Village of Thorsby. Thorsby now provides the following services to Silver Beach: CAO, corporate services (accounting, legal, information/reporting, grantsmanship), public works, and development authority. The Silver Beach office is housed in the Thorsby offices and residents are encouraged to contact the office or visit during office hours (Monday to Friday, from 8:30am-4:30pm).

CAO Wynne introduced himself and provided some information on his background and experience. He encouraged residents to contact him directly if they had any questions, issues, comments, or suggestions to pass on.

CAO Wynne reported that he was working with the 2 other CAOs at Pigeon Lake on developing (a) a regional emergency response plan, and (b) a community policing plan for the entire Pigeon Lake region. More information will be forthcoming and will be reported in the newsletter and on the website as these plans progress.

##### **2. Capital Projects**

Mayor Hill highlighted some capital projects Council was presently pursuing, including: (a) a survey of Silver Beach boundaries and municipal properties within the summer village; (b) a project to review drainage and provide culvert extensions where necessary; (c) asphaltting the apron connecting to the highway at the entrance to Silver Beach; and (d) upgrading the playground equipment.

### **3. Protective Services**

Chief Peace Officer Marty McKinney presented an overview of protective services provided to Silver Beach in 2011 with highlights including the following:

### **4. Road Closure and Establishing Environmental Reserves**

Mayor Hill informed residents that Council has passed two readings of a bylaw intended to close 5 designated roadways that extend between Silver Beach Road and the lakeshore and 1 that extends from Silver Beach Road to the quarter-section line for the purpose of turning these into environmental reserves. Presently, this plan is being reviewed by Alberta Municipal Affairs who must approve this request.

### **5. Importation of Water to Pigeon Lake**

Councillor Allan Watt updated residents on the prospective plan to import water from the North Saskatchewan River to Pigeon Lake. He informed residents that in March 2010, WorleyParsons Canada Ltd. conducted a hydrological assessment of Pigeon Lake (this report is available on the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association website). This report concluded that tangible actions are required or a continued downward trend in lake levels will lead to the ongoing and perhaps irreversible deterioration of the lake's health.

One suggestion in the report is that water might be transferred from the North Saskatchewan River to increase Pigeon Lake water levels. To explore this possibility, a second study was conducted by Aqualta Consulting to determine the compatibility of North Saskatchewan River and Pigeon Lake water. This report has not yet been released to the public.

Councillor Watt reported to residents that Silver Beach Council has agreed to (a) participate in a consortium of municipalities, which presently includes 8 of 10 summer villages and Thorsby, and (b) support the submission of an application to Alberta Environment for the province to consider the merit of undertaking this importation initiative.

### **6. Information Announcements**

CAO Wynne informed residents that, in the future, the Council and administration would communicate with them through the following methods: (a) regular newsletter, mailed and emailed to residents and available on the new website; (b) a new Silver Beach website that would include regular updates and information; and (c) information bulletins emailed directly to residents.

## **FINANCIAL PICTURE**

### **1. 2010 Audit and Financial Statement**

CAO Wynne reported the 2010 financial audit was currently being undertaken and that the financial statement would be prepared by the end of August. Once this has been prepared, it will be posted on the Silver Beach website with residents encouraged to contact their Councillors or CAO if they have any questions or comments.

### **2. 2011 Tax Assessments**

Mayor Hill informed residents that one of the handouts included the assessed values for all Silver Beach properties for the 2011 taxation year. He explained that the tax assessor is independent and arms-length from the municipality and that he uses various criteria in determining what the appraised value is for a resident's property.

A resident commented that she would like to know how the assessor arrives at a value for a residential property. Another resident commented that it would be useful to see two years assessments compared.

CAO Wynne replied that he would be happy to discuss their assessed value with any resident and to also have the assessor contact them to explain the process he uses.

### **3. 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets**

CAO Wynne spoke briefly to the 2011 operating and capital budgets that were provided as handouts. He noted the following highlights:

- the municipal portion of property taxes did not increase from 2010 to 2011; however, the education portion of the tax did. About 2/3 of the property tax paid by Silver Beach residents is for the education requisition.
- in 2011, operating and capital budgets have been presented separately. Capital budget items are funded through grants from the province and, in the case of the Protective Services budget, through revenues received annually from each of the summer villages.
- Silver Beach acts as the administrative agent for Protective Services delivered to each of the 10 summer villages around Pigeon Lake. This admin service is provided at no cost to Silver Beach rate payers.
- Council members receive a meeting honorarium and payment for expenses incurred in travelling to meetings.

CAO Wynne invited residents to contact him or any Council member if they wished to discuss the 2011 budgets.

### **COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS**

- Mayor Hill requested feedback on the prospect of spraying weeds at Silver Beach. In the past, the company Green Oasis was contracted to spray, using control products that are approved by Health Canada, Alberta Environment, and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. Residents did not raise any objections to this type of controlled spraying where it is needed.
- Mayor Hill requested feedback on the placement of large bins for spring and fall clean-ups, which occur on the long weekends in May and September. Residents are satisfied that these bins are provided during these time periods. The Mayor also reported that Council was looking into the prospect of providing recycling and composting services and residents seemed to be supportive of these initiatives.
- Mayor Hill commented that debris from the aging pier flags was sometimes washing up on the beach. He requested that residents bag this debris as garbage and inform him when this happens, so that these flags may be replaced.
- A resident commented that Council should consider contracting for grass cutting services versus using STEP students for this. Mayor Hill responded that grass cutting was contracted for the months of May-June and September, with students only cutting grass in July-August.
- A resident asked about changes to the new website. CAO Wynne responded that residents would be informed when the new website was operational and that it would include updated information.
- A resident expressed concern about the condition of the water in Pigeon Lake. Mayor Hill replied this was a concern to all and was the focus of the initiatives of the Pigeon Lake Summer Village Strategic Alliance and the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association.
- A resident suggested that lot numbers should also be included along with the tax roll number for each property. CAO Wynne replied that this information would be searchable on the new Silver Beach website.
- A resident requested that a map of Silver Beach showing names/addresses be mounted on the website; CAO Wynne responded that this will be done.

- A resident asked if there was anything Council could do about the high proportion of taxes that resulted from the education requisition. Mayor Hill replied that there is nothing any municipality can do about the amount of the education requisition, as this is an amount that is assigned annually to each municipality in Alberta. He also noted that some of the PC leadership candidates are discussing alternatives to funding education from property taxes and residents may want to hear what these people are proposing.
- A resident asked what the turn-around time is for development applications. CAO Wynne reported that he is acting as the Development Authority and that, once development applications are received, these will be processed within a couple of days. He also reported that development applications and building permits will be downloadable from the new website.
- A resident complained that a snow windrow was left in the roadway in front of her property last winter, causing her to become stuck. CAO Wynne replied that he had personally plowed the Silver Beach roadways this past winter and that, if there were windrows, they were moved to the side within a matter of hours. The CAO will discuss methods for snow removal at Silver Beach this coming winter with the Thorsby Public Works Manager.
- A resident requested that the assessor be asked to provide an information session at Silver Beach to explain how he derived the property assessment values. The consensus seemed to be that there would be very little interest on the part of residents in attending such a session. CAO Wynne invited the resident to contact him directly for an explanation of the assessment process and/or to get the phone number for the assessor.
- A resident suggested that the broken pipe beside the culvert at the entrance to Silver Beach be marked or removed. CAO Wynne replied that Thorsby Public Works would attend to this.
- A resident provided a hand out identifying noxious weeds that may appear at Silver Beach. CAO Wynne stated that a list/pictures of noxious weeds would be placed on the new website.
- A resident reported that the Mulhurst Community Hall had recently installed a backup generator and that Council might purchase and/or encourage Silver Beach residents to buy memberships in the Mulhurst Bay Community League.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hill closed the meeting at 12:15 p.m. and invited residents to stay for coffee and donuts and a chat with Councillors and the CAO.

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Harold Wynne, CAO

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Larry Hill, Mayor

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September 8, 2011

Date Adopted