

SUMMER VILLAGE OF SUNANCE BEACH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING
August 6, 2011
10:00 A.M.
John Turgeon Hall

Call to Order: Mayor Peter Pellatt welcomed everyone to the Silver Beach Annual Information Meeting at 10:05 am.

Present: Mayor: Peter Pellatt
Councilors: Brian Waterhouse
Allan Harris
CAO: Harold Wynne
Protective Services: Roy Biedrava
Residents: Approximately 50

Handouts: The following handouts were provided to residents:

- Agenda
- Pigeon Lake Watershed Association Initiatives
- Annual Protective and Public Safety Services Report
- 2011 Operating and Capital Budgets

1. Introductory Comments

Mayor Pellatt welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and introduced Sundance Beach Councilors Brian Waterhouse and Allan Harris; Chief Administrative Officer Harold Wynne; and guests Peace Officer Roy Biedrava and Doug Bell, Pigeon Lake Watershed Association.

2. Police Reports

Peace Officer Roy Biedrava from the Pigeon Lake Protective Services gave a brief overview of the services provided to Sundance Beach from January 1, 2011 to the present. He noted the following highlights:

- Preventive patrols in 2009-2010 were 610 and these increased to 680 so far in 2011.
- For the most part, Sundance Beach is very quiet with few incidents.
- The ice cream program for kids wearing bike helmets has been very successful.
- One resident noted a speeding car was of concern and asked if more speed signs might be installed.

Peace Officer Biedrava asked residents to contact the Protective Services office at any time with any concerns or suggestions they may have. Mayor Pellatt thanked Mr. Biedrava for attending the meeting and providing this information.

3. 2010 Financial Summary and 2011 Budget

Mayor Pellatt summarized the 2010 financial statement and 2011 budget, noting the following highlights: (a) expenses in 2010 were down 3% from 2009; (b) the \$26,000 surplus from 2010 was placed in a sewer reserve account; and (c) the total municipal tax levy for residential was reduced from \$342,899 in 2010 to \$327,129 in 2011.

CAO Wynne summarized the Municipal Sustainability Grants (MSI) available to Sundance Beach for operating and capital budgets. He explained that these grants had not been applied for dating back to 2008 and that the administration was presently applying for these funds.

CAO Wynne also highlighted the following:

- The Sundance Beach office is within the Thorsby Village offices and he encouraged residents to drop in or call if they have queries or need anything.
- A website was being constructed for Sundance Beach and this will provide information relevant to summer village operations.

- Municipal collaboration grants have been received from the province to develop a regional emergency management plan (\$100,000) and a community policing plan (\$75,000) for Pigeon Lake.

4. Reports by Mayor, Council and Pigeon Lake Watershed Assoc.

Councillor Harris spoke to the past happenings with the Alberta government; notably, efforts to dissolve the summer villages throughout the province and the efforts of the Pigeon Lake SVs to forestall this. He indicated that the provincial government currently appreciated the efforts of Sundance Beach in aligning their administration with Thorsby and Silver Beach. He also described some summer beach projects, including: municipal survey; road and drainage work; tree trimming and brush removal; replacing barricades and fences; and community hall/property improvements.

Mayor Pellatt noted that all summer villages now required holding tanks for their wastewater but that the counties have no similar requirement for their lake front properties. He suggested this should be remedied in the interests of improving the health of Pigeon Lake.

A resident expressed the concern that some Sundance Beach residents do not appear to have holding tanks; consequently, he wondered where the wastewater was going and suggested residences be checked for compliance.

A resident asked how a septic service company could be approved to haul wastewater to the Thorsby lagoon. CAO Wynne explained that the business would need to sign an "authorized wastewater carrier" agreement with Thorsby and that he would provide this agreement if requested.

Mayor Pellatt briefly presented the summer villages' plans for improving the health of Pigeon Lake. He 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. Mayor Pellatt reported to residents that Sundance 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.

Brian Waterhouse spoke about the problem of eradicating Himalayan Balsam from the lakeshore and plans for doing this.

On behalf of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association, Doug Bell gave a brief presentation. He began by providing an overview of the PLWA history and then highlighted undertakings of the group this year, including:

- home site assessments for weeds and shoreline erosion
- water quality testing
- workshops on various topics
- lake shore clean-up events
- projects, including water balance; by-law review; iron oxide study; and sulfide study

5. Question Period

Mayor Pellatt opened the floor to questions from residents and a discussion ensued. The following comments/suggestions were noted:

- the number of speed limit signs should be increased.
- some properties may still have septic fields vs. holding tanks and this should be checked out.
- Mayor Pellatt reported Council had approved a \$60/year levy on each residence to support the PLWA's work. There was general support for this initiative.

- a resident has pictures of the lake level in 1987 and suggested Council check out irrigation grants available through the Department of Agriculture.
- a resident asked about cost-sharing the cutting of trees on municipal/residential property. CAO Wynne stated he would discuss this with the resident.
- a resident with connections to Olympian Karen Percy and entertainer Tom Jackson suggested these individuals might be persuaded to endorse efforts to improve the health of Pigeon Lake.

6. Future Communications

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 Sundance Beach website that would include regular updates and information; and (c) information bulletins emailed directly to residents.

7. Adjournment

Mayor Pellatt closed the meeting at 11:55 AM and invited residents to stay for coffee and donuts and a chat with Councillors and the CAO.

Harold Wynne, CAO

Peter Pellatt, Mayor

Date Adopted