

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**April 27, 2021**

Attendance: Mayor: Glenn McCaffery; Councillors: Alexis Armit, Meagan Dickson, Sherry Pilon, Betty Lou Palko, Kelly Stonehouse, Mel Cadrain; Administrator: Teresa Parkman; Community Development Director: Jeanine Holowatuik, Recreation Facilities Maintenance Manager: Vince Simpson

The following were received and acknowledged:

- April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Committee Meeting Minutes
- Community Development Director's Report
- Recreation Facilities Maintenance Manager's Report
- Financial Statement and Bank Reconciliation
- Overtime Report
- Accounts
- Various Correspondence

**ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS**

Council acknowledges the information from Access Communication regarding the launch of faster internet speeds in Hudson Bay.

**POOL STAFF**

Council approved the Pool Staff Schedule.

**SUMMER EMPLOYEES – APPOINTMENTS**

Summer Employees have been hired for the season.

**POOL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE – DRAFT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

Council acknowledges receipt of the Pool Fundraising Committee's Draft Sponsorship Program as presented and tabled final approval.

**DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor Pilon has been appointed as Deputy Mayor for the period May 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

**MUNISASK – SECTOR MEETING – MAY 19, 2021 - VIRTUAL**

Council encourages and approves Mayor, Councilors and Chief Administrative Officer to attend Municipalities of Saskatchewan's Town, Villages & Northern Sector Meeting to be held virtually on May 19, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at no charge.

**CRIME STOPPERS - DONATION**

Council agrees to donate \$200.00 to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers for 2021.

**EQUIPMENT & MATERIAL TENDERS**

2021 Miscellaneous Equipment and Materials Tenders was awarded to E.G. Services Ltd. as per tendered rates.

### BCL ENGINEERING – WATER & SEWER SERVICING OPTIONS

Council acknowledges receipt of BCL Engineering’s water and sewer servicing options for the industrial area at SW 4-45-3-W2 for consideration.

### ICIP – ULTIMATE RECIPIENT AGREEMENT – AQUATIC FACILITY (POOL) RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT

Approval was given to sign the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program’s Ultimate Recipient Agreement regarding the Aquatic Facility (Pool) Renewal/Replacement Project.

### BYLAW NO. 1-21

Bylaw No. 1-21, being a bylaw to set minimum tax rates was adopted.

### BYLAW NO. 2-21

Bylaw No. 2-21, being a bylaw to set mill rate factors was adopted.

### COUNCIL MEETING

Council’s next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

### 2021 BUDGET UPDATE

Council acknowledged the updated Budget information, and adopted the amended 2021 Budget and set tax rates at the following:

1) Municipal Mill Rate	12.0		
2) Mill Rate Factors	- Residential	0.8	
	- Commercial	1.38	
3) Minimum Tax	Land	Land & Improvements	
Residential	\$225.00	\$600.00	
Commercial & Industrial	\$310.00	\$830.00	

Town Council has set the above mill rates and factors with the desire to achieve the same tax revenues as 2020. A couple of factors which changed, that were out of their control, had to be considered in achieving that. One of them, which affected the Commercial property class was the recent decision by the government to reduce the percentage of value taxable assessment rate from 100 per cent to 85 per cent. For the municipality this meant that revenues from commercial property taxes would see a reduction in revenue by 15 per cent. Council addressed this issue by adjusting the Commercial Mill Rate Factor in order to recover most of the 15%. Therefore your municipal tax amount should not see an increase over 2020 **UNLESS** you had a change in your assessment, which leads us to the second factor Council had to consider. The Province wide re-assessment, which sees changes in the assessments on properties. Every four years the Province does a re-assessment of all land and improvements. Property assessments are performed by SAMA (Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency). It is the process of determining a property’s assessed value for property tax purposes as of a specific date. The base date for this year’s assessment is January 1, 2019. All the information gathered by SAMA is focused on this base date so they can update their formulas and info to provide accurate assessments as of this date. Taxes are derived by applying the above mill rates and factors to these assessed values.

The assessment and taxing process is in depth and can be confusing for most and difficult to explain. Most residents want to know ‘how much will that cost me in tax dollars?’. Again, each property is different, and especially with the Province wide re-assessment year. In this year’s case, if your assessment (property value) increased, you will see a tax increase on your tax bill. If your assessment decreased, you may see a decrease on your municipal portion of taxes on your tax bill. It is imperative to mention that Council or the town does not have any control on the assessed values that SAMA calculates. Assessed values can be appealed until May 14, 2021, as stated on your Assessment Notice, along with how to do that. We use these values in our formulas to achieve the desired taxing revenues, which in this case, Council has not increased. Their goal, again, is to achieve the same revenues needed to operate the Town and not achieving an increase in those revenues for 2021.

It is also important to mention that you will see an increase on your tax bill on the education tax portion. This is due to the Government of Saskatchewan’s decision to increase the 2021 Education Property Tax mill rate. Again, although the Town collects the education tax on behalf of the Province, the Town has no input or say on those decisions. We collect those monies and every month issue those funds to the government.

The town continues to have a number of capital infrastructure projects that are ongoing or required in future years. Monies are being distributed and transferred to Reserves for these projects, while regular operating expenses remain comparable to previous years.

Priority capital infrastructure projects include: 1) Upgrading/replacing main Lift Station #1 and Sewage Force Main (\$3.6 million) 2) Landfill projects required under the Town’s Permit to Operate (\$1.5 million) and 3) Swimming Pool Upgrades/Renovations (\$1.6 million).

Although the Town has been approved for government funding for the Lift Station #1 and Sewage Force Main and the Pool project, the town’s contributions to these projects are 27% of project costs listed above and any unforeseen costs associated with those projects.

In light of future project priorities, Council recognizes the need for future planning, but in these unprecedented times, keeping tax revenues the same was of utmost importance.

Highlighted budget numbers include transferring monies to Reserves including to utilities, landfill requirements, swimming pool, public works, fire department, as well as streets and building infrastructure.