

Candidate for Councilor: SHAWN A. GRAHAM

1) Short introduction of yourself

I'm Shawn Graham, and have lived in Elbow since 2002. My wife Katherine and I raised 3 children in this community, while enjoying the "live, work and play at Lake Diefenbaker" experience. With a B.Sc. in Agronomy and Agribusiness, for over 15 years I worked at and led the local agribusiness company Gardiner Dam Terminal, growing the business and serving local farm clients in the Diefenbaker area until the 2018 sale of the enterprise. Since 2018, I have owned and operated Flatwater Enterprises Inc. with my wife, which provides executive services, business development and project management services to various small and medium businesses. I enjoy the benefits of small-town living, while appreciating daily access to world-class recreational opportunities around this community.

2) What experiences have prepared you to serve as a Councilor?

With over 20 years of applied business development, project management and financial performance metrics, coupled with ongoing curiosity and desire to learn, I feel well-prepared to engage fellow ratepayers to develop long-term solutions to enable growth and development of our fine community. From 2003 to 2007 I served as an Elbow Councilor, deeply engaged in many Council committees and working groups, and assisting in significantly improving the Village balance sheet during this period.

During my ongoing career in business, I have also gained significant experience in working with people to establish and accomplish common strategic goals, participating in ownership, working groups, committees, and boards of directors; often in a leadership role.

3) What do you aim to accomplish if elected to Council?

If elected to serve on Council, I will provide open, honest, transparent Council operations, while assisting my fellow Council members to strengthen the financial, asset(s) and human resource capacity of Elbow. With focus on a strong base as mentioned, we can further position Elbow to take full advantage of growth possibilities for business, recreation, and community services into a vibrant future, while not losing aspects of the "small-town living" that we enjoy.


4) What inspired you to run for this position and what is your goal?

Why am I running? --- I feel that at present I can contribute some of my time and experience to assist Elbow as a way of giving back something to the community that we love and enjoy.

What is my goal? --- Open, honest, transparent Council operation with a strong fiscal eye that runs on a business-minded, future-oriented view.

5) What previous community experience do you have? How have you contributed to the community (projects, initiatives etc.)?

I have prior Elbow Council experience from 2003-2007. I have also lived and worked in the area for over 20 years, so I have worked with many other municipal entities on various



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projects and committees that affect Elbow, including (but not limited to): multiple surrounding Urban and Rural Municipalities, Sask Highways, CP Rail, various levels of provincial government.

During my term on Council, we made a material positive change to the balance sheet of the Village. In addition, the business initiatives that I have been involved with around the area have resulted in 20-30 long-term employment roles, contributed significant local tax and donation dollars, and resulted in higher-value agricultural production through value-added variable-rate farming and recently more rapid irrigation development around Elbow and area. These business benefits add much value to Elbow as the “service and play center” for people that are directly employed in, or provide external services to these businesses.

6) What are the top 3 priorities you see for Elbow moving forward?

Fiscally-responsible growth. Transparent leadership. Ensuring Elbow ratepayers do not get saddled with undue tax burden to achieve the potential possible for this community.

7) How do you plan to maintain and establish new partnerships, given our reliance on them? Or what would you like to see in partnerships?

As mentioned, I have extensive experience in building partnerships. Elbow will need to define goals which show common benefits to others, then meet and share such goals with the “ask” to develop formal partnerships to achieve the common goals.

Specifically, Elbow has a need to work much more closely with Rural (and possibly other nearby Urban) Municipalities. Such partnerships provide additional value in areas of human resources, capital and leverage with external entities to achieve cohesive goals.

8) What do you see as your role and responsibility as a Councilor towards staff and taxpayers?

Honest, open, transparent leadership. Combine this with respectful and timely staff and ratepayer interaction/communication.

