

Elbow Village Office News

March 2020

COVID-19 – WOW! What else is there to say?! In light of the regulations and recommendations from the province, Council has taken the following preventative measures to protect the health and safety of our community.

- **Village Office:** CLOSED to the public, but staff will remain at work and the public are now required to do their business by email or phone during regular business hours. Maintenance staff continue to work, but will be limiting any contact with the public. **Payments can be made online (through PCCU or e-transfer), dropped off in the drop slot on the ramp side of the building, or regular mail.**
- **Elbow Civic Centre and Elbow Rink & Fitness Centre:** CLOSED until further notice. All events and activities are cancelled
- **Elbow Playgrounds:** both the Community Park playground and the playground by the rodeo grounds are CLOSED until further notice.

Council and staff understand that things are very uncertain in our world right now and appreciate your patience in this rapidly changing situation.

Consider reaching out to your friends and neighbours by phone to see if they are okay, if they need any assistance, or just to catch up! In uncertain times it is important to remember that family, friends, and neighbours are here to support. If you are in self-isolation, immune compromised, or just need a helping hand, please do not hesitate to contact the Village Office and we will do what we can to assist.

As Premier Scott Moe said, "we should all be taking preventative measures as if this IS in our community." Help lower the risk to our community members, help flatten the curve, help keep our community safe!

We encourage everyone to stay up to date with all things COVID-19 related through the Government of Saskatchewan website: www.saskatchewan.ca

January – March Council Meeting Highlights:

- Council committee appointments were reviewed, and the 2020 rate review accepted
- At the request of the ArenaPlex Committee, the Village Council has put \$350,000 from the ArenaPlex Fund into a New Multi-Purpose Facility Reserve with the remainder of the ArenaPlex funds to be managed by the Village Council to maintain existing facilities or planning costs, including grant applications for a new build
- Council signed the 2020 Loraas agreement with no rate changes for this year
- BCL Engineering has been hired to complete our 2020 Water System Assessment to meet Provincial regulations
- Grant applications were made to the Targeted Sector Support Initiative for the development of a new Official Community Plan, and updated Zoning Bylaw along with WaterWolf municipalities
- Council accepted the quote from TSL Mechanical to retrofit the main lift station with new piping and valves
- Council authorized the purchase of a new computer for the Village Office
- Due to concerns of increased traffic (both pedestrian and vehicle) near the cemetery and Elbow Trail area, the Village will be installing 20 km/hr signs on South Elbow Drive past Putters Lane towards the Cemetery and Elbow Trail areas
- Council made a monetary donation to the Loreburn/Elbow Royal Canadian Legion and Crimestoppers
- Application has been made to the Canada Summer Jobs program for two summer employees
- Bylaw was passed adjusting the water rates based on SaskWater's increase (see info in newsletter)
- Council made an application to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) under the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure Stream for a 'Line 19 Multi-Purpose Facility'
- Council hired Associated Engineering to complete conceptual renderings along with cost estimates, and assist with completing the Village of Elbow's ICIP application for a multi-use facility
- Council will be asking SaskPower to remove their street lights from the 100 and 200 blocks of Saskatchewan Street

Village Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 12 noon, and 1 – 5 p.m.

There is a drop slot in the door on the ramp side of the building if you wish to drop anything off.

REMINDER – items such as disposable wipes, paper towels, napkins and tissues should be thrown in the garbage; not the sewer! Even disposable wipes labelled as "flushable" should be thrown in the garbage as they do not sufficiently break down in wastewater and can cause serious plumbing issues.

Water Rate Increases – The Village of Elbow passed a new three year utility rate bylaw to go along with SaskWater’s increase. Effective April 1, 2020 the utility rates are:

- Fixed water rate: \$29.90 per month (up from 24.92)
- Variable water rate: \$7.45 per 1,000 gallons (up from \$6.21 per 1,000 gallons).
- No change to the lagoon rates
- Water and Sewer Infrastructure rates: \$12/month each (up from \$10/month each)
- Further fixed and variable water rate increases will occur in April 2021, and April 2022

The Village is operating **the Bayshore Building** for the 2020 season. If you are interested in booking the facility (once we’re clear of COVID-19 situation!) for a meeting, reunion, gathering – be that for an afternoon, day, or weekend. Contact the Village Office for more information. Information will be posted on our Facebook page and website soon.

Pet Owners – please take note!

The Village Office has getting numerous complaints regarding dogs and cats in the Village. Please be a responsible pet owner.

- Cat owners – not everyone appreciates your cat in their yard and flowerbeds, on their doorsteps/deck, and wanting in their house. Please take measures to keep your cat from roaming.
- Dog owners – please be aware that the Village of Elbow does have a dog bylaw. It is your responsibility to ensure that when your dog is off your property that it is on a leash, and that you pick up after your dog.

Summer Maintenance Positions:

The Village is accepting applications for two summer maintenance positions. Please watch for postings on the Village website, Facebook and bulletin board outside the office. Application deadline – April 14

Urgent Messages – the fastest way to get urgent messages out to our community is through social media. The Village of Elbow has a Facebook page; if you haven’t “liked” it yet, please do! We also post emergencies, such as drinking water advisories, through the SaskAlert system; so download that app if you don’t already have it on your phone. For those of you that see these messages, consider reaching out to your family/neighbours who maybe won’t see them. We do recognize that not everyone in our community is on Facebook so we would like to collect a list of phone numbers and/or email addresses from you. With so many without landlines we often don’t have the numbers we need, and people change their email addresses without letting us know. Please call Claudia at 306-854-2277 or email her elbow2@sasktel.net to make sure we have your up-to-date information on file. As you can imagine, making 300+ phone calls to alert people would take a very long time; utilizing social media and SaskAlert gets the message out to the community so much faster!

Elbow Housing Authority – there are currently board vacancies with the Elbow Housing Authority Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for ensuring the efficient and fair delivery of housing programs and administration of the housing units in Elbow. The clients of these programs are households with low or moderate incomes, including families, seniors, and people with disabilities. If you would like more information, please contact the Village Office or existing board members (Kathy Korbo, Todd Ector, Keith Lonsdale, Marc Roussel). Consider serving your community in this volunteer position!

Donor’s Choice – We are going to hold off a bit with the annual Donor’s Choice campaign due to the COVID-19 situation. But please watch for it coming to your mail box soon. For those that do not know what this is – it is an annual appeal for various charities. 100% of the money that comes in through this appeal goes out to the charities of your choice. The Village donates the cost of postage, photocopying, administration and annual charitable organization filing. It is a great way to make all of your charitable donations for the year at once!

Building Permits – Why do we have to apply for a Building Permit? The answer to this question is covered under *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, Section 4 states: “4(1) Subject to the other provisions of this section, each local authority shall administer and enforce this Act, the regulations and order and decisions of the appeal board pursuant to sections 12 & 18.” “Appropriate local authority” means the local authority that has jurisdiction over the geographical area in which a building is or is to be situated. If you are building in the Village of Elbow, the Village of Elbow is the local authority.

Section 7(1) states that: “the owner of each building in Saskatchewan shall ensure that the building is designed, constructed, erected, placed, altered, repaired, renovated, demolished, relocated, removed, used or occupied in accordance with the building standards.”

Section 14 allows the local authority to make bylaws with respect to the regulations. These bylaws must be approved by the “Minister” so the bylaws are strictly enforced by the province in how they are written. The permit supplied by the local authority does not authorize any person to construct a building that does not comply with the provision of any other Act or law.

Please contact the Village Office and make application BEFORE beginning any construction or renovation project!