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Office of the Mayor

Open Letter to the Residents of Calmar

Good day fellow Calmar Residents,

I am writing to address some of the misconceptions being shared on social media about the Town of Calmar.

CALMAR OUTDOOR SKATING RINK:

The Town did not flood the outdoor arena this year and every resident that is upset needs to be aware this decision was made with careful consideration. As stated by Byron King, Town of Calmar Community Services Coordinator:

“Beginning with the original guidelines imposed on arenas, it was the Town’s every intention to have the outdoor rink operational so that those who did not participate in organized sport would have the opportunity to skate.

As the pandemic has progressed, provincial guidelines have made recreation programming and planning ever so tricky while the Town has also striven to ensure the safety of its residents and Town Staff as well as doing its part in maximizing the safety of our province (and the country and the world) as a whole.

With the latest guidelines, while outdoor rinks are permitted, it is with restrictions. No more than 10 people on the ice at a time, only 1 household on the ice at a time, and no shinny. Because of these guidelines, someone would need to be present to ensure they are being met. This means staffing would be required essentially from sun up to 11 p.m. The Town does not have the manpower to provide this enforcement nor does it have the resources necessary to do so as a warm shack and a washroom would need to be available for the attendants.

The idea of just a sign outlining the restrictions is not sufficient as the onus would still be on the Town to enforce the guidelines.

Without enforcement of the guidelines Calmar would run the risk of being another super spreader of Covid-19, something I am sure you would prefer the town not to be known for.

If the taxpayers of Calmar have no objection to an increase in taxes staffing and facilities to allow for proper supervision and enforcement of provincial guidelines could be arranged. However, from past experience, we know that our ratepayers do not want additional costs.

We knew this would be an unpopular decision but it is a decision that was made with consideration for the best interests of our residents as well as our staff.”

44TH AVENUE ROAD UPGRADE:

The Town was asked this summer by the Provincial Government if we had any shovel ready projects that they could help us fund, to stimulate the Alberta Economy. The roadway on 44th Avenue is a shovel ready project.

Because of the complaints about 44th Avenue, Administration had estimated numbers for that upgrade. We submitted the numbers to the Provincial Government and they awarded us money for the project.

Council instructed Administration to send out letters to the property owners with rough cost estimates for the roadway upgrade to see if they still wanted their road improved with the proposed tax levy.

The residents came back with a resounding “NO” to fix the road with the estimated costs, which council has taken into consideration.

WHAT EVERY TAX PAYER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT ROADWAY UPGRADES:

Before 1975 the only street that was paved in Calmar was Highway 39. All other streets and avenues were gravel roads with ditches. **ALL streets and avenues that have been upgraded from gravel roads to curbs and pavement have had an improvement levy (tax) put on to the properties that are adjacent to those roadways.**

Any new development that has been built since 1975 pays for their roads and sidewalks in the price of their lot and house when it is purchased. Every single person, regardless of where you live (Edmonton, Leduc, Millet, Warburg, etc.), pays for roads and sidewalks when purchasing their lot and house. This may not be stated on the house or land deed; however, the roadways and sidewalks have been taken into consideration when pricing the house and lot.

Once a roadway and sidewalk has been upgraded from gravel to pavement the costs to maintain those roads become the cost of the municipality namely the town of Calmar.

When the Town repaves an existing paved road, those costs are paid by the Town of Calmar through taxes and, if available, grants. None of the residents were given improvement levees (taxes) because they paid for these roadways and sidewalks when they purchased their homes. The Town was only resurfacing these roads so that they do not decay to the point that they need to be completely rebuilt at a much greater cost.

44TH AVENUE COST SHARE:

The Town of Calmar and Canadian Pacific Railways would be paying more than 2/3rds of the roadway costs. The residents along 44th Avenue would only be responsible for the frontage of their property and could have this cost added to their taxes over a 20 year period.

TOWN OF CALMAR, PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT:

The reason the 44th avenue road breaks up is because it was never built properly in the first place.

Heavy Town equipment is usually empty 98% of the time when leaving and returning to the town yard. When town vehicles are empty, they do not weigh any more or less than some people's private vehicles on that road.

TOWN OF CALMAR COUNCIL CONTACTS:

Please be advised that Council and Administration will **NOT** be addressing complaints on social media platforms. These platforms are not conducive to learning or listening to facts but rather incite anger and provoke a percentage of the population to spread mistruths.

Again, I will ask anyone who has a concern to contact me, Council or the Town Office to have your questions or concerns addressed. I have made myself available day and night for residents to contact me. Our contacts are as follows:

Wally Yachimetz, Mayor	wychimetz@calmar.ca	(780) 722-4147
Terry Balaban, Councilor	tbalaban@calmar.ca	(587) 988-3636
Don Faulkner, Councilor	dfaulkner@calmar.ca	(780) 974-6882
Krista Gardner, Councilor	kgardner@calmar.ca	(780) 991-2946
Town of Calmar Office		(780) 985-3604

Council and Administration want to hear from you and make Calmar a Community that people want to call home.

We welcome your questions and your interest in the Town!

Respectfully,

WJ Yachimetz

Mayor Wally Yachimetz