



Village of Buena Vista

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June 2010 Newsletter

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The last seven months have been an immense learning curve for your newly elected council and Mayor. Working for several months with no administrator also proved to be quite a challenge. Everyone put a lot of work and effort into meeting the challenges and responsibilities of their new positions. This newsletter contains information we as residents need to know in order to make choices for the future of the Village.

Underground Sewer System & Solar Aquatic Treatment Plant

Total cost of both projects: \$7,219,000.00

Cost of Study \$ 113,441.80

Year in which study was conducted: 2008/2009

Study conducted by: Erin Consulting

Decision of New Council: *Council will not be pursuing the Underground Sewer System or the Solar Aquatic Treatment Plant.*

New Councils Solution for Sewage Disposal

Mayor Goulet contacted Mr. Wayne Gienow, (MRIF) in November of 2009. She informed him that Buena Vista was committed to working in cooperation with Regina Beach to approach the waste management issue as regional and to further explore the establishment of IMUC as a corporation. At her request Mr. Gienow attended a special IMUC meeting on March 2nd, 2010 where he voiced his support of this intent.

This meeting with council resulted in an agreement to reallocate the \$500,000.00 grant to the joint lagoon project. An important step towards regional planning and cooperative efforts on behalf of all of our communities. This process is still in progress.

Edgewood

All Council Members have reviewed the Edgewood file and related 'Service Agreement' that was established by the previous Council on March 29th, 2006.

New Council **has not** as yet signed off on this project. We have met with the President of Edgewood Developments and successfully negotiated new terms which include a substantial increase in the development fees. The existing \$2,500.00 per lot fee for Phase I and the \$1,500.00 per lot fee for Phase II have been increased. This increase will contribute to the costs of the 6th Street Drainage System but will only become revenue when a lot is sold.

The Financial Position of the Village of Buena Vista

In 2008 previous Council took out a debenture in the amount of \$622,361.00 at an interest rate of 5% to be paid over a 10 year term. This money was used to pay for the 6th Street Drainage System.

Through a special program, interest for five years is to be reimbursed through SIGI (Saskatchewan Infrastructure Grant Initiative). New Council, to abide by the agreement, established a bank account that will be expected to have a balance of \$361,934.00 by September 30th, 2013. The amount that is committed to the full repayment of the debenture including the interest to be paid by the Village in 2018 is \$656,298.75

Last year we received a one time grant from the Federal Government for 78,865.00. We will not get that grant this year. The Federal Gas Tax refund will be 6,000 less than last year.

Inter-Municipalities Utilities Committee

The Inter-Municipalities Utilities Committee, established in 1991, comprised of the Mayor and two Councillors from Regina Beach and the Mayor and one Council member from Buena Vista is mandated to jointly administer infrastructure facilities.

With the establishment of a 'Joint Lagoon' project Buena Vista Council is in the process of negotiating an 'Ownership Agreement' with Regina Beach. The costing formula will remain the same. However, over and above the \$500,000.00 MRIF grant, Buena Vista will need to raise at least an additional \$375,000.00 over the next three years to meet our portion of the proposed lagoon expansion. Construction must begin during the 2011 construction season and be completed by March 31st, 2012.

Water Filtration - Arsenic

In 2002 the Federal Government informed all communities across Canada that a new arsenic standard would be implemented by December 31st 2010. Our arsenic levels have always been below the previous standard of .025 parts per million. The new standard will be .01 parts per million. Our levels have averaged around .017. Mainstream Water Solutions will be monitoring our water in October or November to get an accurate measurement and to recommend the type and size of filtration plant we will need. Earliest guesstimates for this plant are roughly \$800,000.00

Landfill

As a result of changes in Provincial landfill regulations lumber can no longer be burned along with trees but must be buried with fill. Buena Vista's share in this additional cost is roughly \$100,000.00 per year.

Fire Department

The Volunteer Fire Department has been under equipped and under trained for many years. These needs combined with the fire truck failing a main pump test means additional costs for Regina Beach and Buena Vista.

Taxes for 2010

Council has the responsibility of setting the municipal mill rate and the base tax rate for the Village. Currently the base tax rate is \$350.00 with an additional \$115.00 for improvements for a total of \$465.00. The municipal mill rate for the Village is 6.9% and will remain unchanged.

SAMA calculates the assessment of each property and the province sets the mill rate for the school division. Right now the mill rate for Prairie Valley School division is 10.08%. SAMA has assessed the Village of Buena Vista at \$25,442,745.00 using 2006 data.

In 2009 the Village generated \$420,698.96 in taxes after the 15% discount. The revenue sharing grant of \$76,226.00, limits the Village to approximately \$496,924.96 as operational funds. This is simply not enough to meet the current debt load as well as impending capital costs. This Council has explored every avenue. After much consideration it was deemed necessary to increase the base tax by \$600.00 for 2010. This brings the base Tax and Improvement tax to a total of \$1065.00

Buena Vista

With the retirement of the Administrator at the end of 2009 and the subsequent resignation of the assistant in early January, Council determined that it was in the best interests of the Village to hire a professional organization to attend at the office on a temporary basis. This company provided two Certified Administrators that addressed issues that were outstanding and provided guidance to Council and new administrative staff.

This Mayor and Council want to extend their deep appreciation to Daryl Boivin, Laura Mihal, and all of the other people who offered their services to help.

The posting for the position of Administrator resulted in over 30 applications being received. Council reviewed all and conducted interviews with several eligible candidates over the month of March. We are pleased to announce that the successful candidate for the position of Administrator for the Village of Buena Vista is Cindy Baumgartner. Cindy brings to our Village extensive accounting and administrative experience, a vast knowledge base, and a charming personality. You will meet her at the next rate-payers meeting or drop into the office anytime during regular business hours.

Daryl Boivin will continue to be employed in the position of part-time Assistant Administrator.

Village Office Hours

The office will now be open to the public 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 9:00am to 5:00pm. It will be closed from 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

Roads

The major thoroughfares, Grand Avenue and Highwood Avenue, accommodate all of the traffic for the Village. An increase in development over the past few years has resulted in an increase in traffic flow in the winter months. In the summer the traffic increases substantially. Council is currently reviewing options that will address the issue of roads within our communities and will present these options at the next rate payers meeting.

Drainage

The month of May saw an unusual amount of rain and this resulted in many concerns about drainage. This is an ongoing problem that must be addressed in the near future. If we are to look at road improvements, drainage must be dealt with first.

Amalgamation

Overwhelming support for an amalgamation study was demonstrated by voter's ballot in the October 2009 election.

A committee has been established that has Councillors from each community working together to define the parameters for the study. In the meantime emphasis has been placed on working together toward services and infrastructure through the existing IMUC.

Parks and Rec

The second annual Chili Challenge will be held on June 18th. An event which annually provides us with much of Parks and Rec funding along with Saskatchewan Lotteries grant is the Bottle Drive which is planned for July 10th. **Save your cans and bottles.** Another summer event is the picnic held at Dobson Park on August 12th. Your Committee will be starting work on a picnic area located at Buena Vista Beach this spring and adding to the play area on the Beach. Plans are in the making for a Winter Carnival sometime early in 2011.

Boat Launch

A boat launch committee has been established to look into ideas and costs that we hope to present at the ratepayers meeting.

Water Report

Refer to insert please.

New Development

There were a total of 23 development permits issued in 2009.

NEXT RATE PAYERS MEETING

Date: July 24th, 2009.
Time: 10:00 am to 12:00pm
Location: Regina Beach Memorial Hall

We look forward to everyone's comments, questions and suggestions.