

# VILLAGE OF CANWOOD

Incorporated 1916

Box 172

Canwood, SK S0J 0K0

Ph: (306) 468-2016

Fax: (306) 468-2805

May 31, 2021

Dear Ratepayer:

Hello, to residents and ratepayers of Canwood. On behalf of the Village Council, we would like to take a moment to outline and highlight some of the activities council has been and will be working on this upcoming year.

Council, over the course of the last year, have completed some planned projects that included sidewalk replacement and water treatment plant upgrades. On a decreased budget allocation, some side walk replacement was completed, but there is always more to do!

At the water treatment plant, major upgrades included 3 phase power, upgrade and replacement of electronic equipment and a new pump system to help insure adequate water pressure under most conditions. These improvements amounted to approximately \$70,000. This year, some additional upgrades will include a new, more reliable, wireless communication system between the wells and water treatment plant. Due to unforeseen budget constraints, not all upgrades could be completed. For example, back up generators at the wells and water treatment plant have been put on hold for now.

A large unexpected expense in the amount of \$124,000 was incurred last year when one of the two force mains was deemed unreliable. This infrastructure carries waste from the lift station to the lagoon and, per our Permit to Operate, required us to immediately replace. As a result, all planned sewer relining and manhole replacement was cancelled and equipment replacement was put on hold.

This year, Council has planned to continue the focus of more sidewalk replacement and a badly needed new mower. Most other areas were held to a maintenance mode as it is a bare bones budget with not a lot of room for extras. Hopefully we can have a good year without too many surprises.

One step Council has taken to generate additional revenue is to increase bulk water rates. The sewage disposal fee at our lagoon remains as is and generates approximately \$3,500 per year.

Water usage is an item that we monitor quite closely. Water breaks and excessive usage can create problems and leave us little or no reserve in case of emergency. To date this year, our water usage numbers look reasonable. Please use water responsibly when it comes to watering lawns and gardens. Notifications will be sent out if watering restrictions need to be put in place.

As per relevant legislation, 2021 was an assessment revaluation year making the Budget process a challenge. For the 2021 taxation year, Council has decided to reduce the tax mill rate from 7.000 to 6.000 Mills. There will be an increase to the Land Base Tax to a rate of \$275.00 for agriculture and residential, \$350.00 for commercial and Improvement Base Tax to \$675.00 for agriculture and residential and \$700.00 for commercial. The above rates allow us to maintain, for the most part, what we have in terms of anticipated costs and provide, in most areas, the expected level of service by ratepayers.

It is also good to note that the province sets the school mill rates; and these rates have had an increase from the 2020 values. Both municipal and school mill rates are applied on an *ad valorem* basis.

Please note that discounts are available for prompt payment on the municipal portion of your tax notice. If taxes are paid before month end, the discount available is as follows:

June 5%	August 4.0%	October 2.0%
July 4.5%	September 3.0%	November 1.0%

Your taxes are levied for the 2021 year and are due on/or before December 31, 2021. Any remaining amount outstanding as of January 1, 2022, will have a 10% penalty applied. This amount is added to your taxes owing.

The village offers pre-authorized payment options. If you are already set up for pre-authorized payments and wish to change your monthly amount, please contact the office to make the change. We are able to receive online payments from some financial institutions. We recommend you check with your financial institution first for proper setup. We also accept INTERAC e-Transfers. Contact the office prior to sending so the office may provide you with instructions. And finally, cheques can be mailed or dropped off at the office or placed through the slot in the interior door. The village office is open to the public between the hours of Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., closed on statutory holidays.

Tax payments **MUST** be in the office prior to the month or year-end in order to take advantage of the discount or avoid the penalty respectively. Please take into account potential interruption in mail delivery, delay in electronic funds transfer or online payments.

Our commitment to making long-term improvements in certain areas, while trying to maintain acceptable levels of service in all areas is the challenge that faces council and our community. We are obliged to do the best with what we have, while being financially prudent with taxpayer money.

Council also has enlisted the services of a web-based alerting notification system. This allows us to communicate to a large number or a concentrated group of contacts with one common message. Messages can be sent over multiple platforms at one time using SMS text messaging, email and automated phone calling. In order to make this service a success, we are asking that all ratepayers, residents and business owners confirm their contact information with the office.

Remember, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns or just wondering why something is how it is, please let us know personally, either to a Councillor or by visiting or calling the office. This must be done in a respectful and courteous manner. Physical and verbal abuse of our municipal staff or members of council will not be tolerated. We ask that each of us remember politeness, kindness, respect, tolerance and forgiveness with each other as we work towards the common goal of a prosperous community.

Sincerely,

Robert Thompson  
Mayor

Erin Robertson  
Administrator

RT/ER