

Council Notes May 5, 2010

Council met with Sgt. Sean Porter from the Watrous RCMP Detachment to review policing procedures for the area. Concerns were raised with Sgt. Porter regarding traffic speeding through the Village on the highway as well as on some of our streets. We also discussed how to eliminate ATVs being driven in Wellington Park and the role Police can play in bylaw enforcement. Council was appreciative of the local detachment and is pleased that they have a regular presence in the community.

The foreman reported that repairs on the community hall are near completion and that one of our water distribution pumps quit working. There are two pumps and they are set up to ensure that if one quits the other can handle the load without any problems. We are also having pump problems at the lift stations but service continues as usual and repairs are underway. The foreman also reported that he was making some changes in his budget to buy the remainder of the reverse osmosis filters this year instead of next year. The reason for this is the high value of the Canadian dollar compared to the US dollar. The filters come from the US and purchasing the filters now will result in a saving of over \$7500. The foreman also reported that the projected completion date for the first cell of the lagoon is the end of June.

The administrator reported that the Watrous Manitou Marketing Group has hired an economic/community development officer. We also have had reports of campers parking on the street. This is not in compliance with the bylaw and council will be working with the RCMP to ensure that campers use the approved camping facilities. Service Canada has approved our grant request for one summer student and we will be advertising accordingly. Sage Hill Community futures are continuing to work on the process for developing a theme for our Village. The water rate bylaw has been approved by Municipal Government and the May billing will reflect the increase.

After having been reviewed by the Rec Board, Council passed a new Rec Board bylaw. Council also passed second reading of the minimum tax bylaw and the mill rate bylaw. The minimum tax has been increased from six to seven cents per square foot on land. The mill rate was set at the 2008 level of 14 mills. Last year the rate was set at 10.5 mills and without an increase was not adequate to cover necessary expenditures. We also hope to start a small reserve fund to help cover any expenditure surprises like those we encountered to date this year.

Council accepted with regret resignations from Frank Franks and Jim Herr from the seniors committee of the Rec Board. We are please that Jim will continue to organize the Manitou Mingles. Council appointed Donna Frandsen to be the Village representative on the Regional Library Board.

Council discussed the Manitou Mineral Spa pool closure and Mayor Upshall accepted an invitation from Dwight Hayter to attend a meeting in Regina with representatives from the Saskatoon Health Region and the Department of Health. At the meeting the Health Region indicated that all the issues they had identified related to the pool have been

addressed by the management except for the filtration and circulation system, commonly known as the skimmers. They have agreed to work with the Spa to achieve a safe solution to this issue.