

## **Highlights**

### **March 13, 2018 Council Meeting**

**Ashmont Mallaig Regional Waterline** – Five tenders were received by Urban Systems for the Ashmont Mallaig Regional Waterline tender. Urban Systems reviewed the tender submissions for compliance and based on their recommendation Council awarded the project to Beretta Pipeline Construction LP for \$7,054,057.50. This transmission line is part of the \$10,200,000 project that is funded by the federal government in the amount of \$4,750,000, the provincial government providing \$4,729,880 as well as the municipality contributing \$720,120.

**Cold Mix Tender** – Council received two tenders for mixing cold mix at the Richland Pit and in Mallaig. Council accepted the lowest tender of \$12/tonne from Black Track Paving.

**Bylaw No. 2018-03** – Council gave all three readings to Bylaw No. 2018-03 to re-designate Lot 27, Block 1, Plan 8021891 contained within NW 23-56-4-W4 as a municipal reserve. The property was designated as municipal reserve up until 2003, when it was removed. This designation is the result of a request from the residents in the Waterton Subdivision.

**Compensation Review** – Following a compensation review by Russell Farmer and Associates Consulting Ltd. where 20 municipalities with a similar assessment base were surveyed, a new compensation grid was developed for County of St. Paul employees that reflects the market for these positions. Employees were placed on the grid based on their positions. The impact of this new grid is anticipated to be approximately \$105,000 in 2018. As there was no cost of living increase for staff in 2016 and 2017, Administration in the preliminary budget allowed for a 1.3% cost of living to the current salaries which was estimated to be the same cost, so the move to this new grid does not increase the compensation previously budgeted for. Council will not provide cost of living to this grid in the future, therefore staff who reach the top of their grid will remain at that salary until the grid is next reviewed which is anticipated to be in 2-4 years. Movement along the grid will occur based on a satisfactory performance appraisal. The Chief Administrative Officer is not included in the grid and council made a motion to provide her a 1.3% increase.

Council remuneration was also reviewed by the consultant. The base salary for the Reeve was increased by \$190/month. The Deputy Reeve and Councillors saw no increase in their monthly rates. The following rates were also increased:

Committee meeting - from \$165 to \$190

Out of Town meeting rate - meetings over 200 km one way was \$190

New rate - meetings over 170 km one way is \$240

Mileage – from \$0.52 to \$0.54 up to 5000 km/year; \$0.48 over 5000 km/year

Council committee meeting rates have been unchanged since January 2008.

Lodging, meals, parking/taxi rates remain unchanged. In addition, there will be no change to the Member-at-large meeting rate - \$165/meeting.

All compensation changes for both staff and Council are effective January 1, 2018.

**Volunteer Income Tax Program** – The County of St. Paul and Elk Point FCSS partnered with Canada Revenue Agency is offering the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program for low income residents within the County of St. Paul and Town of Elk Point. Trained volunteers will

complete income tax returns free of charge for – single earning up to \$30,000; couple earning up to \$40,000; adult with one child earning up to \$35,000 (\$2,500 for each additional dependent). Beginning March 1, residents qualifying for this service can drop off their taxes at the County Office or Elk Point FCSS office during business hours.

**Automatic Withdrawal for Utility Billings** – Beginning April 25<sup>th</sup>, utility customers will have the option of having their water and sewer payment automatically withdrawn from their bank account on a monthly basis. Residents are encouraged to fill out the application forms that were included with the February bill. The monthly withdrawal will be the actual invoice amount; it will not be pro-rated.

**Funding Support:**

- \$500 – St. Paul Regional High School Boys - Curling Provincials
- \$500 – Elk Point PeeWee - Hockey Provincials
- \$500 – Elk Point Midget - Hockey Provincials
- \$500 - Mallaig Atoms - Hockey Provincials
- \$1,000 – St. Paul Senior Citizens Club Transportation Grant
- \$1,000 – St. Lina Dew Drop Inn Club Transportation Grant

For more information contact  
Sheila Kitz, *CAO*, County of St. Paul  
At 780-645-3301, ext 208