

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

JUNE 29, 2019

DISCUSSION OF BYLAW NO. 142-2019

SPECIAL TAX LEVY FOR THE RESORT VILLAGE OF CHITEK LAKE

Present: Mayor Doug Struhar, Deputy Mayor David Gardiner, Councillors Warren Kidd, Sandra Svoboda and Debby Alberts.

Absent: no one

Staff: CAO Pat Peacock

Call to Order: 11:05 AM by Mayor Struhar

Agenda: Bylaw 143-2019 Special Tax Levy

Mayor Struhar called the meeting to order, thanked Ron and Roxy Sawatsky for sponsoring this pancake breakfast and for the delicious meal. Mayor Struhar introduced the head table and advised everyone in attendance about the purpose of this meeting.

Chitek Lake is getting a new lagoon for a total cost of \$3.3 Million of which the resort village is responsible for \$1.1 million of this and the Small Community Fund sponsored by Provincial and Federal Governments jointly are providing for the \$2.2 Million. Chitek is raising their share by adding a levy of \$120.00 per property per year for the next 25 years. Additionally, a one-time levy of \$250.00 per property in 2019 for the purchase of the land for this new lagoon.

The meeting was opened up to question and answer session.

RS: There are rumors of further expansion; if this happens could sales be used to cover part of the costs associated with these new levies? Answered: If there is further expansion, extra revenues created from the sales could be considered for these levies.

JA: What is the Environment Impact of this new lagoon? Answered: The SK Water Security Agency and Ministry of Environment have been involved in selection of the location to ensure there will be no environment impact and have instructed a poly liner must be used.

L?: With these tax increases, how do Chitek Lake taxes now compare to other communities in the area? Answered: The taxes remain lower in Chitek and remember there are no sewer charges at the moment.

RF: Is it crown land that is being purchased? Why not lease? Answered: Yes; it is crown land, there is no option to lease the land for the purpose of a lagoon.

IH: Will this levy be never-ending? Answered: This is a 25-year proposed levy. This sight is expandable; the community will be involved in any further discussions. Council hears rumors that some don't want expansion in Chitek Lake so future expansion would be a community decision. The appraiser valued the site at \$120,000.

OZ: Debden has a Dangerous Goods collection for Revenue and Training; has Chitek considered anything the same here. Answered: Council could look into something.

JL: Were any other options explored for financing? Answered: Council has explored other options and the Municipal Finance Corporation offers the best deal for the municipality. Remember there is no cost to residents for septic pump outs at the moment.

When will the project start? Answered: There was hope for July 1st but due to securing finances it is being delayed to the fall.

TH: Has the land been purchased? Answered: Council is working on the process and waiting for a response from Ministry of Environment but we have assurance that it will happen.

CH: What was considered for a population increase for this project? Answered: The rate considered was 10% per year for 10 years.

HM: Where are we? Answered We are located in the RM of Big River No. 555.

Will a change in Federal Government have an effect on this project? Answered: We have written agreements with the Provincial and Federal government so their portions are solid and not dependent on any elections.

MM: Will be have a loss or Profit with these levies? Answered: The goal of every municipality with any project is to be at breakeven or very close.

KB: Who is the contractor awarded for this? Answered: Get Green from Meadow Lake received the award and they come with years of experience on lagoons.

KP: One contractor? Answered: Yes, Get Green start to finish.

CD: Will this increase create a break even? Answered: There will always be tax increases moving forward, yes, as inflation is increased every year. You can expect a septic pump out fee at some point as well.

TH: Is there a contingency for this lagoon? Answered: No, there is no contingency but we are sure hoping to come in under budget.

GB: What about the old lagoon decommissioning? Answered: Yes, the decommissioning of the old lagoon is part of the cost and included.

KB: If the project comes in under budget will that reduce taxes? Answered: Yes, if we can reduce any of the levy costs it will be a reduction on the levy of future years.

GK: What about the campground, are the residents subsidizing it? Answered: The campground is making a profit not a large one but a profit none the less.

BD: Will this be another fail like the recycling water plant? Answered: Yes, the water treatment plant failed miserably, Council has had all the equipment removed and it is now a shop for the septic trucks.

RS: Will there be future discussions to keep the residents informed? Answered: Yes, it is the hope of everyone to keep all residents informed of the progress as the project progresses.

Deputy Mayor Gardiner asked if there were any additional questions, and if not wished to thank everyone for attending and furthermore wished all attendees a safe and happy Canada Day weekend.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM by Gardiner.

Mayor

Chief Administrative Officer