

Summer Village of Larkspur
2024 Mayor's Report
AGM September 7, 2024

Council of the Summer Village of Larkspur is pleased to share the following Annual Report of activities. For those that may have missed the opportunity, these items have been discussed at the AGM which was held in the Summer Village on September 7, 2024. If any resident has any questions or is seeking clarification on any items, please contact any one of the [Councillors](#).

Our community relies on the collective efforts of many who commit their time and resources on a consistent basis to support the things we enjoy regularly. A special acknowledgement is owed to the following, and in no particular order;

1. Koni Getchel - Librarian
2. Wayne Nesterovich - Winter Snow Maintenance
3. Greg Boutin - Maintenance and Operations
4. Kim Bancroft - Chief Administrative Officer
5. Long Island Lake Natural Area Society

Fire and Emergency Management

Fire Risk and Prevention Planning continues to be a high priority for the Summer Council. The following list is some of the activities actively being discussed by Council;

1. Tree clearing and foliage removal in Reserves (ongoing)
2. Fire Equipment and Training - Review of available grants
3. Coordination with Fawcett Fire Department (ongoing)
4. Practice Fire Drills - Review of available grants
5. Explore feasibility of establishing a Fire Brigade
6. Feasibility Review for the design/construction of a Dry Hydrant
7. Lessons Learned from recent SV fire events

Council is interested in hearing from residents about their availability and interest in establishing a more dedicated group of individuals who can help in supporting these activities going forward. Please contact a member of the Council if you have interest.

Financial Summary

Operating Budget - the budget generally accounts for the tax levy income and annual operating expenses of the Summer Village. The 2024 total operating budget is approximately \$205 thousand which includes \$180 thousand revenue collected from property taxes. Approximately \$90 thousand of this amount is redirected to the province to fund education. The Summer Village operating expenses are 0%, year-over-year, however the amount being redirected to the province to fund education has increased 12%, year-over-year. (NOTE: It is important to know that taxes are a function of both the tax mill rate AND assessed value of property).

Council has also taken steps to create an operating reserve approximately equivalent to 1 year of taxable income. Council has also taken steps to invest in GIC/short term investments which has already returned revenue back to the Summer Village to help support our operating budget and offset any possible tax levy increases.

We continue to explore available grant opportunities and were recently successful in the Alberta Day grant \$1500. The entire event which occurred August 31, was entirely funded by the grant and no direct tax levy funding was used for this event.

Capital Budget

The 2024 total capital budget is wholly comprised of grants that are made available to the Summer Village by the Province. These are not funded directly by the tax levy of the Summer Village. These grants include the Municipal Sustainable Infrastructure program (now replaced with the Local Government Fiscal Framework). These grants are made available to all municipalities and are on the basis of “use it, or lose it” with specific timelines for their administration and rules pertaining to their applicability (i.e. infrastructure projects). The current available allocation of grant funding is being directed towards the Community Shelter project.

Audited Financial Statements

This year's financial statements were audited by Seniuk and Company. The results of the audit demonstrated the Summer Village is in a strong financial position and our records are in alignment with accounting standards and practices. A copy of the audited financial statements are available on our [website](#).

Infrastructure and Maintenance Projects

Community Shelter

Council has been working with a Project Manager/Designer to lead the shelter development project. The start of the project has taken longer than originally anticipated as we took the time to solicit a number of bids from interested contractors. The project started in July and we anticipate the work to be completed by the end of the year. The shelter is 30' x 50' and is intended to include space for approximately 80 people . The shelter will be partially closed but open to the front. The final grading around the shelter will be completed after the shelter is constructed.



Security Cameras

Council has recently upgraded the security cameras located at either entrance to the Summer Village. The previous cameras are being planned to be installed at the Fire Hall / Community Shelter (once complete). If anyone is interested in obtaining access to the security footage, please contact Kim Bancroft, CAO.

Community Reserves

Temporary Seasonal Docks Bylaw

The Alberta Environment & Parks (AEP) updated Mooring Disturbance Standard comes into effect officially in 2025. In preparing for this, the Summer Village has passed a [Bylaw](#) which includes [Dock Plans](#) for each of the reserves. These Dock Plans have been posted at each of the reserves. A few highlights from the AEP standard and Summer Village Bylaw to remember;

1. Temporary Docks/Lifts Only (No permanent Docks allowed)
2. "One dock, One Lift per property" in accordance with the Dock Plan = Summer Village or AEP approval NOT required
3. "Multiple docks, Multiple lifts per property" or locations generally not in accordance with Dock Plan = Summer Village and AEP approval IS required
4. Seasonal Dates (Summer May 15-September 30, Winter October 1-May 14)

Westlock County

Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) Bylaw - Progress Update - the Summer Village continues to receive development application referrals from Westlock County relating to major development activities within the 800m (½ mile) shoreline of entire Long Island Lake in accordance with the IDP Bylaw. To date, the development notices have been primarily "redevelopment of existing" (i.e. garage rebuild, deck rebuild, etc.) and nothing of particular note or concern that would negatively affect the enjoyment of the area.

Shared Services Agreements

The current shared services agreements between the Summer Village and Westlock County are set to expire. Council has recently been in discussions relating to updating/renewing these agreements. These agreements are generally in effect for 4years. These services covered in these agreements include the following;

- Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement (administrative changes only)
- Waste Transfer Agreement (administrative changes only)
- Fire Services Agreement (inflationary adjustment anticipated)
- Emergency Management Agreement (administrative changes only)
- Winter Road Maintenance Agreement (no planned increase)

Further information relating to the results of the negotiations will be shared when it becomes available.

Animal Control Bylaw

The [Animal Control Bylaw](#) was approved earlier this year. The objective of the bylaw is to ensure that the Summer Village has a process in place to deal with nuisance dogs. It is not intended to be onerous or overreaching except where the impacts of pets interfere with other residents enjoyment. Residents with any concerns relating to the bylaw are encouraged to reach out to Council or the CAO with any suggested changes or recommendations.

Other Items for Discussion

“Good Neighbour Policy”- The Summer Village does not have a full time, onsite, Bylaw Officer position. These duties often default to our CAO for enforcement which depending on the type of infraction can be difficult to enforce “in the moment”. Examples of this include noise, public intoxication, use of drugs on public lands, etc. Council is exploring the development of a “Good Neighbour Policy” that although not enforceable, provides a blueprint for how to behave and show that we care about our neighbours and community.

Golf Cart Regulations - The Province has recently shared regulations that enable municipalities, on a pilot basis, to draft and approve their own bylaw to regulate the use of golf carts on public roadways. The bylaw could require things such as golf cart licencing, or other restrictions such as age of use. Council is interested in hearing if residents would be supportive of a Bylaw before taking steps to draft and approve.

Bylaw “Cleanup” - Many of the existing Bylaws are quite dated and include outdated references and don’t reflect the current conditions of the Summer Village. Some examples of this include the establishment of a “Recreation Board” Bylaw passed in 1984, or the “Conference Call” Bylaw passed in 1994 that permits Council meetings by teleconference.