

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2017

Present: Mayor D. Richards, Councillors A. Campbell, W. Brown, M. Fischer & S. Nolls

CAO G. Switenky
Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz
Director of Operations M. Robbins
Transportation Foreman I. Wilford

Absent: Councillor D. Bachman

Call to Order: Mayor D. Richards called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

None

2. Agenda Approval

Moved by Councillor Brown that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. Snow Control Options Roads

Mayor Richards welcomed Director of Operations, Melissa Robbins & Transportation Foreman Ivan Wilford to the meeting.

Director of Operations M. Robbins highlighted her presentation on calcium chloride as a de-icing method.

Director of Operations M. Robbins explained that a request was made by Town of Stettler Council to bring forward information on calcium chloride as a de-icing chemical.

M. Robbins explained that traditional road de-icing solutions use a mixture of sodium chloride and sand to provide melting and traction control on roads. Some municipalities are using calcium chloride in addition to the traditional methods to prevent snow from sticking to the road surface at critical locations. Calcium Chloride is used as a pre-treatment for hills and bridges. When snowfall is expected, crews apply the product to prevent snow and ice buildup. This is completed with extensive weather monitoring systems and 24 hour scheduled shifts so that crews may react within minutes of expected snowfalls. The plows can focus on other major traffic routes first during a snowfall event, and then move to critical bridges and hills to remove any remaining snow. When the temperatures drop; a mixture of calcium chloride is used with sodium chloride/sand mixture to wet the sand which allows it to stick to the snow and provides better traction.

The Town of Stettler does not have control over the two major highways through Town. Carillion currently does not use calcium chloride due to its cost. Carillion uses a combination of brine (salt/water mixture) and a traditional sand/salt mixture to provide traction. The highways in Town are cleared with speed plows which cannot remove packed on snow. The brine is repeatedly applied to soften the snow; which then allows the speed plow to plow to bare asphalt. Sodium chloride and sand mixtures are still used for traction control.

It was noted that Calcium Chloride is more expensive than Sodium Chloride. The cost to retrofit an existing tandem with a sander that has liquid capabilities to apply the calcium chloride would cost \$60,000-\$80,000.

The Town of Stettler's existing snow removal budget consists of:

Machine Rental	\$40,000
Road Salt	\$ 8,100
Road Sand	\$13,800
Wages	\$122,500
Repair Parts	<u>\$ 9,000</u>
	\$193,400

Adding Calcium Chloride to the Town's existing ice control will require capital expenditures and increased operating budgets. The Town of Stettler does not have a need to pre-treat our roads as there are no significant slopes or bridge decks that ice over.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of calcium chloride in addition to the current level of snow removal.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion indicating that the Town of Stettler already gives outstanding service in terms of snow removal. The addition of calcium chloride would be a costly addition that is not at this time warranted.

Mayor Richards thanked M. Robbins and I. Wilford for their very informative presentation.

I. Wilford departed the meeting at 4:52 pm.

4. Snow Control Sidewalks – Bylaw Update

Director of Operations M. Robbins highlighted the Director of Planning & Development Officer L. Graham's presentation on snow shoveling.

Bylaw 1941-06 – Traffic Bylaw
PART IV – USE OF STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES

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- SNOW, ICE DEBRIS (1) All persons within the Town shall remove or cause to be removed any snow, ice, debris or other materials from any sidewalk adjoining the property owned or occupied by them; such removal is to be completed within 48 hours of the time when the snow, ice, dirt or other obstruction was formed or deposited thereon.
- (2) Persons removing snow and ice from sidewalks may place same on boulevards. Dirt and debris must be picked up and removed from sidewalks.
- (3) No person shall place or permit to be placed any snow, ice, dirt, debris or other material removed from private property onto the highways or other public places of the Town.
- ICE BUILD-UP (4) If water drips from an awning, eaves trough, or any other area of a building and is depositing upon a highway or sidewalk, the owner or occupier of the premises shall clean the sidewalk or highway portion thereof to prevent ice from forming.

SCHEDULE 1 - PENALTIES

1st Offence - \$50

2nd Offence - \$100

3rd Offence - \$200

M. Robbins advised that 3 complaints have been received at the office, 1 in December and 2 in January. Major Snowfall took place over the last week of December and into the New Year. Enforcement has begun by neighborhood as well as any received complaints, neighborhood focus will proceed as follows with 2 focus areas:

1. North of Highway 12 - Beginning with the east residential area, moving west to downtown and the school area and then onto the Rosedale and Emmerson areas.
2. South of Highway 12 – Golf Course Area, Blair Boulevard Blocks (north of Ag Society), Parkdale, Grandview and Meadowlands.

The Town always begins with issuing warnings to property owners or tenants as a form of education prior to issuing fines for enforcement.

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General discussion ensued regarding education vs enforcement. Mayor Richards summarized the discussion by indicating that the 48 hours noted in the Bylaw is very subjective and education and working with the landowner maybe the best course of action. When a snow event occurs, enforcement commences after the 48 hour timeline, however if another snow event occurs within the current 48 hour window, that enforcement window is reset.

Mayor Richards thanked M. Robbins for her informative presentations.

M. Robbins departed the meeting at 5:06 pm.

5. Correspondence

a. Preparing for the New MGA – Insight on the Alberta Ombudsman Role

Accepted for information.

6. Additions

a. None

7. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Committee of Whole Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 5:12 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO