

# Community & Economic Development Update

*Town of Wadena | Regular Town Council Meeting | April 16, 2019 | Submitted by: Jennifer Taylor*

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## **Win A FREE Utility Bill Contest**

Council authorized Administration run a contest from March 8 to April 12 to encourage residents to update their contact information and sign up to our Alert system. Prior to the contest, we had 37 people subscribed to the system and to date, there are 99 subscribers. There have been 62 customer files updated. The draw was made on April 15 and the winner was Debbie Stephanyshen.

## **Free Income Tax Project**

At the Jan 22, 2019 council meeting, Council authorized Administration to participate in and coordinate the CRA's Free income Tax Project as a community service in Wadena. Since initially advertising the service in February, we have served 14 customers. Our volunteers filing returns are Lovely Magnaye and Leanne Simpson. We are still accepting customers.

## **Assessment Roll is Open**

The assessment roll is open for inspection. Notices were mailed out to property owners whose assessment changed since last year, as well as to property owners where there has been a change of ownership. The overall assessed value in Wadena has decreased by approximately \$100,000. The roll will remain open and appeals may be filed until Friday, May 17, 2019.

As a reminder, Bylaw No. 5/97 prescribes an appeal fee of \$25 per each notice of appeal. In the event that an assessment is amended by the Board of Revision, the fee is refunded.

## **Budget**

Administrative staff are working on reviewing the budget documents prepared to date to pick up off where the previous CAO left off. We will be putting together the numbers and scenarios with the assistance of the various departments and will set up meetings with Council for review in the coming weeks.

## **Recruitment**

Applications continue to trickle in for the CAO position and continue to be forwarded to Council. As directed, the posting has been removed from all online job ad sites and remains only on the Town's website.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities position has been posted on the website, in Wadena News and the SUMA website. To date, there has been little interest in the position. The job ad will appear in next week's issues of both the Foam Lake and Wynyard newspapers.

## **Brice House Structural Assessment**

Ty Tweidt with 49 North Building Solutions conducted a structural assessment of the Brice House last week. Ty is working on the report including the recommended remediation plan and I expect to have that in the coming weeks.

## **Dental Clinic Lease**

At the last meeting, Council authorized the transfer of the lease for the Dental Clinic. We were able to locate the blueprints, as requested. I continue to correspond with Dr. Takra regarding the terms of the agreement.

## **Building and Development Permits**

Spring projects are ramping up and I've fielded several calls regarding permit applications for various projects. I have 2 permit applications under review.

The following permit has been issued since the last meeting:

B#02-19      113 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW   Addition to single family dwelling

## **Business Licence Program**

83 licences have been issued to date and revenue is \$3,050. There are 7 outstanding renewals and 20 local unlicensed businesses that we continue to follow up on.

## **First Impressions Community Exchange Program**

The site visit team has been selected and briefed on the expectations for our visit to Biggar on Wednesday, April 24. We are looking forward to the feedback provided through participation in the program.

## **Regional Transportation Review**

Project introduction and updates are now available on the Town's website and has been picked up by a few news agencies. The next Steering Committee meeting is April 25.