



Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach

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Dear Ma-Me-O Beach Residents,

We are in receipt of an email and document from Tim Kain proposing several questions regarding the Ma-Me-O Beach wastewater system. A meeting was also requested with Council and the residents currently connected to the wastewater system. Out of a desire to ensure all rate payers are provided the same information, any responses to queries regarding the system will be provided to all rate payers. Further, until the current provincial election is over and any resulting changes to the various ministries complete, Council believes a special meeting is unwarranted as no new information is available at this time. While many of the questions outlined in Mr. Kain's email were covered in the May 5 council meeting, specifically during the delegation portion, we are happy to provide further clarity and confirmation of our current status by answering the questions below in the order that they appeared in the document received.

1. Council Meeting

The arbitrator's decision was unexpected to Council and is in stark contrast to the projected outcome anticipated by the village's Project Coordinator, Gail Coleman, via our legal counsel. We are very much still coming to terms with what the decision means to our village, and we have been actively exploring avenues for financial assistance and greater support. Granted the timing of the provincial election has greatly impacted our ability to gain prompt response and action, we have not waivered in our efforts.

2. Arbitrator's Report /Findings

The arbitration action was indeed brought forward by PME against the village. While it would have been ideal to litigate against PME and MPE at the same time, the village did not have the funds to do so and choose to pursue them in succession should the first outcome be favourable.

In addition, PME has threatened legal action against the village in recent weeks in response to us sharing the arbitration results on our website for access by our rate payers. In order to avoid additional legal costs to challenge PME, the arbitration document is now provided to rate payer by request and has been removed from the website.

In terms of the arbitration document, our reading of the report is in line with the views shared in the original document sent to Council.

3. Future Actions

In sharp contrast to the sentiment outlined in Mr. Kain's letter, Council has certainly not given up or become complacent on this significant matter. In addition, it bears mention yet again that Council as a collective, nor as individual members, is NOT anti-wastewater.

Any comments related to such are mere opinion and are backed with absolutely zero fact or truth. It is unfortunate a witness for the village in the arbitration shared their opinions and assumptions of the current Council in addition to falsely outlining the current Council's platform in the past election as anti-wastewater.

As this topic has been erroneously repeated several times, Council will no longer be responding to these misled accusations. Our time is better served working toward viable and progressive solutions to the village's needs.

It should be noted that the Summer Village is actively working with legal counsel and Alberta Municipal Affairs to examine various funding options and alternatives.

At this time, the village does not have the funds to explore any options for the current system including operating it as a three-season system. The only section of the system that is currently remediated and tested is the portion between 6th street and 10th street (only half of the block) on 1st avenue. The line that runs down 11th street to the main line on highway 13A has not been fully remediated nor tested, and the section from 5th street to 1st street on 1st avenue has undergone NO remediation efforts. There has also been NO work done on any of the sections running through the alleyways from 1st street to 10th.

To put it simply, the current system cannot be used until additional remediation is completed and there are no funds due to the village's immense debt load. Any funds currently available are being used to maintain the basic overall function of the village including maintenance and administration.

4. Reparations

While Council has no intention of accepting the current financial situation and plans to continue lobbying for support in other areas of government, we are not in a position to consider reparations for residents who chose to hook up to the system. The choice to connect was the right of each rate payer, amounting to a total of 9% of the village. To burden the remaining 91% for that choice would be inappropriate and biased.

In closing, with respect to a meeting with Council and residents, Council would prefer to meet with the entire Summer Village at the Annual Information Meeting (AIM) as opposed to meeting with a section of residents. We believe this will help to keep everyone informed at the same time with the same information. The timing will also allow Council to explore and develop options for ratepayers post-election as well as preparing a concise breakdown of our financial status before the AIM.