



**Village of Rycroft
Request for Decision**

Council Meeting Date: February 2, 2022

TOPIC: Snow Hauling in the Village

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Council continue with the snow management system currently in place for the Village.

BACKGROUND: One of Council's priorities in the Council Strategic Priorities chart is to review options for a snow hauling plan.

This is the procedure for snow plowing/removal we presently have in place:

- The trigger point for plowing is after an accumulated snow fall of 4 inches. Plowing will commence within 24 hours once the snow fall stops.
- If snow fall accumulation exceeds 4" in a single event and it continues to snow, plowing will commence on priority roads at 6".
- Priority roads are 51 street, 49 street, 44 street, avenues from 45 to 48 avenue, and the avenues and streets in the subdivision.
- Plowing on any Monday will always start with priority roads without roadside garbage pick up and then move onto Alleys as time permits.
- The rest of the Village's unplowed roads will start on the second day or once all priority roads have been plowed.
- All driveways are cleared behind the grader within an hour.
- Once we have a road defining windrow on either side of the street from previous plows, we will start moving excess snow load from off the front of windrows to down hill storage areas that are not blocking drainage routes. The most common areas being northerly Municipal reserves, 48 avenue green space, west end of 48 avenue truck parking lot, south side of 45 avenue ditch, west side of 55 street and the Rycroft creek banks.
- Excess windrow height is knocked down and back as needed throughout the winter season.
- Roads are plowed leaving approximate 1" to 2" of snowpack to protect asphalt from excessive wear, to allow ease of road maintenance if we have a freezing rain event, and to provide some insulation for the Village under ground utilities.
- Village owned parking lots are cleared at an accumulation of 2" of snow or as plowing progresses throughout the Village. Functions at public buildings will dictate priority of parking lot clearing.

Change of Service Level to Hauling snow away:

Snow hauling in the Village would be done between the months of November and March, during each plow event once roadways are defined with a minimum 1-foot windrow on both sides. After road definition is in place then future snow would be graded to the centre of the road, following second piece of equipment would clear the intersections to allow passage of traffic. It is expected that based on snow fall history, that snow hauling would need to be done 10 to 12 times during the season. Snow hauling would be done on all Village roads between 44 to 55 street and 48 to 46 avenue. The snow storage area would be in the subdivision on one of the Village owned lots that has no direct drainage to waterways and will need to be fenced (snow fencing would be adequate). Once snow piles melted in the spring the storage area would need to be cleaned of all trash left behind.

Snow Hauling by Public Works potential requirements:

- Purchase of a loader: 3 to 4 yd bucket, maximum 10 years old. Price ranges from \$80,000 to \$150,000 plus any extra attachments to make unit more versatile for year-round use.
- Purchase of a tandem dump truck: maximum 10 years old. Price ranges from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- Expansion of present Public Works building or rental of shop space to store a Loader with bucket and a Tandem dump truck
- Service Level decision: All staff work their regular 8 hour day. Otherwise, if the priority is to haul the snow away as soon as possible, extra staff would be hired part time for the winter season to be able to plow and haul away the snow in a timely manner. Average time it takes to plow Village is 2 days with 2 staff in plow equipment and one in sander. I would estimate that it would take 2 days to haul the snow from all the streets with 2 staff members in equipment. Hauling should proceed throughout the Village immediately behind the plow crew.
- Cost to train operators of new equipment. Example: Class 3 licence
- Set up of snow storage area on one of our lots in subdivision following Alberta Environment guidelines and get any permits if needed.

Snow Hauling by hired contractor:

- Loader average rate \$150/hr (contract rates may be lower)
- Tandem dump truck rate \$130/hr (contract rates may be lower)
- Contract or hourly can be tendered
- A contractor will always be available, no sick, no vacations, no break downs
- Contractor will be in control of the snow storage area. Preparation, piling, spreading and clean up falls to contractor.
- No need for building expansion, extra staffing, or maintenance of haul equipment.

Council needs to clarify what we are trying to accomplish, and measure the costs to the benefits of this investment.

The main cause of the annual flooding issues is water from outside the Village boundaries, not from inside the boundaries.

Our current snow removal management system is effective, and is superior to many other municipalities in the region.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: To change the service level of our current snow management system, significant costs would be incurred with equipment costs, labour costs, or contractor costs. Costs are varied and would need to be planned for in the Capital and Operational budgets.

POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS: Snow removal policy is attached.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. Council could elect to change the current level of service provided and direct Administration to get a firm cost.

ATTACHMENTS: PW.04 Snow Removal Policy

Dolan Isaac

Public Works Foreman

January 24, 2022

Date

Peter Thomas

Chief Administrative Officer

January 27, 2022

Date