

## 2021 BUDGET

Council has been working on the 2021 Budget since last year. No public input was received.

The Kehl Bridge Project will be completed. The only items left to be done are repairs to Kehl Road and application of surface treatment over the new bridge.

The Fire Chief has been asked to have the VFD members do an inventory of their PPE so planning for replacement can be factored in. There will be further discussion on replacement of the VFD tanker truck, which is near the end of its useful life.

Council reviewed and provided direction to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer on the preliminary operating expense budgets for the various departments.

The capital budget is a work-in-progress at this point since additional information is required before it can be completed.

## VICIOUS DOG BITES & ATTACKS:

### WHAT TO DO

Council entered into a Letter of Understanding with the Town of Fort Frances, on a one-year trial basis, to enable Fort Frances By-Law Enforcement (FFBE) to respond to complaints concerning vicious dog attacks and vicious dogs at large in Alberton.

The Letter of Understanding, which describes the specific services provided, the reporting protocol and the cost for the service, is posted on the Township's website [www.alberton.ca](http://www.alberton.ca) under the *Services & Facilities* tab - click on *Services* in the drop-down menu.

We strongly recommend that you read this information now.

Only calls related to vicious dogs at large and/or concerning vicious dog attacks will be forwarded to FFBE for service. Response to nuisance dog complaints is not part of the service.

If you are bitten or attacked by a dog, you must report the bite or attack to the Alberton Township Office, not FFBE, as soon as possible. For incidents which occur outside of Municipal Office hours, call the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

# Township of Alberton Community Newsletter March 2021

The next Council meeting  
is on April 14, 2021 @  
7:00p.m.

## REC INFO & POSSIBLE PROJECTS

Council agreed that for 2021 no recreation events will be planned or held due to COVID-19. The basket draws will be the only activity for 2021.

Since recreation funding opened up late last year, an application for a \$100,000 COVID Stream grant was submitted towards the cost of upgrading the rink shack. Funding announcements have not yet been made so it is unknown at this time whether that project will proceed.

A second recreation project that was put forward by Councilor Glowasky and discussed by Council is installation of a roof over the existing outdoor rink at the Millennium Park.

A rink roof would extend the skating season by deflecting direct sunlight to prevent ice melting and make snow removal easier. It would also open up the facility to year-round uses, including (when gatherings are allowed) events to be organized by the Rec Committee that won't get rained out, farmers markets, craft sales, movie or music events, private event rentals...the list goes on.

Of course, the cost would be high. Leanne Mose of the Ministry of Northern Development & Mines gave a presentation to Council on NOHFC funding as it pertains to recreation, and the potential for supplementary FedNor funding that could be provided for the project if there is an economic benefit to it. Council indicated that it would consider the project if the Township's share of the costs is projected to be no greater than 10%.

Councilor Glowasky and Rec Secretary/Administrative Assistant Melanie French met virtually with Leanne and Jeff O'Brien of FedNor to discuss funding possibilities. Council will be updated on the matter at its April 14th meeting.

**Reminder to change  
the batteries in your  
smoke alarms if you  
haven't done so yet.**

Winner of the  
February Rec  
Committee draw  
was Francis  
Logue.  
Congratulations  
Francis!



# EXCITING NEWS!

## COUNCIL TALKING WITH VIANET TO IMPROVE INTERNET SERVICE

As everyone knows, improved internet service in Alberton is a Council priority. At its March 10th meeting, Council received a request from Vianet for replacement of the Township's tower at the Municipal Office with a larger one to improve service within the six-mile radius, which Council supports.

Because Council saw a potential opportunity, it held a special meeting with John Ducharme of Vianet on March 18th to discuss enhancement of Vianet's internet service in Alberton.

The possibility of constructing the new tower on the Township's grader garage property rather than at the Municipal Office was raised. If this is done, it may be possible for the existing tower to be relocated to enhance service in another part of the Township. The location of the new tower will be decided after a site review by Vianet and confirmation of MTO and/or CN setback requirements. During discussion on enhancement of service in Alberton, John confirmed that property owners who allow Vianet to use their existing private tower as a repeater receive free internet service in exchange. The property owner absorbs the cost of power required to run a repeater, which he said is equivalent to that used by a 30-watt lightbulb.

John provided the map below which shows the target areas for strategic location of repeater towers in Alberton. **Property owners in any of the target areas are welcome to contact John if they are interested either in allowing their existing tower to be used as a repeater or in having a tower located on their property.** John's work phone number is 807-274-2039, extension 5360, and his email address is [john.ducharme@corp.vianet.ca](mailto:john.ducharme@corp.vianet.ca).

Reeve Ford raised the possibility of the Township partnering with Vianet to seek funding for construction of service towers to increase local access to broadband, since larger providers have shown no interest in expanding service here. Some funding is available for broadband and connectivity projects but requires partnering with a service provider. It would be necessary for Industry Canada to be approached if such collaboration and expansion were to proceed in future.



The above map shows the desired locations for repeater towers. Please contact Vianet if you are interested in having a tower located on your property, or if you have an existing tower that you are willing to allow Vianet to use. See the article on the left of the map for more information.