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October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Residents,

**RE: ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTS ON NAKAMUN DRIVE**

As many of you have noticed, Fortis Alberta has had crews throughout the summer village over the past couple weeks. We have received several friendly inquiries about what they are up to. To address these questions, administration has prepared the following background. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the office to discuss.

In 2017, council authorized administration to investigate adding additional street lights throughout the village. This request was particularly focused on the east section of Nakamun Drive from Range Road 22 west through the curve mid-village. This stretch of road was identified as particularly dark and potentially dangerous. This sentiment was expressed by many of the residents who regularly drive or walk on this stretch of road; with approximately 115 day of the year seeing less than 10 hours of sunlight, morning and after-work/evening walkers faced nearly zero visibility. The need for additional lighting was also singled out by our director of emergency management and noted in discussions with both our community peace officer and fire services provider. In fact, of the twenty-one lights in the village only six of them were on the east end and only one on the curve mid-village. With an increasingly full-time and active population the mentioned safety concerns rang valid with council.

Following some revisions to original designs late in 2017, the addition of 11 new street lights was included in the 2018 budget and administration has been working with Fortis to install these new lights by the end of 2018. For clarity, because we have a franchise agreement with Fortis we do not have to pay any capital costs for these new lights, so the only budget consideration was for the additional operating cost which had been included in our long-term strategic plans as early as 2015. The work currently being done is to locate the poles where these new lights will be located and complete the design phase of this project. The project is expected to be completed and fully energized by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

We have received some general inquiries and concerns from residents who have noticed this work. Most have been supportive of the addition, but some have raised valid concerns which we should address. I can assure you that council has taken this matter very seriously and weighed the options in detail; they remain committed to protecting the atmosphere of the community, but also prioritize emergency planning and community safety.

A common concern is that the community will be too bright with these new lights, or that the location of the new lights will result in having your house or backyard lit up and prevent you from enjoying the night sky, or a cozy backyard fire. In response I can offer that these new lights will be LED lights which offer some important benefits. First, these project a white light that can be focused in a 180-degree spread which means that the light will be focused on the road and should have minimal impact on the property adjacent to the host pole. Further, the light is much more focused, and we should not see bleeding onto neighbouring properties, or properties across the road from host poles – certainly not to the extent that HPS lights give. Speaking on light pollution, there is no doubt that these new lights will be different and the street will be brighter but the properties of the LED lights are reported to reduce the bounce that cause this pollution with traditional HSP lights; I can attest to this through compliments we have had from other municipalities that we work with who shared these same concerns and were pleasantly surprised with the end results of integrating LEDs into their communities.

Another concern has addressed the location of the lights. We relied on Fortis to site the new lights in areas of optimal impact. We did request that these new lights roughly keep the standard of a streetlight every four to six lots that is seen within the rest of the village - with focus on current gaps in service, elevation changes, and curves, all of which carry an enhanced risk if left unattended. We also suggested that where possible existing poles be used to host these new lights. It should be noted, we have not arranged for full city standard lighting (or what is called the IESNA standard) but have acknowledged the need for better coverage than is currently provided.

Council remains committed to this enhancement project. These new streetlights support other emergency management and safety measures that successive councils have addressed, including the new address signs and ongoing and mandated discussions on emergency planning. Council is also committed to working with residents to find a balance of enhanced services and community atmosphere. Following the installation of these new lights, council will again review the coverage level with our key stakeholders and certainly if any lights do need to be relocated or adjusted let us know and we will work to find a solution. As per Fortis' mission to phase out HPS lights in the coming years, all the lights in the summer village will eventually be swapped out for LED and there will be a period of revisions to make sure we get a service coverage that works for everyone.

Again, the hope is to have the new lights energized by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. At that time, we will be able to have a more complete discussion about any revisions that are warranted. In the meantime, if you have any questions or want clarification please let administration know and we will do our best to address them.

Regards,

Dwight Darren Moskalyk  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Summer Village of Nakamun Park