



Box 90, Coronach, SK S0H0Z0

At the Council Meeting on October 17, 2023, Council had a list of questions presented by Valerie Rousseau, with signatures by many residents within the community regarding the Water and Sewer Restoration Project. Town Council made the decision to answer all questions via written response and place the answers in mailboxes, on their Town website, and on Facebook.

- 1) Question: We want to know when the power poles will have their electricity restored? The dark streets are a danger for walking, driving, and parking.

Answer: The Power Poles will be put back in 2024 when the paving/sidewalks are completed, as was previously answered in the Coronach Connection October 2023 issue.

- 2) Question: We want to know why the plan is to narrow Centre Street? If it is to narrow the street, then we are against the idea. Our wide main street was built by the wisdom of wise people knowing that space is an asset to access for many reasons, especially for angle parking, parades, street festivals, couriers and semis loading and unloading merchandise, etc. Parallel parking is unachievable for most people. We have a church and a restaurant on main street and many people supporting these facilities are elders, who will not be able to park properly. We noticed in your plan that you are planning to incorporate both angle parking as well as parallel parking. This will just cause great confusion to residents and especially visitors. Narrowing the streets will make snow removal more of a burden for cleaning and maneuvering on the streets.

Answer: When the original project was placed out for tender, the project cost was substantially more costly than anticipated. Town Council then proceeded to revise the design due to costs. At the time, concrete was substantially cheaper than paving and to try cut costs, Council decided to narrow the road to save money, as concrete was cheaper than pavement. When the paving/sidewalk tender is advertised in early 2024, both requested amount for pavement and concrete will be requested to compare costs.

For the parallel and angle parking, Council decided to leave some angle and some parallel parking in places. The reason being, Council surveyed and drove down the streets and looked at how residents park currently and tried to keep most of the design the same to cause less confusion with taxpayers. Along Centre St, the section from Railway Av to 1 Av will remain angle parking on both sides of the street. From 1 av to South Av, the east side will be parallel parking and the west side will be angle in front of the Rustic tavern to CR Plumbing with the rest being parallel. A photo of the proposed layout can be viewed on the Town of Coronach website posted August 11, 2023 under "Posts".

- 3) Question: We want to know why you are widening the sidewalks, by adding "green spaces"? We don't agree because this cuts down on the width of the street which we mentioned in point #2.

Answer: Adding green spaces will eliminate some concrete, which in turn will save more money. Green Spaces will only be added from Railway Av to 1 Av on Centre St. This part of Centre St will not be narrowed. It will remain the same size as it currently is. Green Spaces, whether it be flowers, garbage cans, and/or benches will strive to lift

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the appeal of the downtown and help with economic development to draw people to the community. Tourists enjoy communities that look pleasant.

For the green space between the current property line and the new sidewalk, the sidewalk size will not be decreased. Since Centre St will be narrowed, the sidewalk will remain the same and property owners will gain an extra 20 feet on the front of their properties along Centre St.

- 4) Question: We want to know who would maintain these “green spaces”? The businesspeople as well as the residents living on Centre Street and 1Av should not be expected to groom these extra areas, especially when the business owners and homeowners are already responsible for keeping their walkways free of snow and ice, and weeds and garbage.

Answer: The Green Spaces would be maintained by Town Staff. Council has also discussed hiring an individual to maintain the green spaces, as a seasonal position.

- 5) Question: We want to know why the fire hydrant at the bottom of centre street was placed out in the middle of the street!? This is a hazard waiting to happen in the winter with snow drifts.

Answer: Town Staff have painted curb/barriers yellow and have placed them around the Fire Hydrant. Council understands for the winter the hydrant may be hard to see and barricades may be placed in that location, upon a big snowfall. The fire hydrant is in the correct location. The fire hydrant will tie in with the sidewalk once the paving and sidewalks are completed in 2024.

- 6) Question: We want to know if our taxes will be increased because of this project. We understand that this project ran out of money to complete the entire project of 5 streets. We want to know who miscalculated the costs? The taxpayers are already heavily taxes now with a base tax of \$450 therefore we can't afford any more additions to our taxes. There is an extra fee of \$20 on our quarterly utility bills, so we are assuming that it is an added tax? Some council members were not made aware of the \$20. How would that have passed through Council?

Answer: No, taxes will not increase for taxpayers, specifically for this project. The Town of Coronach received these funds as a grant from Prairies Canada and the grant covers ninety-nine percent of the costs. The other one percent will be taken from our Water & Sewer Reserve funds. The \$20 infrastructure fee is paid by residents once a year. These funds are then put into a reserve for future projects. In Bylaw 10.2021, A Bylaw for Utility Management, Rates and Regulation in the Town of Coronach, page 9, schedule E- Infrastructure Rates, it explains the \$20.00 fee. A copy of the Bylaw is available on the Town website or at the Town Office.

The Project did not run out of money. The Town received only so much money from Prairies Canada. Until a tender was placed on SaskTenders, there was no way to have an actual estimate of paving/project costs due to oil costs, time of year, length of roads, etc. Once the Town tendered the project initially, it was realized it was going to cost way substantially more, than the funds that the Town was granted. The \$20 infrastructure fee was in Bylaw 10.2021, advertised to the public, and provided to all of

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Town Council for review prior to three readings being completed. All Bylaws shall be approved by Town Council before they are active, and in this case, by the Local Government Committee as well.

- 7) Question: We want to know when the paving crew will be back to finish? The streets are going to be a horrid mess come heavy rainfall, and snowfalls.

Answer: The paving and sidewalk work will occur in 2024. The tender will be placed on SaskTenders for all contractors in early 2024.

- 8) Question: We want to know when the dismantled curbs and sidewalks are going to be replaced? The sliding gravel is a danger to people stepping off the sidewalks the way they are left. Seniors using scooters have very little access to the street and driving down the slippery gravel is a safety issue.

Answer: The curbs and sidewalks will be put back when the sidewalks and paving are completed in 2024.

- 9) Question: We want to know what was the reason for the curb stops to be placed 6 feet out into the street? Is the homeowner now responsible for any repairs from their building to this curb stop?

Answer: The curb stops will tie in with the new sidewalk and green spaces next year. The curb stops will be in the middle of the sidewalk after fall of 2024. Yes, as per Bylaw 10.2021, section 4.13, it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain this section. However, this section was replaced in 2023 and should not provide any issues for many years to come. After the contractors completed the work for 2023, curb stops were lowered to ensure the risk for damage, by cars driving or parking on top of them, is minimized.

- 10) Question: We want to know why there was never a public meeting to discuss ALL of these details PRIOR to the project planning? The citizens should have been fully aware of the modifications planned and it should have been discussed and voted. (There was a meeting at the Rustic Tavern, during the time of covid restrictions, so not many people were in attendance, but those of us who were in attendance were told only of the disruption of access to business that may occur during the digging of the streets, the streets affected, and the cost involved).

Answer: The public was asked for their input in various ways. There was a letter sent out to landowners and/or business owners that was dated January 4, 2022, which discussed the project using a map, timeline, questionnaire online, community engagement session at the curling rink lobby, attached to the utility bill, and coffee chats at the Rustic Tavern. This letter also discussed the possibility of green spaces, trees, planters, and/or benches along Centre St.

There was also a "Downtown Coronach Renewal- Public Engagement Recap" posted on the Town website and advertising completed in the Assiniboia Newspaper which stated participation by residents and the results. Some of these results included parking preferences for Centre St, parking preferences for the neighbourhood streets, and the next steps for design. For each of the parking options and other options

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discussed, the public was asked for their opinion and voting took place.

- 11) Question: We heard that there will be no parallel parking at the Canada Post Office site. Only angle parking on the north side of 1 Av. This will not allow for many people to park in the immediate area when picking up packages. The north side of 1 Av is already full of parked vehicles.

Answer: Council has heard from numerous residents regarding the future of no parking in front of the Canada Post Office. The current proposed plan is angle parking in front of the mini mart and then parallel further east along 1 Av on the northside, with no parking in front of the Canada Post Office. Another option is to change 1 Av to parallel parking on both sides to allow for parking in front of the Canada Post Office. Please let us know your thoughts by contacting the Town Office, if this is something you would prefer.

- 12) Question: We were wondering about the status of driveways along Centre Street and 1 Av, but have since learned that the driveways will remain as before, and that re-paving the street next year will include restoration of the dug up asphalt. Wondering if that is true?

Answer: Yes, if a taxpayer had asphalt before the project, they would have asphalt after the project is complete. Whatever the taxpayer had prior to the project, Council will match the additional 20 feet with that aggregate.

- 13) Question: We want to know why the lines were not replaced with tracer wire for future locates? That is a shortcut that could cause a lot of grief in the future if the street needs to be dug up.

Answer: Council tried to provide the most cost savings for the project. These service lines are brand-new and shouldn't have any issues for many years to come.

- 14) Question: The storm drains were moved to the wrong side of South Av. Why was this?

Answer: The road was surveyed, and elevations were taken of South Av. Once the paving and sloping is completed in 2024, our engineers have assured the Town, the water will run on the north side of South Av and that will be its intended route.

3D Drawings will be provided at a later date.

If the public has any subsequent questions regarding the Water & Sewer Restoration Project, please submit these in writing to the Town Office and another round of answers will follow. Thank you for your questions and we hope these answers provide our residents some much needed clarity! 😊

Sincerely,

Town of Coronach Town Council