



To the Citizens of the Village of Barnwell

The Village of Barnwell Council has made the decision to enter into a new Fire Partnership Agreement with the Municipal District of Taber, commencing March 31, 2017. We will therefore be terminating our contract with the Town of Taber Fire Service. Due to the considerable growth we have experienced over the past several years, Council has determined, after much consideration, deliberation and investigation that this decision is prudent to maintain a safe and viable community.

Fire Services for the Village will be provided by the Municipal District of Taber Regional Fire Department based in Taber which is one of 5 fire departments operated by the Municipal District of Taber under the banner "M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service" in the communities of Grassy Lake, Hays, Enchant, Taber and the Town of Vauxhall which, like the partnership with the Village, is a joint fire service operated by the MD of Taber and the Town of Vauxhall. Currently there are 80 volunteer fire fighters and 26 fire apparatus serving with the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service.

It is natural that the Village will partner with the MD of Taber Regional Fire Service since we are surrounded by the MD jurisdiction and therefore this new partnership will be a benefit for both parties. As part of this partnership, the Village will be constructing a Fire Hall within the Village of Barnwell and the MD Regional Fire Service will provide the fire and rescue trucks and operate the Fire Department.

We are commencing the process of recruiting members of our community to be trained and serve as volunteer firefighters with the MD Regional Fire Service in the Village (please watch for recruitment brochure).

The fire hall and the volunteers which will operate in the Village of Barnwell will be a satellite hall of the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Department located in Taber and will operate under the command of the MD of Taber Regional Fire Department Fire Chief. The volunteer fire fighters who serve in Barnwell will be part of the M.D. of Taber Regional Fire Service and will receive opportunities for training with the M.D. Regional Fire Service and when called upon will respond to calls within the Village and the M.D. along with personnel and equipment from the MD fire hall in Taber.

We can see many opportunities and advantages that will accompany this decision. Having a Fire Department located in the Village will contribute to decreased response times which will not only be a better protection for our homes, but may also improve our FUS (Fire Underwriter Survey) ratings and help to decrease property insurance rates.

Further, the Village of Barnwell will be entering into a joint emergency management plan agreement with the M.D. of Taber and the Town of Vauxhall. A joint regional emergency plan will ensure that the Village has the resources it needs to address large scale emergencies if they occur in the Village.

In addition to the other advantages that we see, with respect to participating with the Municipal District of Taber and the Town of Vauxhall in the Regional Fire Initiative, the Village will seek to become accredited in the Fire Discipline of the Alberta Safety Code. The Village will become a member of the "Joint Quality Management Plan" along with the M.D. of Taber and the Town of Vauxhall and as a result will be able to conduct its own Fire Safety Code inspections for residential, public, commercial and industrial properties within the Village. The Development Authority of the Village will have, as a resource, individuals qualified to perform fire safety inspections which will ensure new and existing structures are safe for occupancy and their use is in accordance with the Safety Codes Act. The MD of Taber Regional and Deputy Regional Fire Chiefs are both certified fire safety code inspectors and will assist the Village and its residents in developing a fire safe community. The best fire protection we can have is prevention.

If you have any further questions about this exciting new opportunity for our Village, please feel free to contact any of your Village Council Members.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jane Jensen", is written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Jane Jensen