



October 21, 2019

Community Update: Proposed Reinfeld/Schanzenfeld Sewer Project

Dear Property Owner:

As a Council and Administration, we are working hard to ensure that decisions we make regarding this project reflect community needs and concerns.

Over the past several weeks homeowners across our community have shared their views on the proposed sewer system – by taking our survey, and in letters, phone calls and emails. We want to extend our sincere appreciation for the feedback you've shared. We are now working to explore different options and scenarios to address the feedback received.

The initial community survey conducted last month was the first step in a consultation process that will help the Municipality understand the needs of residents as we work towards what an actual sewer proposal could look like. Also, we are still awaiting a response from the federal and provincial governments on the funding application to cover 73% of the total cost of the project. Without the funding in place, the project will not move forward.

We recognize that there are strong and differing views about building a sewer in Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld. Homeowners with newer septic systems, for example, feel it would be unfair to require them to pay and connect to a new sewer when their existing systems are still properly functioning. While some residents have expressed their support for the potential of a sewer system, many residents have also expressed understandable concerns about cost.

Your feedback remains an essential part of the process, and community consultation will continue before any decisions are made about whether or how we proceed.

It is important to note that there will be opportunities for further community input and questions. No final decisions have been made about this potential sewer project, and no decisions will be made without continued consultation with homeowners.

Here's what you can expect in the months to come:

- Survey results (December 2019): Survey results will be made public. Results will be tabulated and analyzed, and a survey report will then be posted on the RM website.
- Community update (December 2019): Once the survey results are available, we will clearly communicate the Municipality's response to the survey findings, including how we plan to address homeowners' concerns.
- **Wait for response from federal and provincial government regarding grant funding: It is important to note that we do not know when or if grant approval will come.**
 - > **If grant funding is not approved**: The project will not move forward and we will advise the communities of such.

- > **If grant funding is approved:** The Municipality will create a sewer proposal that reflects how we plan to address concerns raised and take additional steps (outlined below) to consult with homeowners.
- **Community open houses:** If grant funding is approved, we would schedule community open houses where homeowners could speak with municipal officials about any aspect of the proposed sewer system. All open house information would also be made available online. Residents would not need to wait until an open house to ask questions. We welcome thoughts and questions at any time.
- **Community update:** Following the open houses Council would report back to the community to outline changes that can be made in light of additional feedback received. The Municipality would confirm the final sewer proposal to be made to the community and request a response from homeowners to determine if there is enough interest to proceed with the project.

We are committed to working together with the communities of Reinfeld and Schanzenfeld, and we want to reaffirm that consultation with the community will continue before any final decisions are made.

The easiest way to stay up to date about the sewer project is to sign up for email updates on the Municipality's website and to visit the project webpage regularly: www.rmofstanley.ca/sewerproject

If you have comments or questions about any aspect of the proposed sewer initiative, please contact the RM office at any time: 204-325-4101, or by email at info@rmofstanley.ca.

The RM of Stanley genuinely appreciates your input, questions and patience as we work to address your concerns and questions.