

# VILLAGE OF VIBANK – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE 2020-2024

## **Vision:**

Vibank strives to offer peaceful country living with high quality and affordable services. Its small-town atmosphere with superior services and recreational programming is meeting the needs and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

## **Mission:**

The Mission Statement of the Village of Vibank is to enhance the quality of life for its residents; providing a sustainable infrastructure, safe efficient water supply, a responsibility to community needs, environment, protection, health, and safety.

## **Guiding Principles:**

Vibank's success depends on how the council, staff, and suppliers operate. The following guide all our actions:

### **Integrity:**

We place the interests of the community before our individual interests. We keep our agreements while following a moral and ethical code of excellence. We behave respectfully in all circumstances.

### **Accountability:**

We take responsibility for the results of our actions and our decisions. We measure our progress. We use best practices and make decisions based on the best interests of the community as a whole.

### **Transparency:**

All municipal decisions are made in public forum and subject to citizens' scrutiny. We are open and transparent with our information except where we are legally prohibited.

### **Inclusiveness:**

We will consider the opinion and viewpoints of all stake holders putting community interests first.

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## Responsiveness:

We set and meet reasonable response times. We listen to differing views and are prepared to explain the decisions we have made and the processes we have followed.

## Teamwork:

We believe that individuals who work together as a team achieve high quality results and provide exceptional service. We will work in a cooperative inclusive and respectful manner toward a common set of objectives. We will give and receive feedback to continuously improve.

## Operating Environment:

Many positive factors are influencing Vibank. Planning for continued growth, through economic development, renewed outdoor spaces, municipal governance, asset renewal, and developing strong partnerships with area residents and businesses are the focus of this Council during their 2020-2024 term and beyond. Covid-19 shaped the past year by limiting activities and events in the Village. A lot of the opportunities made possible by the VCCC, Seniors, Recreation Board, etc. have encountered difficulties meeting either virtually or in person, distributing programming, and fundraising. The Vibank Volunteer Fire Department purchased a Water tanker truck in 2019, and was gifted a 2015 Dodge ram command vehicle in 2020 to aid in their firefighting capabilities. Unfortunately, they were turned down for a Grant to add a Covid-19 meeting space to their hall. Vibank Fire department includes First Responders. Proximity to White City enhances the diversity of opportunities and services available to Vibank. Good work continues in Vibank now that lift stations and water treatment plant major upgrades are completed. With new and improved ways to add efficiencies and planning towards replacing the ground infrastructure to pave a way for growth and sustainability. Vibank needs focus on an increase of opportunities for economic growth and betterment for its area residents.

## **Water and Sewer**

A reverse osmosis water treatment plant at a cost of 2.1 million dollars was completed in 2012. The Village maintains a standard of excellence by continuing with proactive initiatives in water and sewer services. Currently Administration and Public Works are working on a replacement of the 21 Hydrants and Valves throughout the Village with help from the Gas Tax Initiative. Once the valves are working/replaced the Village can look at innovative ways to reline and replace aging in ground infrastructure.

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## **Recreation**

Vibank has a progressive volunteer board. More volunteers are necessary to help maintain the level of service the residents expect. Vibank is fortunate to have an active Rink, Seniors Club, Judo, Skating, Curling, Soccer, Hockey, Ball, and Dance Organizations offering programs to residents. The Village and Recreation Board are working towards revamping their bylaws and policies and adapting a Master Plan for the Board.

## **Highways and Roads**

Regular maintenance on gravel roads remain at the highest of priorities to offer safe access to the highway and throughout the Village. Dust control and future improvements are a continued focus for the Village.

## **Governance and Administration**

Village Administration has undergone changes yet again. The Office aims to continue to provide excellent service to the residents. There is a need to continue towards expanded services, improved infrastructure, and greater efficiency of operation. Succession planning and future growth in the Village will determine the path of staffing and contracted services for both Administration and Public Works.

Village Maintenance Department through the Public Works Manager position maintains a fleet of service vehicles, the water treatment plant, two lift stations, greens spaces, recreation areas, Heritage Building, and a shared use facility with the Vibank Volunteer Fire Department.

## **Schools**

Vibank is host to a K – 12 Regional School. A licensed day care facility providing licensed, quality early childhood development day care services to Vibank and surrounding area for 25 years. Continued progress in working together to create usable recreation spaces for the betterment of the Community.

## **Regional Planning**

Vibank continues to work with the surrounding Villages, Towns, and Rural Municipalities to greater the efficiency and improve coordination efforts on Emergency Measures and Services.

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## Goals and Strategic Initiatives:

1. Provide optimal governance and administration.
  - i. Develop and implement a strategic plan
  - ii. Develop an Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw
  - iii. Refine the Budget process through a comprehensive Asset Management program
  - iv. Review Utility Costs and management
  
2. Be a safe and protected community.
  - i. Develop an intergraded community network
  - ii. Develop a beautification policy and framework to expand the good will in the Community
  - iii. Enhanced Bylaw enforcement
  - iv. Update and implement an Emergency Management Plan
  
3. Accommodate Growth in a manner that is sustainable, while keeping to small town values, and living.
  - i. Hydrant Replacement Program
  - ii. Energy usage efficiency
  - iii. Create a condition for Economic growth

Staff and Council are committed to implement the 11 initiatives outlined above.

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Goals/Initiatives	Description	What is happening so far & what does it look like when completed	Comments
1.		<b>Provide optimal governance and administration</b>	
1.a) Develop and implement strategic plan process	Strategic Planning introduced 2020	2020 –2024 Plan approved by Council	Ongoing implementation regular updates
1.b) Develop the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw	Consultations with stakeholders	Reached out to three potential Vendors for quotes and information	PENDING
1.c) Refine the budgeting process	Asset Management compliance	Awaiting Grant Acceptance FCC – Contacts in place with Solomon Consulting and KGS	Spring 2021
1.d) Review of Utility costs to residents. Value for Money	Determine value vs costs	Cost analyses with other communities. Operating and repairs Budget vs Maintenance and delivery of service expenses	Ongoing – Budget 2021 to address some of the concerns
2.		<b>Be a Safe and Protected Community</b>	
2.a) Develop an intergraded community network	Communications platform between equipment and Public Works	Discussions with Sasktel for a WIFI free location at the Hall Upgrades to boiler systems allowing for better alarms and controls	On going
2.b) Develop a Beautification Policy and Framework to expand the good will in the Community	Recreation Board governance review. Project planning	Consultation and Master Plan Review and Implementation. Summer Student program with broader online presence and activities. Parade, Heritage Building 100 <sup>th</sup> – social events. Recruiting interested stakeholders in driving events and activities forward in the community.	
2.c) Enhanced Bylaw enforcement	Nuisance enforcement	Policy and procedures for unkept yards and nuisance vehicles, with stronger enforcement practices	

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3.		<b>Accommodate Growth in a manner that is sustainable while keeping to small town values and living</b>	
3.a) Hydrant Replacement Program	2-3 Hydrants replaced yearly	Work with Public Works and Schaeffer's Trenching to best utilize the funds allocated for replacing the hydrants and shut offs	
3.b) Energy usage Efficiency	Money saving ventures to reduce the waste of Utilities	Look for ways to reduce costs solar power for the Heritage Building and other buildings in the Village. New windows in the Hall	
3.c) Create a condition for Economic growth	Economic Enhancement policy	Find ways to enhance businesses to Vibank. Growth and wellness land use exploration, Community ambassadors, SaskTel select network.	