

Priorities Committee Meeting_Sep17_2019

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**September 17 2019 Report_Bylaw 36-2013 Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks within the County - proposed amendments.docx****Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee information to consider amendments to the current sidewalk clearing bylaw.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 9 - Continuously improving the way we work, as one organization, in an agile and sustainable manner

Report

Council directed administration to look at options and costs with respect to the feasibility of requiring owners to clear sidewalks within 48 hours, and the feasibility of the County assuming responsibility for clearing side yards on roadways.

The report gives Transportation and Agriculture Services an opportunity to share with Priorities Committee options and impacts of possible amendments to Bylaw 36-2013 – Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks within the County, the report includes:

- Feasibility of requiring that owners must clear sidewalks within 48 hours:
 - A review of neighboring municipalities shows a variation in residents' requirements and timelines to address snow and ice adjacent to their homes, though the goal remains the same which is to ensure safe pedestrian travel.
 - Currently owners of a parcel in the urban service area are responsible to remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk along the frontage and/or side of the parcel within eight days following the initial snow accumulation with a penalty including cost of remedial work plus 50% administrative fee.
 - With this expectation between 2016 and 2019 we note:
 - 173 - County Connect cases
 - 254 - Sidewalk inspections
 - 150 - Reminder letters
 - 14 - 48-hour notices
 - 5 - Reactive enforcements
 - Cost to clear all priority levels within 48 hours if we wanted to meet the same service levels on county-maintained trails would be \$1,425,000 and would require 24-hour clearing operations on the total network to meet the same service level as residents-maintained sidewalks.
- Feasibility of the County assuming responsibility for clearing sidewalks on side yards on roadways:
 - Currently Strathcona County does not clear side yards
 - To provide this level of service, increased costs would be:
 - Additional cost to clear side yard walkways adjacent to collector roadways (6.11 kilometres) after completion of other service levels \$132,393
 - Additional cost to clear side yard walkways adjacent to residential roadways (13.98 kilometres) after completion of other service levels \$377,848

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Council and Committee History

- June 11, 2019 Council approved: THAT Administration prepare a report by the end of September 2019 on possible amendments to Bylaw 36-2013 – Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks within the County, the report to include:
- Feasibility of requiring that owners must clear sidewalks within 48 hours,
 - Feasibility of the County assuming responsibility for clearing sidewalks on side yards on roadways,
 - Information on best practices from other municipalities, including priority systems for clearing different types of sidewalks and trails, and
 - The costs associated with the options provided.

Other Impacts

Policy: Winter Maintenance Policy – Roads, Sidewalks, and Parking Lots SER-009-033

Legislative/Legal: 36-2013 Removal of Snow and Ice from Sidewalks

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Communication Plan

If the bylaw is changed, we will prepare a communication plan to all residents within the urban areas of Strathcona County

Enclosures

- 1 Encl 1 Sidewalk snow clearing presentation
- 2 Encl 2 SER-009-026 Winter Maintenance Policy – Roads, Sidewalks, and Parking Lots
- 3 Encl 3 Current Bylaw 36-2013
- 4 Encl 4 Side yard map