

**SUMMER VILLAGE OF SOUTH VIEW
AGENDA - ADDITIONS**

Regular Council Meeting held at the Municipal Office 2317 Twp Rd 545 LSA County
Public may participate in person or via zoom
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 commencing at 9:30 a.m.

7. Business: i) March 14, 2024 letter from Fire Rescue International regarding the current and future fire agreements

Considering the recent developments with regards to our fire service, which were addressed earlier in the agenda, Fire Chief Ives has sent correspondence indicating his intentions moving forward. This includes his intentions until March 7, 2025 when Onoway officials withdraws, from March 7, 2025 until the end of the when the contract was meant to expire on December 31, 2025, and thereafter. The letter is attached, for your information.

(That council accept the correspondence for information)

11. Information and Correspondence:

- n) March 16, 2024 Media Release from Fire Rescue International regarding a hazardous materials fire at the Onoway Industrial Park



FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL (DIVISION 7801)

March 14, 2024

Village of Alberta Beach, Summer Villages of Nakamun Park, Ross Haven, Yellowstone, Castle Island, Sunset Point, Val Quentin, South View, & Silver Sands,

A lot has gone on over the past few weeks – in particular as things relate to the Town of Onoway and its decision to terminate the contract early. Until this week, we have not been able to say too much on the matter because we had not received official notice until March 11th. As to our official position regarding the termination, I can not comment as the matter is under review by our legal council.

What I can tell you is that this decision came without any consultation or warning. We are in receipt of the motion that was carried in September 2023 stating the Town of Onoways' intent to negotiate in good faith with Fire Rescue International (FRI) with the goal of entering another long-term contract. I can also confirm that we had been invited to attend a round-table discussion on March 8th that was to be the pre-negotiation meeting for the next agreement. Unfortunately, as it turns out, on February 22nd, council passed a motion to terminate the agreement early. What precipitated this this change in the town's position is completely unknown to FRI. What we do know is that as per the Onoway's' media release, the decision has nothing to do with the performance of FRI. Frankly, FRI's performance statistics speak for themselves. We have also heard that the decision was based on money, but can not confirm this much less understand such an argument. By our calculations, the Town of Onoway generates a gross profit of \$20,000.00 per year hosting a fire station and administering the contract.

From the view of your fire department, the matter of Onoway's termination is mostly an issue that needs to be worked out between the ratepayers of the town and their council. Although we do not believe termination of the fire services agreement will save Onoway a penny and see no option that could possibly bring better service, this matter shouldn't create panic within the other areas we serve. The principals of FRI are people of their word... We are not going anywhere. When FRI entered this agreement, the contemplated end was December 31st 2025. FRI has no plans to renege on the deal as originally contemplated.

www.firerescueinternational.net **855-710-3473** info@firerescueinternational.net
4935-50th Ave P.O. Box 278 Alberta Beach, Alberta T0E-0A0



FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL (DIVISION 7801)

Presuming the balance of our communities also intend to continue in the spirit of the original agreement I can confirm the following:

- A) There will be no change to the service levels, response protocols, or pricing for the remaining 9-members prior to March 7th 2025
- B) After March 7th of next year, FRI has every intention on fulfilling the original contract term ending December 31st 2025 with as little change to the service delivery model as possible.
- C) FRI will undertake to provide a proposal that will allow for continued operations with little or no financial impact on the remaining 9-municipalities.

In other words: As far as Fire Rescue International is concerned, things are business as usual for then next 12-months and for the final 9-months of 2025, we are confident we can work with our team of communities to continue the same fine service our ratepayers deserve at a cost the municipalities can afford. This leaves us ample time to continue our regular contract negotiations as originally planned without undue stress or pressure.

While Onoway residents, visitors, and businesses may have good reason to worry, rest assured; your residents do not. I look forward to your continued faith and support as well as our future agreement to provide long-term and affordable medical aid, firefighting, and rescue services.

David Ives

Fire Chief



FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL (DIVISION 7801)

MEDIA RELEASE:

Onoway, AB – March 16, 2024

RE: Hazardous Materials Onoway Industrial Park

At 1927 Friday March 15th Fire Rescue International (FRI) was paged to what was originally coded as a low priority outside side fire. Within one-minute several units were on route. Roughly one-minute later FRI's first command unit on scene. This unit reported black smoke inside a hazardous materials worksite area and that fire was threatening a large flammable liquids tank farm. By 1933 the first pumper was on scene, securing a water source and moving into position. Within ten-minutes of arrival, the tank farm containing volatile fluids had been cooled and protected. Fire crews then turned their attention on the large roll-off bin that was still burning.

After considerable efforts, the fire was contained. However, a significant amount of potentially toxic smoke had been released into the area. In an abundance of caution, at 2029 an air-quality advisory was requested for the Town of Onoway by FRI crews. FRI then worked to further overhaul the burning material while Alberta Environment was alerted of the incident. After overhaul the hazmat material was covered in sand then the site was turned over to the property owner.

Ten firefighters and 4 fire units were engaged in the firefight. No injuries were reported on the site or incurred by the firefighters during the operation. Fire Rescue International would like to thank our firefighting team for their fast-actions and professional actions while mitigating risks within a site that could have turned catastrophic. FRI would also like to thank Lac Ste. Anne County Patrol for their assistance on scene.

For more information about this incident or to learn more about your fire department, please contact Fire Chief David Ives at 780-777-4688

**www.firerescueinternational.net 855-710-3473 info@firerescueinternational.net
4935-50th Ave P.O. Box 278 Alberta Beach, Alberta T0E-0A0**