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Local Government District of Pinawa

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2024-038

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July 3, 2024

Pinawa Chamber of Commerce
c/o Eric Busch
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

Dear Eric:

I apologize for the delay in responding to your February 20th, 2024 letter. I did not realize that my draft response was not sent but the delay has given me time to update the information.

1. Fee Structure and Schedule – when I type fee schedule into the search bar on the LGD of Pinawa website, the fourth item on the right hand side of the webpage is Fee Schedule 2024.
BizPal was a portal created by the Province of Manitoba over 15 years ago to provide a one-stop resource, listing all possible permits an entrepreneur might require when starting a business. Unfortunately, BizPal has not kept up on the momentous task of updating municipal permitting systems.
2. Seasonal Business fees – Council has approved hiring of a consultant to review the costs for all services provided to seasonal site holders at campgrounds. The consultant is a partner in Way To Go Consulting and a former Chief Administrative Officer, therefore, well versed in municipal operations and services provided. Data from the LGD financial plan will be used to recommend a baseline for cost per site.

The Consultant was also contracted to perform a review of costs for all mobile vendors operating on municipal land in the LGD of Pinawa. Unfortunately, due to lack of precedents for renting municipal land to Vendors, he advised that there is not enough data to support a report.

To give a better understanding regarding the difference between seasonal campgrounds and seasonal mobile vendors, seasonal campgrounds have paid to purchase their property and pay annual taxes based on assessment of land and physical structures that enhance their business such as waterlines, sewer, and communal buildings.

Seasonal mobile vendors do not own the land they operate on, and do not contribute by paying municipal and school taxes. The only way for a municipality to collect revenue to offset the expense for providing services to mobile vendors is through a vendor fee. Currently, the price per square foot of space rented is approximately \$0.80 to \$0.85 for a term from May until September.

We support age friendly



Municipalities are only permitted to generate revenue through taxation, grants, or fees. Property owners, both residential and business, pay property taxes on their land and buildings for the municipal services that are available to everyone all year.

When a taxpayer purchases from a mobile vendor, the cost for services and disposal is already paid for by the taxpayer. When a tourist purchases from a mobile vendor, the vendor receives the profit and the taxpayer dollars pay the majority of cost for disposal of product residual. Firstly, there are protective services available for every person who enters the boundaries of Pinawa, whether they actually use the services or not. Secondly, there are Public Works costs for equipment, operators and labourers for maintaining the roads, sweeping streets, cutting grass, picking up garbage (operation of a landfill) and recycling (processing recyclables), cleaning bathrooms (which were constructed/or are rented for tourists' use). Constructing vendor sites and parking lots for tourists were completed, using tax dollars paid by property owners. At some point in the future, vendor fees may include the recouping of capital costs invested in preparing/upgrading vendor sites.

We are certain that members of the Chamber of Commerce understand, taxpayers (which includes your members) should not have to bear the cost of tourist businesses.

Sincerely,

Trudy Turchyn, CMMA
Resident Administrator