



BACKGROUND:

At the December 8, 2016 Regular Council Meeting, Council was presented with a letter prepared by Betty Pucci on behalf of "The residents of Watino" requesting to have Railway Avenue changed to Maple Wood Avenue. A copy of that letter has been provided on the opposite side of this document.

In the letter, it was stated that it was the opinion of the community that since there is no longer rail service in Watino, the name no longer fits. It went on to state that the residents had chosen instead to name the road Maple Wood Avenue.

Staff sought the advice from Municipal Affairs, 911 and Alberta Transportation, and all have confirmed that a municipality may name roads. At present, there are no Bylaws or policies to guide us through a process; such as a public hearing/notification, but Municipal Affairs expressed that we should take into account the cost of signage and maps. After contacting 911 we were advised that should it be decided to make the name change, that they would add it to their next update.

The cost for all of this was unknown at the time, but if it is decided to rename Railway Avenue, Administration will need to ensure that funds for such costs be included in the Operating and Maintenance budget of the year in which the change is made.

In response to Mrs. Pucci's letter and the information provided, Council passed Resolution RC16-490 that read

"that Council direct Administration to communicate through public meetings and survey with the residents of Watino to confirm that it is the wish of the majority to rename "Railway" Avenue in Watino to "Maple Wood" Avenue, to provide Council on their findings, and additional budgetary impacts at a later date."

Staff is meeting with residents this evening to advise you of what is going on, to present some basic background information regarding the Hamlet of Watino, and to examine options related to the name "Railway Avenue".

November 10, 2016

Watino, Alberta



To: Birch Hills County

The residents of Watino request a name change for the Hamlet's main avenue which is currently referred to as Railway Avenue. As there is no longer a railway in Watino the name does not fit and we feel that Maple Wood Avenue would be a more appropriate title.

We trust this can be achieved.

Thank you in advance.

Yours truly,

The residents of Watino.

Betty Anne