



Councillor Blog

For this month's blog, we wanted to share a letter from the entire White City Town Council in response to the RM of Edenwold's invitation to the Emerald Park Fire Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Our Town Council will not be attending as they do not support a new fire hall less than four kilometres away from the White City Fire Hall.

The White City Fire Department has provided first-class fire response for our region for over 40 years – and continues to improve with new efficiencies to keep budgets low while improving response times.

The Emerald Park Fire Hall represents a duplication of services, and a duplication of costs, in the region.

RM of Edenwold No. 158
100 Hutchence Road
Emerald Park, SK S4L 1C6

Attention: Rural Municipality of Edenwold No.158 Council

Thank you for your invitation to the Emerald Park Fire Hall Groundbreaking Ceremony on November 5, 2021. Respectfully, the Town of White City Council and Administration will not be attending. White City Town Council does not support the construction of a new fire hall less than four kilometres from the White City Fire Hall when providing regional shared fire services is more effective and efficient for residents, businesses and the region.

Over the past 40 years the White City Fire Department (WCFD) has provided fire services and medical aid services to Emerald Park and area as part of a mutual fire agreement between White City and the RM. We have worked together, with residents from both White City and Emerald Park, to form a first-class fire department with dedicated volunteers. This has enabled the WCFD to grow and exercise continuous improvement to become more effective and efficient while keeping budgets low, reducing duplication of service and improving emergency response times in the community.

Despite this, the RM of Edenwold has decided to continue with the development of its own fire hall less than four kilometres from the White City Fire Hall without any consultation or discussion with the Town of White City. We invite the RM to reconsider the construction of a new facility and meet with representatives from White City to discuss options to continue to work together to provide regional fire services to our communities. As the RM has noted concerns of the cost of the Town's supply of fire services, we would also be open to discussing how we can provide cost-effective and equitable cost of service provisions, and how both the Town and RM could participate in a regional, coordinated approach to fire services in the area.

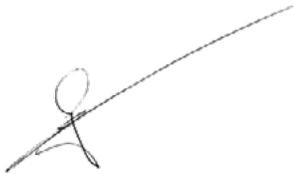
The construction of a new fire hall is contradictory to the goal of modern communities and the provision of cost effective and efficient services. The need for an additional fire hall in such close proximity does not follow best practices, nor is it supported by the current fire and medical service activation volume in the area.

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We know that this community is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. White City's approach is to plan for that growth by taking a long-term view of the infrastructure, facilities, programs and services a growing population will require. Our long-term plans included ensuring our fire protection and medical response services will meet the needs of residents now and in the future for the entire community. It is therefore unfortunate and disappointing the RM of Edenwold has chosen to ignore better options and instead expend considerable funds to build and operate redundant fire protection services without any consultation or discussion with White City.

Sincerely,

White City Town Council:



Mayor
Brian Fergusson



Deputy Mayor
Rebecca Otitoju



Councillor
Andrew Boschman



Councillor
Kris Moen



Councillor
Bill Krzysik



Councillor
Scott Moskal



Councillor
Hal Zorn

We've invited the RM of Edenwold to reconsider the construction of a new facility and engage in consultations with White City for how we can continue providing cost-effective fire protection for the region.

If you have any questions, have a comment, want more information or want to suggest a topic for a future blog please email townoffice@whitecity.ca or call **306-781-2355** – we look forward to hearing from you!

