BYLAW 1406

OF THE TOWN OF WHITECOURT
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF WHITECOURT IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO IMPOSE A USER FEE FOR POLICE AND FIRE FALSE ALARMS

WHEREAS, businesses, institutions, and residences may have alarm systems and carbon monoxide detectors installed to: reduce damage to the property in the event of a fire; reduce property losses sustained during break and enters; and to warn building occupants of a hazardous condition;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Whitecourt's fire department and RCMP detachment have an obligation to respond to all alarms, resulting in a significant cost (wages, fuel, and vehicle use) to the municipality and the detachment for false alarms;

AND WHEREAS a significant percentage of the Whitecourt fire department's fire calls over the past three years were for false alarms; and

AND WHEREAS false alarms unnecessarily increase the risk of traffic accidents and delay police attendance at genuine emergencies; and

AND WHEREAS Council deems it expedient and proper to institute a charge for false alarms to recover *some* costs and encourage proper maintenance of alarm systems by users;

NOW THEREFORE, as authorized under the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, the Council of the Town of Whitecourt, duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

1. Where the Fire Department and/or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) must respond to a property because of a warning generated by a false alarm; the property owner or occupant shall pay to the Town of Whitecourt:

    a) If the false alarm is the second or more such alarm in any given calendar year, a user fee of $200.00 (two hundred dollars).

2. A fire false alarm is defined by any activation of the alarm system that results in a response by a member of the Whitecourt Fire department to the location of the alarm system, and that was not caused by a fire or carbon monoxide emission;

3. A police false alarm is defined as any activation of the alarm system that results in a response by a member of the RCMP to the location of the alarm system and that was not caused by an unauthorized entry into the protected premises;

4. The Town's Fire Chief and the Staff Sergeant in charge of the RCMP detachment (or their duly authorized delegate in their absence) shall make the subsequent determination of which incidents constitute a false alarm in accordance with this bylaw.

5. The false alarm user fee authorized by this bylaw is:

    An amount owing to the municipality, and is recoverable as debt due to the municipality;

6. This bylaw shall not be applicable to any facility owned and operated by Northern Gateway Regional School Division #10, Living Waters Catholic Regional School Division #42, the Town of Whitecourt; or the Whitecourt and District Public Library.

7. Town of Whitecourt Bylaws #1190 & #1190-01 are hereby repealed.

READ a first time this 22nd day of January, 2007.

READ a second time this 22nd day of January, 2007.

READ a third time this 22nd day of January, 2007.