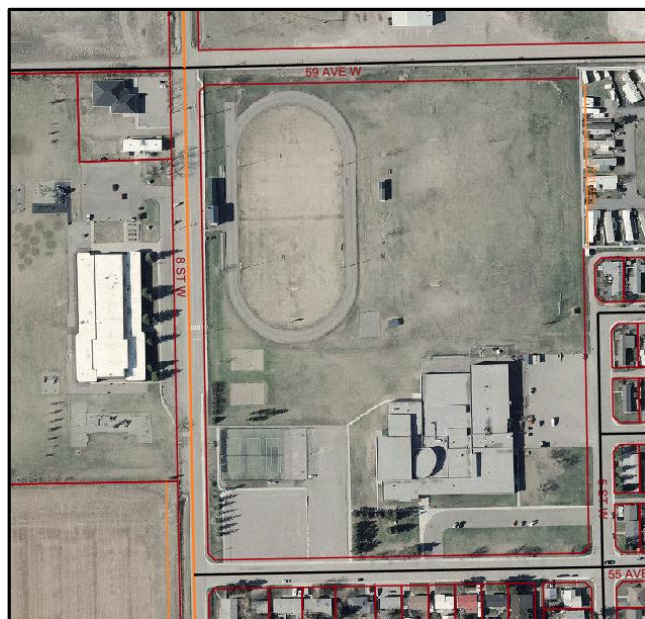

DRAFT BYLAW No. 1800 – TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Town was contacted by RCMP, who have recently been conducting speed radar in the playground and school zones in Claresholm. They have noticed that the signs around the elementary school indicate a playground zone with no posted time. The default time for playground zones is 8:30am - 1hr after sunset (provincial regulations unless otherwise noted with the Town's bylaw). School drop off begins around 7:30am making the 30km/hr difficult to enforce prior to 8:30am. Changing the timeframe would allow enforcement **before** 8:30 when children are actually heading to school.

- School Zone - Provincial Regulation = 8:00 am to 9:30 am; 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.
- Playground Zone - Provincial Regulation = 8:30 am to 1 hour after sunset



School zones end at 4:30pm and with the playgrounds and sports field being used later in the evenings and all summer as well having the areas designated as playground zones vs school zones allows for slower speeds in those areas. Administration has spoken and received feedback from the schools in which they would like to see more enforcement and slower speeds especially during drop off and pick up times. Education will be a key component of enforcement.

DISCUSSION:

Research from other communities:

- Lethbridge harmonized all school zones to playground zones (7:30am to 9pm)
- High River harmonized School and Playground Zones (30) kilometres per hour, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week year-round.
- Okotoks is not harmonized, and school zones are 30 km/hr from the posted speed limit from 7:30am-5pm.
- It appears Fort Macleod and Pincher Creek follow provincial regulations.

Provincial Regulations

- <https://www.alberta.ca/school-and-playground-zones#jumplinks-3>

Signage will require updating only around the schools (approx. 4-5 signs) to allow for enforcement, this can be completed within the infrastructure operational budget.

Proposed change to add playground zones shown in red attached – Section 43. Please note: this bylaw has also consolidated Bylaw 1710 & 1726 to allow for ease of posting and reading for the public, no other changes are proposed.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Councillor _____ to give Bylaw No. 1800, the Town of Claresholm Traffic & Highways Bylaw, first reading as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) DRAFT BYLAW No. 1800

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

- 1.) BYLAW No. 1701 & 1726

PREPARED BY: Tara Vandervalk, Development Services Manager

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: April 1, 2025
