

Cremona to re-assume financial duties

Council approves purchasing financial software system

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Almost two years after the provincial government deemed Cremona viable as a municipality governed by its own council, village officials feel ready to re-assume financial administration duties from Mountain View County.

Council gave administration officials the go-ahead during the April 19 council meeting to purchase a Muniware financial software system for \$42,750.

Luana Smith, chief administrative officer for the village, said the cost includes training staff members how to use the system, and she hopes to begin the process in May.

“We used to do all of it ourselves and then during the viability issues, the official administrator felt it would probably be better to have another organization host our finances,” said Smith.

The viability review was conducted in 2012 and Cremona was deemed viable in 2014. Smith said since then, things have “calmed down”, and Sandi Ryan, who is the village’s administrative assistant, is

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LUANA SMITH,
Village of Cremona CAO

fully capable of taking over financial duties.

“And because we’re small, I think we can manage it,” said Smith.

The village is currently paying the county \$36,000 a year to conduct its financial administration duties, as well as a \$2,500 annual licensing fee.

Smith said it’s a lengthy process for village officials to add information into the county’s system, wait on county officials to issue cheques and then pick them up to take back to the village office for signing.

“Same with utilities. We do the meter reads and then Sandi downloads them, sends them off to the county and then they create the utility bills and then send it back to us, and then Sandi has to print them off,” she said.

She added the new

system will allow for an unlimited number of network users.

“This will allow all village staff to be able to access their department expenses and will help with management of the budget,” she said.

After the initial cost to purchase the system, Smith said the village will only have to pay an annual support fee of \$3,450 – which will save the village roughly \$30,000 a year.

The village could potentially be paying \$5,000 more for its annual audit, but would still be saving money, she added.

Surrounding municipalities, like Carstairs, Didsbury and Sundre, already use Muniware financial software systems and have offered assistance for a small cost if needed, she said.