

Cremona

Landlords must now make sure utility bills are paid

BY PATRICIA RILEY
MVP Staff

Property owners in Cremona are now 100 per cent responsible for making sure utility bills are paid, regardless of whether or not the property is being rented by tenants.

Village of Cremona council approved an amendment to the village's Utility Account Policy during the July 21 council meeting.

The policy now states the utility account must be opened under the property owner's name, according to Luana Smith, chief administrative officer for the village.

A property owner can

fill out a form allowing a tenant to receive a copy of the bill, but the responsibility of making sure it gets paid still lies on the owner, she said.

Council also approved an amendment to the village's Water Wastewater Bylaw to put the onus of making sure the water bill is paid on the property owner.

If the bill is not paid, the money owing will reflect on the property owner's tax bill.

"That way we don't have to do water shut-offs for non-payment," Smith said

She said if the property owner rents their property they are responsible for making separate arrangements with their tenants to receive payment for the bill.

Village officials hope the amendment to the bylaw will alleviate issues they have had in the past with renters walking out on bills and landowners refusing to pay them.

"If they (renters) leave and no one's paid the bills, then we have to contact the landlord and

often the landlord says, 'well we didn't know' and they don't feel they should pay the bill, and then it becomes a burden of all the residents because then it comes out of the general funds of the municipality," Smith said.