Title:	Idle Free Policy
Policy No:	2021-01
Approval:	Village Council
Effective Date:	March 9, 2021

Policy Statement: To provide idling guidelines to Village employees and contractors when operating village owned vehicles.

Purpose: This policy is intended to reduce the Village's expenses, lower emissions produced by Village and contractor vehicles and improve air quality for residents and employees. The Village of Spring Lake strives to improve the quality of life for its residents by protecting the natural environment.

Principles: Council has considered well documented research that has shown that

- Modern day engines typically do not require more than 30 seconds of warm up time.
- Excessive idling (longer than 10 seconds) damages engines and releases needless pollutants into the environment.
- Block-heaters are good for engines and the environment.

References:

- www.fleetsmart.gc.ca
- Natural Resources Canada http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/come/index-eng.php

1. Definitions

1.1 "Contractor" means a person or company that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labor to perform a service or do a job for the Village of Spring Lake.

1.2 "Council" means the duly elected officials for the Village of Spring Lake.

1.3 "Idle or Idling" means the operation of a vehicle engine while the vehicle is not in motion.

1.4 "Nuisance" includes any use of or activity upon any property which is offensive to any person or has or may have a detrimental impact upon any person or other property in the neighborhood.

1.5 "Village" means the Village of Spring Lake

2. Policy Statement

2.1 Village and contractor vehicles are not to be left running when the operator is absent from the vehicle.

2.2 Village and contractor vehicles are not permitted to idle more than 3 to 5 minutes unless exempted below.

2.3 There shall be no idling near building air intakes, playgrounds, or groups of people.

2.4 Block heaters (with timers) will be installed when possible as an alternative for vehicles not garaged in heated buildings.

3. Exemptions

3.1 Emergency Services and other Village Vehicles

(a) Emergency Services and other Village and contractor vehicles may idle at the scene of an emergency where lights and other accessories are needed in order to respond to the situation. This includes vehicles that need to run in order to charge batteries and run lights, etc. for their primary function. If the principal vehicle battery is not sufficient to run those instruments the Village will consider installing an extra powerful battery.

(b) Emergency Services and other Village and contractor vehicles may idle during a non-emergency response in order to perform the job at hand and keep the battery charged (i.e. to power convertors for the use of hand tools).

(c) Emergency vehicles which have contents sensitive to extreme heat and cold may be allowed to idle as necessary to maintain adequate internal temperatures.

(d) Any vehicle that needs to run during service or repair is permitted to idle only for as long as is necessary.

(e) Any vehicle that needs to defrost its windshield in order to drive safely is permitted to idle only for as long as it takes to defrost and maintain a clear windshield.

3.2 Diesel-Powered Vehicles and Equipment

(a) When the outside temperature is above 8 degrees C, a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 3 minutes.

(b) When the outside temperature is between -23C and 0C a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 5 minutes.

(c) If the outside temperature is below -23 C, and no nuisance is created, a diesel engine will not be subject to idling restrictions.

(d) When a diesel-powered vehicle has a block heater (with a timer) the above exemptions 3.2 (a), (b), and (c) will only apply when the vehicle is way from the Public Works Shop or Office.

(e) No idling is allowed if a diesel vehicle is already warmed up and an operator stops the vehicle for a short time (i.e. a coffee break).

(f) No idling is allowed if a diesel vehicle is stored inside and the inside temperature is higher outside.

(g) Ice maintenance equipment must stay running to keep the pumps from freezing. If the unit is not working, it does not need to idle.

3.3 Hybrid Vehicles

(a) Any vehicle that eliminates the emission of green house gases during the idling phase of operation.