

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



An Initiative Designed to Keep YOU Better Informed of Council Decisions and Initiatives

February 5, 2018

Letter to Municipal Affairs – Council wrote a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs seeking further understanding in regards to the Minister's decision not to implement the Linear Year Assessment Modifiers (AYMs) that were published by the Ministry in September of 2017. Council is deeply concerned with its impact on ability to deliver services to ratepayers and the implications for relationships with neighbouring municipalities.

County Council concluded 2018 budget negotiations on December 4, 2017, basing decisions on Guidelines for Linear Property, Machinery and Equipment, Railway and Farm Land that were received from the Ministry in the fall of 2017. With rural provisional budgets already passed by municipalities, the timing of this recent announcement has presented unanticipated burdens.

The effect on the County of Grande Prairie's budget is significant: over one million dollars of lost revenue. This loss of revenue has an even much broader reach, impacting a range of stakeholders throughout the region, including ratepayers and neighbouring communities, with which we share numerous cost-sharing agreements.

Aquatera Utilities Unanimous Shareholders Agreement (USA) – Bernd Manz, CEO of Aquatera Utilities presented and answered questions with regards to Aquatera's USA, bylaw, and article amendments.

The proposed actions will enable parties other than the original shareholders –the County of Grande Prairie, the City of Grande Prairie

and the Town of Sexsmith – to become Aquatera shareholders. This includes revising the Unanimous Shareholders Agreement, Bylaw No. 1 and the Articles of Incorporation.

The Town of Wembley has asked to become an Aquatera Shareholder as part of the provision of water to the Town from the utility company's system. Council also endorsed Aquatera advancing interim financing to the Town of Wembley for a water transmission line to the community.

Council approved the requested changes. The County's representative will bring this forward to the next shareholder meeting.

Resolution to AAMDC "Provincial and Government Consultation with Municipalities" – Council drafted a resolution for submission to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Zone meeting requesting the provincial government establish a cross-jurisdictional, inter-governmental and uniform communication protocol with municipal officials in partnership with AAMDC.

Community Aggregate Payment (CAP) Levy– Council approved increasing the CAP levy from \$0.25/tonne to \$0.40/tonne effective January 1, 2019. The Municipal Government Act authorizes municipalities to pass a community aggregate payment levy bylaw to all municipal councils the ability to raise revenue by imposing a levy on sand and gravel businesses operating in a municipality.

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Sponsorships – Council approved the following sponsorships:

Council approved a \$1,500 Breakfast sponsorship of the World of Choices taking place at Evergreen Park on March 1, 2018. It is an opportunity for youth in grades 9-12 to network with mentors, and learn about the various career possibilities, the training and education required.

Council approved a \$1,000 sponsorship of the 3rd Trampoline & Tumbling Alberta Cup tournament.

Employee Introductions – Council and staff welcomed Damian Bujold to the County. Damian will fill the role of Project & Regulatory Technologist within Public Works.

Next Council meeting will take place on February 12, 2018.

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