

Council Highlights



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

July 15, 2013

Cemetery Improvement Grant – Council approved the motion to distribute \$27,843 of grants to six community groups for improvements to cemeteries. The County distributes this grant to various organizations for cemetery upgrades and maintenance on a yearly basis. The following cemeteries received grants:

- St. Patrick's - \$3,623.00
- Valhalla - \$5,000
- Immanuel - \$5,000
- Hythe - \$5,000
- Halcourt - \$5,000
- Gimle - \$5,000

Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Update – Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Executive Director Brian Brake provided details on the Museum's fundraising efforts, construction timeline, the next Dino Ball and the grand opening event.

Letters of support for the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum – Letters of support from 17 municipalities from across northwest Alberta have been received stating their support for the County of Grande Prairie's application for a Provincial Collaboration Grant to fund the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum in completing the interior finishes and displays. Council made a motion to move forward with submitting their application and the supporting documentation to the Province.

They also will indicate to the Province that they will send any further supporting documentation received to include in the application.

FCSS Social Needs Assessment – Council approved a budget of \$40,000 to hire a consultant to design and complete a social needs assessment of the County. The assessment will help identify the quality of human/social services currently provided to residents, and what services are required but aren't available to County residents. The information gathered will also help with the facilitation of the new Family Care Clinic for the community of Clairmont. County administration will create a RFP and work with the successful consultant to move the project forward.

West County Community Foundation – Council made a motion to contribute \$400 to the West County Community Foundation fundraising golf tournament that will be held on July 26th at the Riverbend Golf Course.

Ronning House – Alberta Culture has provided the County with a letter identifying the terms agreed upon for the relocation of the Ronning House. Council approved the relocation of the House from its current location to a location near Valhalla Cemetery which ensures the preservation of the House and a portion of the property and for future home owners to be eligible to apply for the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation for grants to preserve the building.

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County Pictorial Coffee Table Book – Council awarded the publishing of the County of Grande Prairie Pictorial Coffee Table Book to The World Publishing Ltd. in the amount of \$37,689.00 + GST. The Book will draw attention to various breathtaking and distinguishable areas of the County of Grande Prairie that represents life and culture in the County.

Red Meat Industry – Council discussed their concerns regarding the local red meat vendors’ decreased access to the global market and the increased transportation costs to export red meat. Council made a motion to research ways to increase red meat exporting opportunities.

Range Road 41 and Township Road 724 Intersection – Council made a motion to have the yield signs on Range Road 41 and Township Road 724 changed to stop signs.

Public Hearings – Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2680-13-026 to redesignate approximately 26.49 acres of land located 3 ½ miles south west of the City of Grande Prairie, adjacent to Rge Rd. 65 and Twp Rd. 710 from agricultural to country residential (CR-3). This would facilitate the subdivision of three new lots for country residential use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2680-13-024 to redesignate a 86.96 acres of land located adjacent to the Village of Hythe and adjacent to Rge Rd 112 from agricultural district to intensive recreation district. This would facilitate the subdivision of one lot for intensive recreation use. Council gave the bylaw third reading.

Council held a public hearing on bylaw 2680-13-005 to redesignate approximately 10.50 acres of land located ½ mile west of the Hamlet of Clairmont, adjacent to Twp Rd 730 and Rge Rd. 64 from agricultural to country residential (CR-2) to allow for the subdivision of one lot for country residential use. The bylaw did not receive first reading.

Amendment of Policy B-19 – Council approved the amendment of Policy B-19 also known as the Passing and Rescinding of Bylaws. This Policy has been amended to reflect the Municipal Government Act 63 (2)(1) with regards to road closures.

Road Closure Bylaws – Council gave the following road closure bylaws third readings:

- 2982-** Road Plan 1029 EU located within part of NW-32-70-9-W6M
- 2983-** Road Plan 042 1468 located within part of SE-23-72-6-W6M
- 2988-** Road Plan 062 2524 located within part of NE-26-70-7-W6M
- 2989-** Road Plan 2870 CL located within Lots 1 and 2, Block 1; SE 17-72-5-W6M

Provincial Grazing Leases Municipal Tax Recovery – The County of Grande Prairie assesses taxes owed on Provincial Grazing Leases in accordance with the Municipal Government Act Section 290(3) that from time to time are abandoned, expired, revoked or cancelled. The County cannot collect on these taxes and has no recourse, other than Civil Enforcement, to do so as the properties are Provincial Grazing Leases on Crown Lands.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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A municipality cannot apply outstanding amounts to the former tenants other tax rolls, a municipality cannot apply a lean to the property, nor can the municipality obtain ownership of the property or forward the taxes owing onto new tenants. Grazing Leases are governed by the Public Lands Act and administered by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Lands Division. Council made a motion to bring the resolution for the Province create or improve existing policy for Provincial Grazing Leases to ensure unpaid municipal taxes are paid in full by the Province to the municipality in which they are owed if left unpaid by the lease to the AAMDC Zone Meeting in Fort Vermillion.

Council Chambers Audio-Video System RFP – Council awarded the Council Chambers Audio-Video System Equipment upgrade RFP to Applied Electronics Ltd. in the amount of \$80,032.00.

Next Council meeting is August 12, 2013. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

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