



# MINUTES

County Council  
Regular Meeting

## County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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### COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING

Thursday, December 05, 2013, 10:00 AM  
Ends Thursday, December 05, 2013, 4:30 PM  
County of Grande Prairie No. 1 - Community Services Building

### Minutes - December 5, 2013 Council Preliminary Budget Meeting

#### ATTENDANCE

Present were:

##### 1. Reeve

- Leanne Beaupre

##### 2. Deputy Reeve

- Ross Sutherland

##### 3. Councillors

- Corey Beck
- Daryl Beeston
- Harold Bulford
- Richard Harpe
- Peter Harris
- Bob Marshall
- Brock Smith

##### 4. CAO

- Bill Rogan

##### 5. Directors

- Noreen Vavrek
- Barry Donovan
- John Simpson
- Arlen Miller
- Herb Pfau

## **6. Finance**

- Michele Hoerner
- Nichole Belcourt
- Colleen Wessels

## **7. Recording Secretary**

- Amanda Oravec

## **8. Communications**

- Lesley Nielsen-Bjerke
- Sandra Shepherd

## **9. Media**

- DHT - Jocelyn Turner
- Big Country - Justin Pahroll
- Free FM - Jeff Hensen (P.M. only)

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am.

### **Regional Enforcement Services**

Arlen Miller, Director of Community Services, noted that he will proceed with Enforcement Services prior to Agriculture as the AG Fieldman was delayed. He commented that he agrees that the emergency 2nd access' noted by Public Works at yesterday's meeting is necessary for the safety of County residents. There has been continued growth in the County and therefore the demands to meet the consistent level of service have grown as well.

He further noted that some departments are more well established such as Enforcement Services and FCSS, but other departments such as Composite Fire, will have more asks from Council. Parks and Recreation will present asks and discussions about the Sportsplex. He noted that the Manlift for PW/IT could perhaps be used at the Sportsplex as well as Megan Schur, Manager of Parks and Recreation, will be asking for one as well. Everything that is being asked for today is to improve the level of service for ratepayers and also maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Stuart Rempel, Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, noted that County Regional Enforcement Services has been operating since 1977, they were previously called Regional Enforcement. Enforcement issues between 3000-3500 tickets per year and the revenue generated from paid tickets is around \$300,000 (even though they are writing about \$650,000 worth of tickets). Enforcement deals with the 4 units: Enhanced Policing, Bylaw and Animal Control Services, Peace Officers, and an Administration unit that processes the tickets and completes the paperwork.

Enforcement Budget: is the same as it has been in the past years. They currently have 11 service agreements and achieve 100% cost recovery from the village and

towns that receive service: they charge \$101.70/hour which is a 2.75% increase over last year (2013 rate was \$99.00/hour).

- fines are at \$300,000 in revenue, there is a cheque received from the Province of Alberta each month;
- 9.87% increase overall, the majority is because of wages;
- new request for a part-time seasonal Bylaw Enforcement Officer to patrol and enforce the parks, trails, and green spaces (Wapiti Corridor, Sportsplex, and due to growth the County will continue to build new trails). The addition of a part-time officer will allow Enforcement to not have to pull officers from their current locations to patrol the parks and trails.
- Reeve Beaupre noted that she receives comments about the Dunes and the lack of visibility and inability for Enforcement to respond to calls especially in regards to firearms. Superintendent Rempel responded that they want to add the additional officer because the public wants to see more of a visible police presence. They ideally want a Peace Officer and a Bylaw Officer. We can see how effective it can be, judge what is happening on the trails this year, and bring back the proposal.
- 2.75% increase on contracts;
- decrease to transfer to capital reserve.
- if they had a seasonal position, the Peace Officer would write the tickets and the Seasonal Officer would work and get the experience. A fulltime position would be \$101,000 with salary and benefits.

#### Enhanced Policing:

CAO, Bill Rogan commented on the Administrative position that we contract regionally with several partners to have a support position in Beaverlodge. There are 5 municipalities that cost share for the position. Superintendent Rempel noted that we are in year two of the three year contract and it is working really well. The cost is \$142,000 per year for enhanced members of the RCMP (three fulltime RCMP officers and the portion of the Admin position noted above). Corporal Myles Peckham, as well as two Constables, completed the DARE, Crime Prevention, and Jet boat programs. The County also supports the Rural Crime Watch program. There is a 4.05% increase noted because of the changes to Cost of Living Allowance (COLA).

Reeve Beaupre inquired whether the Enhanced members should be focusing on crime issues (firearms) instead of focusing on the school programs.

Superintendent Rempel responded that DARE is done compressed in in the winter and the majority of the time the Enhanced Officers are working with Peace Officers on what Council tasks and where the needs are. Their main priorities are road bans, traffic safety, and in the summer they do Special Events Policing.

Councillor Smith commented that we need more prevention work done. Councillor Bulford agreed with Councillor Smith because the schools speak very highly of the programs provided, it is more impactful if the RCMP go to the schools to present the DARE program.

#### SPCA Budget:

- contracts with other municipalities in regards to access to the Regional Animal Pound;

- \$30,000 proposed for 2014 and it is based on cost recovery as we currently have 6 animal control contracts;
- there are 3 Animal Control Officers who are delivering the services and they are hearing from the public that it is successful;
- currently waiting on a response to the proposed offer/agreement with the SPCA to run the Pound, we will hear back before the new year;
- requesting a new Poundkeeper position that will be a 60% (City) / 40% (County) split with the City of Grande Prairie to work in regional pound for both the City and the County and will deal with ticketing and enforcement. This position accounts for the increase for the Animal Control budget.
- Councillor Smith commented that he is in support of the Poundkeeper position because we need someone to look after our interests. Mr. Miller commented that he met with City of Grande Prairie Administration and the Director of Community Safety and they are in favour of the position as well. Superintendent Rempel noted that he will bring back the contract and more information to Council once he gets the final numbers.

Capital: a replacement vehicle for 2014, the funding is in reserve and it has been ordered. Superintendent Rempel commented that he is proud of the way Enforcement's units can be shifted to other departments: used by Fire, Public Works, and Agriculture before going to auction. He noted that they have been using an SUV for Enforcement because it is sealed and warm and it protects the weigh scales from dust and moisture. Each vehicle carries 6 weigh scales, 50% of a Peace Officer's job is road protection.

2015/2016 Forecast: there are replacement vehicles due for 2015 and 2016. Reeve Beaupre inquired about the Tomcar. Superintendent Rempel responded that it is not holding up well for the green spaces and parks and they are investigating what other options can be used (quads, etc.)

## Agriculture Services

Sonja Raven, AG Fieldman, presented the summary of the Agriculture budget.

- an increase in the budget this year due to an increase in the general/contract services line (increased by \$21,000);
- goods, materials, and supplies line is higher because of the purchase of the toughpads for weed inspecting which will reduce the time staff spends on reports in the office.
- internal shop labour charges were higher than expected in 2013;
- salary/benefits increased because of the COLA increase;
- 0.2 Office Admin (front desk) position has increased to 0.5 as agreed with FCSS: if their position request is approved they would increase the amount for the front desk position.

ASB general revenue:

- cost recovery through fine payments;
- the grant for \$150,000 has been approved and they will likely receive \$18,000 more due to the amount of programs provided;

- upcoming projects include: 100 Years of Farming, AG Summer Tour 2015, and the Invasive plant demo site.

#### Problem wildlife:

- main increase is for salary adjustments;
- transfer to capital reserves included;
- within budget for 2013;
- there were a few extra purchases for explosives this year as they were do some contract work for Saddle Hills which accounted for more revenue being generated.

#### Rural Extension:

- changes to the grant structure resulted in the County being guaranteed only \$15,000 of the usual \$36,500;
- received \$43,000 for the next 3 years.
- instead of the 26.36% increase it is actually 6.69% when accounting for the \$21,500 shortfall from the grants noted above;
- out of 68 ASB's in Alberta we are in the top 1/3 for enhanced projects.

#### Weed Control:

- there is a contract with Public Lands to address the beds and shores of lakes;
- the majority of this Weed Control has been done on Saskatoon Lake and now they are able to look at other lakes for next year (Bear Lake and Flying Shot lake); will be at cost recovery.
- Goods, material, supplies line has decreased because the herbicides have been very efficient so the whole amount wasn't used this year;
- transfer to capital reserves for future replacement vehicles and equipment has been included (11.4% of budget change);
- two new seasonal positions which will increase the quality of service and the environmental stewardship portion of the County's Strategic Plan:
- Seasonal Sprayer which would increase the enforcement of weed notices as weed notices are up because people are not being compliant (of the 22 issued we enforced 3 notices) and AG wants to increase weed control options on County land (ditches, MR, and assisting Parks with larger spraying issues). The cost for an additional sprayer is \$29,950 if AG earns \$5,000 in revenue (debt recovery would be about \$19,000 on the Weed Notices);
- Seasonal Weed Inspector: Divisions 1, 2, and 9 have the biggest issues with weeds. They have tried to shift inspectors around to address the issues, but it has not fully solved the issues in Teepee Creek and Sexsmith. The cost for an additional Weed Inspector will be \$39,400;

#### Capital Plan:

- the first 6 units are part of the Capital Equipment Replacement policy and are now 10 years old and met the requirements for replacement. Mr. Miller commented that he discussed the possibility of shifting around replacement vehicles with the different departments and Agriculture has noted that they

can give a replacement to the Regional Landfill but they are 2 wheel drive trucks and not the 4 X 4 they requested. He also commented that many of the replacements can be deferred to 2016 budget.

- Councillor Smith commented that he agrees with Mr. Miller about the re-purposing of the replacement vehicles to different departments, Reeve Beaupre inquired if the AG trucks could be used at the Landfill. Mr. Pfau responded that the lot is not graveled at the landfill, and the Crew Cab 4 X 4 would also be used for bridge inspecting, and resource road projects.
- Mrs. Raven noted that because of the gear sprayers need to take with them it isn't safe to have an unsecured load in the front of the cab with them and there is very limited room with two people and all the gear in the single cab. Furthermore, the two wheel trucks do get stuck in some areas.
- Mr. Miller also noted that if we had one crew cab truck it could be used to attend meetings for ASB and other Conferences and meetings because currently Mrs. Raven is driving her personal vehicle. Mr. Pfau has offered to share Public Works crew cab but AG would like one replacement. Councillor Harpe commented that AG should replace two of the units, not all six. Mr. Miller commented that one unit could be used at the Sportsplex and other departments can use the other units if they need them; there is funding in the reserve, and AG would like to have a few units replaced.
- Councillor Sutherland inquired about the replacement policy for the Enforcement and Fire Service vehicles. Superintendent Rempel returned to the meeting and noted that Enforcement vehicles are replaced every 4 years or 200,000 km. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that they have been shifting replacement vehicles from Fire to the rural fire stations when possible. Councillor Harris commented that the Chevy Tahoe due for replacement from Enforcement with 200,000 km would work well for Weed Inspectors and to transport staff as well. Superintendent Rempel commented that Fire has successfully used the Enforcement Tahoes in rural fire areas.
- It was concluded that AG will potentially take over Enforcement's Tahoe and request 3 replacement vehicles in 2014. The other 3 replacements will be shifted to 2015.

#BD20131205.1001

**MOVED BY B. SMITH** to remove replacement units for T113 and T114 from the 2014 preliminary budget, replace the 3 units with the highest mileage with two new units and the 2010 Chevy Tahoe from Enforcement, and have the next three units deferred to 2015/16 budget deliberations.

Councillor Bulford commented that the new units should be crew cab and 4 x 4 and requested an amendment to Councillor Smith's motion. The amendment was accepted as friendly.

**MOVED BY B. SMITH** to remove replacement units for T113 and T114 from the 2014 preliminary budget, replace the 3 units with the highest mileage with two new units (with crew cab and 4 x 4) and the 2010 Chevy Tahoe from Enforcement, and have the next three units deferred to 2015/16 budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

Mrs. Raven commented that the three remaining replacement units will be deferred to 2016 budget. She commented on the the replacement water truck for 2016 and that it will increase the efficiency as it holds a larger volume.

Mrs. Raven concluded at 11:08 a.m.

#BD20131205.1002 **MOVED BY P. HARRIS** that the meeting be recessed at 11:08 a.m.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was reconvened at 11:22 a.m.

### Regional Fire Services

Everett Cooke, Fire Chief, presented the Regional Fire Services budget. He noted that the County is associated with all of the volunteer fire departments in Beaverlodge, Sexsmith, Wembley, Hythe, Teepee Creek, and Bezanson.

Chief Cooke noted that there are 20.5 fulltime Fire Services staff funded by the County as well as a fulltime Administrative position. There is one fulltime Fire Chief and a Deputy Fire Chief was hired for rural operations for the 3 County owned stations (Teepee Creek, La Glace, and Bezanson). The level of service for the Regional Fire Services has continued to increase since their expansion in 2011. They have been overseeing training that has been added for the entire fire service. They fund 0.5 of the front counter position at the CSB, and Fire Marshal, Ken Atamanchuk, services the whole County. There are currently 16 fulltime Firefighters and 90-100 Paid On-Call (POC) Firefighters across the region.

#### Administration and Fire Prevention budget:

- reduction in the Transfer to Capital Reserve (reduced by 41%) for vehicle and equipment replacement, it has been reallocated to the GP Rural and Volunteer Dept. budget to better reflect costs per area;
- reduction in training, travel expenses, parts and supplies (reallocated to GP Rural budget);
- increases in wages to reflect the COLA;
- increase in contract services line to reflect the cost of Dispatch Services;
- currently in year two of a four year Dangerous Goods Program which, once completed, will increase the level of service to a Technician Level so Fire staff will be able to physically turn off the source of a dangerous goods incident. The cost will be \$75,000 for the training for staff in the Clairmont/Dunes, Bezanson, Teepee Creek, and La Glace stations;
- Frost Free Stand Pipe project: annual request for \$10,000 to fabricate and install one per year in the County with assistance of a homeowner to provide an accessible water source in the rural areas. Reeve Beaupre inquired if consultation has been done with Planning and PW on possible locations for the pipes. Chief Cooke responded that Fire is working with

Shane Kessler, Construction Manager, on this project and if PW needs water it can be accessed there. The pipes will be lockable so PW, AG, and Fire could use them if needed.

Regional Training Grant for \$13,960 which is an annual grant that the County gets for entire region including the M.D of Greenview, Birch Hills and Saddle Hills. The County is the grant holder and complete the application on behalf of the other municipalities for training. They have hosted a pumping course for Firefighters in Bezanson which is an ongoing project done annually. Chief Cooke explained the process for submitting the application for the grant. They promote working together so members of the south Peace come together to partner on the grant. Courses are also hosted in Saddle Hills and Fox Creek.

Fire Fighter Escape Packs: will be taken from the GP Rural Fire Area budget. Chief Cooke noted that it is hard to budget for replacement tanks so they have built an amortization reserve to cover the costs and this eliminates additional capital. The packs allow the Firefighters to get out of a dangerous situation with a rope and carabineer.

#### GP Rural Fire Budget:

- the Transfer to Capital Reserves for future replacement vehicles and equipment has been moved to this line from General Fire (reallocation accounts for 7.1% of the budget change;
- revenue generated by fines from fire bans, permits, and various licenses;
- sales of goods and services: highway calls from Alberta Transportation on primary and secondary highways have exceeded the budgeted amount for 2013. Councillor Harris inquired if the \$230,000 projected is accurate. Chief Cooke responded that they are looking to cost recover from an incident in the Dunes as there was an investigation done and we found that the cause could be cost recovered, SRD will invoice us and the cost will be over \$150,000.
- Expenses: 15% increase to goods, materials and supplies but they are reallocating the funding from other budget areas;
- salaries and benefits increased and the COLA has been built into the cost. There is also a market value increase for POC Firefighters.
- \$5835 for SCBA cylinders: used at all the stations and at the training grounds.
- Reeve Beaupre inquired about cost recovery for external training to other fire halls/services. Chief Cooke responded that we are recovering costs from both Fort St. John and Dawson Creek Firefighters who use the training facility.
- no increase to training line as the budget line accurately reflects needs of the County Fire Service.

Fulltime Deputy Fire Chief position: for Urban Operations as the current Deputy Fire Chief is very busy and they are finding with the increased level of service they need an additional chief for the Urban areas. Fire has been working with GPRC on various programs and they see the need in having someone oversee the

Clairmont/Dunes Station's. Currently Deputy Fire Chief, Dan Verdun, has been sharing the duties with the other Fire Captains. Reeve Beaupre commented that it would be too onerous on the Captains to continue sharing the duties. Chief Cooke commented that because they are sharing the duties there are some projects that are being pushed back (for example, the Elsworth feasibility study). Mr. Miller commented that this position will assist in promoting the overall health and welfare of County Fire employees as currently Chief Cooke is putting in lots of overtime on evenings and weekends.

#### Volunteer Departments:

- costs for training are being removed from the Volunteer departments budget because we are doing the training locally.
- also a reduction in registrations;
- increase in Transfer to Capital Reserve for future replacement of vehicles and equipment has been moved from General Fire to this line.
- internal labour, transfers, and maintenance: no hourly rate adjustments for rural responders and they assessed the trends and reduced the amount budgeted.
- \$7000 request for a Chlorination System upgrade for Bezanson station. There was considerable discussion in regards to the current system, where it is currently servicing, and whether the amount should be included in the Public Works budget instead. It was noted that the Fire Hall, legion, community hall, and curling rink are all services from the system at Bezanson Station. Mr. Pfau noted that the system there still needs certification done.

#### Capital Plan:

- Dangerous Goods trailer (\$14,000) which will be used to store and house Dangerous Goods equipment that can be pulled by Fire to respond to dangerous goods calls. It will be similar the one that we are currently contracting from another company.
- Structure Protection Unit (SPU) 2: they want to have the second unit stored in the West County. The current SPU is stored at the CSB because there is fulltime staff located here. Ideally, they want to have it located in Hythe so it can be accessed by Beaverlodge, Hythe, and La Glace.
- Thermal imaging camera: reads heat signatures and registers changes in temperature. Teepee Creek is the only station that does not have one in use already.
- SCBA Personal Fit Testing equipment: used annually to ensure an accurate fit for SCBA. They are currently paying over \$10,000 to have the company come in and do the testing for the Firefighters. The equipment would be stationed at the CSB or Dunes Station and would have to bring it around to all the stations. This cost would be absorbed into the operations budget.
- Replacement units: two brush units due for replacement in 2015 (first half of the money for each unit being put into reserves). Reeve Beaupre inquired if the units could be re-purposed or extended any further by Fire. Chief Cooke responded that the one unit carries ice rescue in the winter and has 16,000 km and the vehicle at the Dunes Station is past the 20,000 km. They may be able to use the unit for a couple more years but High Level has shown

interest in the one unit once we are due to replace it. We would get \$50,000 back if we release the one unit from Clairmont as it has low km. Mr. Miller commented that we keeping replacement units operational for as long as possible.

#### 2015 Forecast:

- new Conveyance Vehicle: it was noted that they can re-purpose a vehicle from Enforcement because it is a non-priority vehicle;
- paving at the Dunes Training Centre (\$20,000): it is currently just a concrete pad specifically for the training area, they are washing out the gravel right now.
- SCBA Function Testing Equipment: because the testing will be done in house it will save long term costs overall;
- replacement of breathing air compressor;
- new 3/4 Ton 4 X 4 for Bezanson Station to tow their brush unit as well as respond to medical co-response calls. Chief Cooke noted that it will be a one time cost for the 3 pick-ups. It was noted that Fire does not double shift the equipment like Enforcement does and there is one unit that only has 50,000 km and still one year left before replacement. Councillor Marshall commented that the life of those vehicles should be extended as much as possible. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the Vehicle Replacement policy can be reviewed next year.
- Councillor Bulford inquired why the breathing air compressor at the Dunes Station needs replacing. Chief Cooke responded that maintenance costs are high and it is being used mostly by the training facility, the new one will be larger.

#### 2016 Forecast:

- La Glace Fire Hall addition (\$500,000);
- breathing air compressor for Bezanson Station.

#### Disaster Services

Decrease to contracted services due to the adjustment for our contribution towards GPREP for wages and costs.

#BD20131205.1003 **MOVED BY D. BEESTON** that the meeting be recessed at 12:22 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was reconvened at 1:48 p.m.

#### Park Services

Mr. Miller and Ms. Schur presented the Parks and Recreation and Culture portions of the budget.

#### Parks operations:

- most campground have very minor increases;
- additional in the Pipestone budget for dangerous tree removal;
- additional funds used for Bear Hill Park to cleanup the remaining infrastructure;
- new budget for the Seasonal Caretaker for the Old Bezanson Townsite: they have an operational agreement for this site as it is County owned and a Historical Resource. The Townsite was encountering vandalism issues so Ms. Schur is recommending turning it into a day use area instead of an overnight camp ground. If the site was turned into day use only it would remove the Seasonal Caretaker position and cut the budget in half for the operations (drop in expenses by \$20,000 but also a drop in revenue of \$6000).
- The update was put into the budget worksheet. Ms. Schur noted that the cost to convert to day use only would be \$8000 for garbage removal, grass cutting, and general supplies. Reeve Beaupre inquired if Bezanson would be open to permitted overnight usage, or only day use. Ms. Schur responded that it would be mostly day use.
- Rate increase for campgrounds: biggest jump is Pipestone Creek group area from \$75 to \$110 in 2014 and in 2015 up to \$140/night. Parks has proposed the increase because the current \$75 is very affordable. After the upgrades are completed we will have plug-in posts so \$110 is reasonable. There was considerable discussion in regards to the current rates, the ranking system, and the policy for how long people are allowed to stay at the sites.

Parks Administration budget: for operation of the administration of the Parks and Recreation department. Increases due to amalgamating the training, membership, and computer budgets for all Parks & Recreation staff. Decrease from the Transfer to Capital Reserve for vehicles and equipment replacement has been reallocated to the Parks operation and Parks Maintenance areas.

#### Parks Maintenance:

- significant increase as they are asking to have two additional Seasonal Groundskeepers for rural subdivision mowing: the original plan was to have the rural subdivisions done at least once a year but with the additional groundskeepers they could be done 2-3 times.
- new budget line associated with taking over administration of Cemeteries and the Cemetery Improvement Grant.
- staffing cost for two new Seasonal Groundskeepers would be \$47,270 to come from General Taxation;
- County Ambassador position: would run the County BBQ. Ms. Schur would remove this as the workload could be divided between the two seasonal staff she is asking for.

#### Capital Plan 2014:

- lights, power, and sewer at Pipestone Campground;
- Bear Lake Playground Border repair: \$15,000 to replace the heaving borders

and replace the fall surface;

- lawnmower for the Old Bezanson Townsite in order to upkeep the site as a day use area: the County would supply the lawnmower and they have been looking for someone local to watch the site and cut the grass. A John Deere Zero Turn mower could be used as it is a 20 site campground and ball diamond area. Mr. Pfau noted there is around 3-4 acres not including the road into the Townsite and the area around the gates. It was noted that the mower could be used elsewhere as well and would not need to be in Bezanson permanently.
  - Storage Building at CSB: Ms. Schur came back with a smaller storage request from last year. She noted that they have not asked AG if they require more storage space. Proposing a 30 foot storage building.
  - new trailer for Demmit: there is a used lawnmower from the County and the caretaker will need a small trailer to tow it.
  - new 3/4 ton truck to replace T131 from groundskeeping crew: the suspension cannot handle the work that is required. Parks could maybe re-purpose another departments replacement vehicle for a couple years but they will require a replacement eventually. Ms. Schur has asked for one of Public Work's vehicles and Ken Osborne, Shop Manager, has commented that it is in passable condition and it would meet Parks needs.
  - new tractor and new mower deck for the rural subdivision mowing program: mid-sized tractor, a Kubota with 60 horsepower would be ideal.
  - Replacement for unit T86: this vehicle was shared between Parks and PW (a sander in the winter) and it has \$118,412 km on it.
- 
- Councillor Beeston commented that the Pipestone Creek and Bezanson Campground rates should be \$150. Ms. Schur responded that they wanted to raise the rates incrementally. Once the current upgrades are done they are looking to expand the camping area, by having another group area and a loop to the east.
  - Councillor Sutherland inquired if the Pipestone Creek playground could be kept open longer than the camping season. Councillor Marshall inquired if there is a year round caretaker at Pipestone. Ms. Schur responded that they have a contracted caretaker for the camping season only and that it would be difficult to remove enough snow to have year round access to the playground. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we closed earlier this year because we started the construction and in 2014 we will be open until October 15th.

#### 2015/2016 Forecast:

- new septic system for Hommy Park (\$10,000);
- Red Willow campground renovations: they have received funding from the Province as Alberta Transportation is relocating the Red Willow Bridge and it will infringe on the campground. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the bridge tender is out and the work is proposed for the spring.
- replacement mowers in 2015 and 2016.

## Cemeteries

The Cemeteries program was shifted from Legislative Services to Parks & Recreation. The revenue generated is from plot sales.

Cemetery Improvement Grant: for headstones, signage, and other maintenance. Ms. Schur noted that the number of application are down this year from previous years.

## Recreation-Culture-Community

Nustadia Budget for the County Sportsplex.

- revenue for advertising and leases;
- projecting to be slightly over budget in 2013 due to the net cost of the Players Bench Lounge which began operations in September and the Fieldhouse not being used to full capacity.

Overall, there is \$558,159 in expenses for the Sportsplex for 2013. There was considerable discussion in regards to the committed use from Grande Prairie Soccer, who is engaging groups to increase the amount of usage, and what can be done in the future to reduce the shortfall.

- Councillor Smith inquired if the Grande Prairie Soccer Association had fulfilled their commitment for full use, could the deficit be offset. Ms. Schur noted that they are at 250 hours currently booked and had indicated up to 3000 hours in prospectus. Ramona Rollins, Sportsplex General Manager, is meeting with GPSA next Tuesday during their Operational overview. Ms. Schur will be meeting with Mrs. Rollins to see how they can increase their usage and revenue.
- Reeve Beaupre commented that Nustadia should be focusing on generating revenue instead of Ms. Schur, they need to be taking more initiative to increase the amount of usage. Mr. Miller commented that they thought we (the County) could use our local contacts to get more people engaged. The Edge School is currently using the Fieldhouse twice a day and they have been marketing to other groups but we have not completely filled the gaps that soccer had committed too.
- the Fieldhouse is expensive to rent out (\$220/hour) and they are not achieving the level of use we hoped in the beginning. Councillor Harpe commented that soccer had wanted to double the fieldhouse size and it will cost too much for utilities, as they are currently very high for the building. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we will be going with an AAMD&C provider soon which will reduce the utility costs. Mr. Miller commented that we should see a 2/3 reduction soon and Veronica Gaudet, Accounts Payable Clerk, commented that once the utilities are fixed with an RFP it will lock in at lower rates.
- Mr. Simpson commented that the budget from Nustadia included \$50,000/year for naming rights because Council made a motion to keep the naming rights as the County Sportsplex. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that currently no one is actively searching for naming rights because of that Council motion.

**MOVED BY R. HARPE** that County staff actively pursue for a naming rights sponsor for the Sportsplex.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Beaupre commented that there have been offers before but through due diligence we could not accept them.

County Sportsplex/Field Maintenance budget:

- maintenance for 8 fields (2 rugby, 2 full soccer, and mini soccer pitches): for the past few years we have been growing the fields and should be ready for use next spring. The agreement was that the County would take care of the field maintenance because we have the groundskeeping equipment and staff, and Nustadia would do bookings and manage the building. Ms. Schur does not intend on spending \$1.5 million on the fields alone;
- interest for debt payments is the largest portion of the budget;
- Ms. Schur is requesting two groundskeeping and maintenance staff for the fields and outdoor facilities. They would need another smaller mower for the smaller areas around the building and they can re-purpose a small vehicle from the fleet or another department.
- purchase an industrial line painter to do the sports fields;
- the cost would be \$81,000 including the two seasonal positions, supplies and equipment. Councillor Beeston inquired if the groups using the field could do the maintenance themselves like is done for other County recreation areas. Ms. Schur commented that they advise against that because of the level of service and upkeep that is necessary for those fields. They will be charging \$20-30/hour for the rental and the revenue will pay for the budget and create a \$11,700 revenue;
- Councillor Harpe inquired if the County is paying for the maintenance and the revenue is going to Nustadia. Ms. Schur responded that the contract with Nustadia states that for any revenue generated, the County receives half. Reeve Beaupre commented that the County should pay the salaries and then get all the revenue. Ms. Schur commented that Nustadia does the bookings because they are already onsite and we should be getting at least \$70,000 of the revenue. Councillor Beck suggested that we contract Nustadia to do the bookings. Ms. Schur noted that the terms can be negotiated with Nustadia on Tuesday.

CSB Facility Management budget:

- the budget line includes the Director of Community Services position;
- increase in utilities: there have been some reports done to see where more efficiency can be found. Mr. Miller commented that based on calculations we are operating with less than we should be. It was noted that in 2017 the mother boards will be obsolete and they will require new ones. They have

been reducing the lights at night and trying other cost savings ideas. Ms. Gaudet commented that all utility costs will reduce with the new provider, and we will know actual costs by early 2014.

Dinosaur Museum budget: Mrs. Vavrek noted that the budget is for insurance for the building once construction is complete (estimated for 2 months in 2014). The annual transfer to reserve starting in 2015 is proposed for a major building maintenance reserve fund. Reeve Beaupre commented that there has been a large increase in all our insurance costs. CAO, Bill Rogan noted that it is a 6% increase.

Physician Recruitment and Retention budget: Councillor Smith commented that they only spent \$200 for the tour that was done. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that Dr. Dressler paid back \$6000 of the \$10,000 grant because he only stayed in Hythe for one year.

Recreation Board grants: the budget includes the base amount and 3% per capita. Every curling rink gets \$10,000, each hall gets \$4000; \$3600 for ice arenas, and \$2200 for pools. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the amount is for the Hythe pool and that it is a separate agreement with Beaverlodge where they pay for half of the operating costs to a maximum limit. This is their first full year of operations and they will be supplying a statement soon.

Recreation Community and Culture Grant budget:

- proposing moving the committed 2015 Dinosaur Museum Capital grant of \$600,000 brought forward to 2014 to ensure funds are available for the building project. Councillor Smith commented that the \$600,000 is over and above the \$1.1 million to finish the building. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the funding has already been committed and budgeted for. If we get the building in 2014, we need to take the \$600,000 forward because it was promised for 2015. Councillor Smith inquired about the total funding contributed to complete the building this year. Mrs. Vavrek responded that it is just over \$2 million contributed this year.
- Capital Assistance Grants: Ms. Schur noted that the follow-up from groups who received the grants was good this year. The total amounts for the grants given this year total \$110,000. Councillor Smith commented on the Hythe Playschool and that the \$5000 grant has not been used yet because they are working on more recommendations.
- Councillor Smith commented that not all groups who apply for the grants are supplying two bids with their application and that we need to be more strict with enforcing that stipulation. There was discussion in regards to which groups were compliant with the grant applications.
- Some grants were deferred to budget discussions after the packages were made: Major capital grant for Teepee Creek (\$450,000), LaGlace Arena project (\$4.5 million), and \$22,000 for the Webster Power Pole.

CARRIED

CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we have already committed \$450,000 over two years for the Teepee Creek AG Events Centre and Council had requested that the additional \$450,000 be added to discussions.

Councillor Beck commented that he has been in discussions with the Teepee Creek AG Society and they will ask for a contribution spread across more than 2 years. The County could maybe provide bridge financing as well. Reeve Beaupre clarified that \$225,000 was contributed this year and \$225,000 will be given for 2014, they can top up this year or look at \$450,000 over 2015-2016. Councillor Beck responded that this would allow them to get bridge financing to move forward as long as they know what the additional funding will be coming sometime in the future. The \$450,000 can be spread across 2015-2017.

#BD20131205.1006 **MOVED BY C. BECK** that the additional sponsorship for the Teepee Creek AG Events Centre in the amount of \$450,000 be spread over 3 years 2015-2017, at an amount of \$150,000 a year.

Councillor Beck commented that the AG Society will get financing and continue to fundraise.

Councillor Smith inquired about the amount of users per year and whether it will be sustainable in the long term. Councillor Beck responded that the community rallies around it, and there are ongoing programs such as Gymkhana and the annual Stampede. The facility will see close to 60-70 horses per week for Gymkhana and other riding programs. Mac Erno was in attendance and commented that there is a lot of interest in the whole Teepee Creek community, they would be able to book the facility right now if they could because there is such a large group of users.

CARRIED

Councillor Harpe commented on the LaGlace Arena project and that he would like to request \$4 million over 6 years to get the project started. Reeve Beaupre commented that the County has already committed \$1 million over 3 years to the project.

#BD20131205.1007 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to support the LaGlace Agricultural Society in the amount of \$4 million over 6 years for the arena project to come from the Facility Capital Reserve.

Mrs. Vavrek commented that the first installment would come from the Facility

Capital Reserve and they will have to add an additional \$333,000 for 2014.

**DEFEATED**

There was discussion in regards to the amount Council would be willing to contribute to the La Glace Arena project. Councillor Smith commented that he would be in support of a facility that wasn't so large but LaGlace is not willing to reduce the size of the facility. Reeve Beaupre commented that the \$1 million sponsorship was supposed to allow the AG Society to get started on fundraising. Councillor Harpe commented that the \$4 million contribution would have forced them to cut back the project.

Recreation and Culture General budget: there was an increase due to taking over the Council Open Houses. The County Ambassador position was removed from the budget earlier. Reeve Beaupre inquired why the maintenance on towers was included in the Recreation/Culture budget and not Systems. Mrs. Vavrek responded that it was shown here because it is a community support. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we wanted the amount to be reflected in this line instead of Administration for reporting purposes.

Glen Leslie Church Ground Improvement Project: \$14,000 to finish up groundwork. The work is not done by the Preservation Society. Ms. Schur noted that the work includes draining water away, a concrete step, and park signs.

Parks and Recreation General budget: We do not receive a contribution from the City of Grande Prairie for the master plan. The Regional Collaboration Grant should still be available. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we did visit all of the communities a few years ago to and see what their recreation needs were and what they needed to upgraded. This can be revisited in the spring at final budget deliberations.

Capital Plan 2014:

- Sportsplex Outdoor Maintenance Storage & Weather Station with washrooms: the washrooms would be located where the irrigation box is now at the southeast corner of the kids pitches;
- Sportsplex pond development: they plan to build a trail around the pond and construct a playground. CAO, Bill Rogan noted that there was a plan for the pond and we moved boundaries around so the trail can be put in and the cost will come from reserves. Council can re-visit this in Spring budget;
- Water Softener for the Sportsplex: they are having issues with hard water damaging equipment and with ice development. The best solution to the problem is purchasing a water softener.
- Electric Scissor lift for the Sportsplex: the equipment that is currently available will not work for the Sportsplex as they need one for 50-60 feet. Reeve Beaupre commented on the discussion in regards to re-purposing the current man lift and inquired if there is enough work to have two lifts, or whether one can it be shared. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the current

one can be used in the Shop but will not work for the PW/IT building or the Sportsplex. We need a 15 foot one for the Admin Building and PW/IT Building. Mr. Deidrich commented that the new scissor lift will be approximately \$61,000. Councillor Harpe commented that the lift can be rented until we know what we need. Ms. Schur commented that this request can be deferred.

#BD20131205.1008 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to remove the Electric Man Lift request from the 2014 Preliminary budget and it be deferred to April 2014 Final budget.

**CARRIED**

Capital Plan 2014:

- Zero turn mower for the Sportsplex: Parks or Agriculture can bring over one of their mowers to address the landscaping and maintenance of the fields.

2015 Forecast:

- new truck for facility maintenance.
- The turf is on a 10 year plan and next year they will have to address the landscaping and future pond development;
- Sportsplex Playground equipment: there is a designated area by the kids soccer pitches for the equipment.

2016 Forecast: the funding is in the equipment reserve for a Ride On Scrubber as it is on the County equipment replacement schedule. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we would be putting \$100,000/year in a Capital reserve for the Sportsplex.

Ms. Schur concluded at 3:40 p.m.

FCSS Services

#BD20131205.1009 **MOVED BY B. MARSHALL** that the meeting be recessed at 3:40 p.m. for a short break.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was reconvened at 3:54 p.m.

Reeve Beaupre asked Council when the meeting should adjourn. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that Council has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning but we can reconvene in the afternoon. It was decided that Council will proceed until 5:00 p.m. and then reassess.

Mr. Miller commented that Kathleen Turner, Director of FCSS, received a Lifetime

Achievement Awards at the FCSSAA Conference. Mrs. Turner noted that in the Admin-General Revenues budget there was a 3% increase projected for 2015.

#### Administrative Budget:

- Administrative Assistant portion of the Front Desk position at the CSB is included in the FCSS Admin budget;
- \$30,000 request for the Needs Assessment was included in the 2013 budget and the remaining \$14,000 is in 2014 funded from the CAP Levy reserve.
- increase in the Seniors Transportation grants: Council approved the amount (\$25,400);
- with savings in other areas FCSS are around \$39,000 over budget;
- in 2014 they are requesting the addition of a Program Assistant position as they currently only have a 0.3 Administrative staff member (Debbie Lloyd) and FCSS has been asking for more than that portion of work be done. The position would be filled by someone who can take on projects for FCSS because the Province expects a certain amount of service: they have to create tools to measure their outcomes and the reports to the Province are very onerous. Playschool licenses need new program plans and inspections and they need someone who can coordinate that as well as the increasing number of Community events. FCSS would like to remove their current 0.3 Admin staff (AG has already committed to taking over the 0.3) and add a fulltime assistant position so the impact would be 0.7 on the budget. Currently 21 people report to Mrs. Turner and it is very hard for her to keep up;
- Councillor Smith commented that he is in support of this position because FCSS is growing and it helps lots of County ratepayers. Reeve Beaupre commented that the population increased by 13% from 2012 so Mrs. Turner would require the one fulltime employee just to account for that 13% increase as well as the aging population. The total cost for the position would be \$73,045.

Grants and transfers: a breakdown of the agencies who receive funding was discussed and Mrs. Turner noted the increases for 2014.

Home Support budget: minor adjustments due to training, salary, and expense lines. This is a busy program that services 65 clients.

Playschools budget: there are 6 playschools in the County and they operate two half days per week but Clairmont runs every day. Reeve Beaupre inquired if they are encountering any issues with certification. Mrs. Turner responded that they are not having issues, and there is only one instructor that still has to get their certification, all others have done the courses. There were minor adjustments noted for salaries.

School Liaison: anticipating being slightly under budget for 2013; increase projected for 2014 due to wages. They have met with Peace Wapiti School Board and have requested more funding, a proposal was made to the Board in fall that requested \$75,000 in 2014 and \$100,000 in 2015 and they have not responded.

CAO, Bill Rogan commented that there is a meeting scheduled with Peace Wapiti in new year. Mrs. Turner noted that she has also approached Valhalla School about support as well and they have not responded.

Town of Beaverlodge Admin Budget: cost recovery and 12% administration fee. Beaverlodge is happy with the current operations and they have a grant from CSFA to cover the costs until the end of 2015.

Wembley Home Support Budget: cost recovery plus 12%; Hythe was the same as well. They had looked into doing the Admin for Hythe as is done in Beaverlodge, but it was not something that Hythe could fund.

Bezanson Tots Program: Mrs. Turner noted that the response to the program was tremendous and that the community loves it.

Wellington Resource Centre: increases in 2014 are for wages for staff. They added a 0.5 administration position last year and it is making great changes for the Resource Centre.

Capital 2014 Request:

- Wellington Resource Centre Play Area: the play area has to be closed in as per regulations and the sod needs to be replaced. They are proposing artificial turf resurfacing with a rough quote of \$060,000. Reeve Beaupre inquired if they could have a rubberized surface instead of the turf. Mrs. Turner responded that the \$60,000 will investigate other options as well they would like to have a soft pad then artificial turf over top.

## Library Services

Mrs. Turner noted that the grant is still the same \$5.45/person based on the 2010 County population. The increase in the 2014 budget is due to the 3% increase that was added. Peace Library System membership fees will have to be raised in 2014 to \$5.50/person and the government needs to start assessing at the current populations not 2010.

Councillor Sutherland inquired if we are still providing funding to City of Grande Prairie Library. It was noted that the County does. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we matched their per capita for a 5 year agreement. The amount that we ended at we added 3% to. All of the libraries are happy when they get any funding. Councillor Harpe inquired about increases. Councillor Smith noted a 2% increase as they have a very tight budget. It was noted that the City of Grande Prairie Library is a regional service.

In regards to book allotment, we go through the Peace Library System. Councillor Smith commented that the cost is \$2.75/person and they can do bulk orders.

## Legislative (County Council)

Sheryle Runhart, Manager of Legislative Services, presented the Legislative Services budget.

Council budget: 2013 year was status quo with small decrease in 2013 Council not attending as many Conferences. There was not an increase to this line. There was an increase because of Open Houses in anticipation of a higher attendance and because of new Councillor training. There was also a buffer in the event there were smaller events Council wanted to attend. There was an increase in the budget line for training (new Councillor Orientation and an increase for EOEP and Municipal Affairs courses).

Goods, materials, and supplies line is down to \$5,385 because new Councillors were to receive a cell phone, computer, and other supplies as per the replacement policy.

Council Contingency fund remains at \$10,000. Parks & Recreation had borrowed funds for the Sportsplex Opening which has been paid back. Reeve Beaupre inquired about when the amount changed from \$20,000. CAO, Bill Rogan and Mrs. Wessels noted that it was changed in 2013 to \$10,000.

## Administrative

### Administrative Budget:

For Oil and Gas Rent and Lease revenue there is a one time payment that increased the line on the leases for 2013.

Legislative Services is requesting a fulltime Administrative Assistant position. There was also an increase to training and development to include professional training, as well as some staff starting NACLAA. The Advertising line has increased because of the need to advertise moving of Council Chambers and the opening of new Administration Building once renovations are completed.

Consultants were hired for the Strategic Planning exercise in 2014. The cost of items such as paper, envelopes, postage, and phones are being equally distributed throughout the County Departments and will no longer come from the Administration budget (reallocated the \$150,000 and saw a decrease of 13.4% to the budget). In 2014 there is an increase in the Goods, Materials, and Supplies line for Council Chambers hard drives (\$27,000).

### Fulltime Administrative Assistant position:

- the County is growing and therefore there needs to be an increase to the level of service and this requires more employees;
- Mrs. Runhart does a lot of research (policies, bylaws, etc.) and she is also part of an association that discusses necessary changes to legislation;
- the Administration department has seen significant increases in their workload and noted what the department is responsible for:
- Brandi Tansem does FOIP, Records Management, TRIM, FOIP requests,

environmental inquiries (43 this year);

- Administration is also responsible for Call2Order and providing support all departments in the County. Reeve Beaupre commented that Call2Order was intended to free up more of Administrations time. Mrs. Runhart responded that Call2Order does assist in the process but Legislative Services is responsible for creating all meetings and training all of the other departments on setting up their own inter-departmental meetings as well;
- we are currently working on putting County policies and bylaws on the website (Buddie and external);
- complete and renew road and grazing leases; elections; research; update bylaws, policies, procedures, council motions; high speed internet towers; work on relationships with Municipal Affairs, Federation of Canadian Municipalities as well as teaming up for courses.

The request for a 0.6 Administrative Assistant position was declined in the 2013 budget. Since then Amanda Oravec, Recording Secretary, has shifted into the vacant Administrative Assistant position from Shannon Baird, who was promoted to the Executive Assistant to Council and the CAO. Mrs. Runhart noted that Mrs. Baird's EA position is far beyond the full time position and there is a need to have assistance in the Records Management as well as FOIP. The Electronic Document Management (EDM) system needs to be fully implemented as soon as possible for all departments in the County as currently only Finance and Human Resources are completely converted. The position will also provide backup for holidays and staff training. The fulltime will cover 3 positions: help the EA, help Records, and help Administrative Assistants. The total cost for the position will be around \$35,000. Legislative Services already have phones, computers, and just require software licenses.

Election budget: was increased to \$58,000 for 2013 as there was increased advertising that needed to be done this year. The government said we had to advertise the new changes for voter ID. There is a memo coming to Council regarding special voting as well as other discussions for the future elections.

Records Management: pulling remaining funding from the EDM reserve to hire a temporary employee to assist with a Computer Based Training Module design and scanning old blueprints into TRIM. Mrs. Runhart commented that they have currently hired someone for two months to complete the scanning with the funding left in the budget. Ms. Tansem will use some of her remaining budget towards the position because the EDM is a project.

Capital Plan:

- 2014: upgrades to the existing meeting rooms in the Administration Building.
- 2016: Records Management licensing and software is every 3 years.

## Communications

Lesley Neilsen-Bjerke noted that the re-allocation of funds by department for rent in the Administration Building is the only change.

Project line: the County conducted a residential satisfaction survey in 2011 to obtain County residents' views of County priorities, services, taxes, and communications. The review is recommended to be done every three years so the request is for \$5000 as 30,000 is already in reserves.

A creation of RFQ for a visual identity guide was approved by Council in October 2013 when a new logo chosen. Council will now need to decide when to roll out the new logo.

Reeve Beaupre inquired whether there was an increase of the amounts for branded clothing and promotional for door prizes. Mrs. Neilsen-Bjerke responded that there will not be an increase and they do generate some revenue.

## Health & Safety

CAO, Bill Rogan noted that Tracy Dawe, Safety Coordinator, and Charlotte Bierman, Human Resources Coordinator, are currently away at a conference and there are very little changes. The Health and Wellness benefit saw an increase in usage with 93% of staff utilizing the benefit.

## Human Resources

Human Resources also saw very little change in their budget. Dagny Guy is still part time and Ms. Bierman is fulltime.

Council decided to proceed to the budget worksheet and begin discussions.

#BD20131205.1010 **MOVED BY D. BEESTON** that the 2014 Preliminary Budget Meeting continue past 5:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

## **DISCUSSION**

Worksheet discussion:

- request for 40% share of Poundkeeper (\$32,500). CAO, Bill Rogan commented that the SPCA has 45 days to respond and the contract will expire in the early new year so we can wait to address it.

#BD20131205.1011 **MOVED BY B. SMITH** that the 40% share of a Poundkeeper position be added to the budget worksheet for 2014 deliberations.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Harpe inquired if there is a \$4.0 million shortfall with 3% market value increase included. Mrs. Vavrek responded that the 3% increase was included. It was noted in the budget package that to reduce the budget shortfall Council can defer the increase for the Sportsplex portion of the facility rehab transfer (100,000 each year already) until the policy comes back for discussion.

#BD20131205.1012 **MOVED BY B. SMITH** to defer the increase in the Facility Rehab Transfer to the Sportsplex in the amount of \$455,325.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Smith commented on the replacement vehicles for Agriculture which are coming from the Equipment replacement reserve. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we fully funded for replacing the vehicles this year from reserve and we won't put money in next year for the reserves. We could take \$10,000 and move it to the General reserve. Ms. Schur can use one of the units and it can be deferred. Mr. Miller commented that they can use PW's 3/4 ton. CAO, Bill Rogan commented that everything has just been pushed back a couple years with replacement vehicles.

#BD20131205.1013 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to remove the \$697,000 for the paving project for Evergreen Park.

Mr. Pfau noted that PW would need some funding for engineering if they were going to try and complete the project internally with the Spot Crew. It would remain a gravel road.

CAO, Bill Rogan commented on the amount of paving that could be deferred; the County would still do realignment with the County Spot Crew and there would be minimal costs as it would come from the Spot Construction budget, we can consider paving next year. Councillor Mashall commented that the 500 traffic count is likely only met when the events are at their peak. They cannot accommodate the parking for large events which increases liability and safety issues.

Reeve Beaupe commented that there would be little investment from the Park and the costs would have to come from spot construction. The Heritage Chuckwagon Association has committed to fencing. She noted that she will take from her spot construction and gravel to contribute to Evergreen. Councillor Harpe commented that we can pave it next year, we are not saying there isn't a need just the paving can be done later.

Mrs. Vavrek noted a \$447,000 net for Evergreen Park because were pulling some from Infrastructure reserve.

**CARRIED**

#BD20131205.1014 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to remove the \$100,000 for the water study for Evergreen Park and it be deferred to a future budget.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Smith commented that Teepee Creek was addressed earlier and there will be no change to the budget for 2014.

Councillor Harpe commented on the Dinosaur Museum budget and the \$1.3 million to finish the building. He commented that Council should move the contingency down to \$250,000 instead of \$593,000 and they can come back to the Infrastructure reserve if needed, CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we can take \$400,000 out of the \$1.3 million.

#BD20131205.1015 **MOVED BY R. HAPRE** to reduce the Contingency fund for the Dinosaur Museum from \$593,000 down to \$225,000. Making the total amount to finish the building at \$932,000.

CAO, Bill Rogan commented that they can leave \$1.3 million in the budget and reduce the current contingency. Michele Hoerner, Accountant, commented that the contingency is in the \$1.3 million and it will be less to finish the building.

Councillor Sutherland commented that he is against the motion because the Building Committee is there to address these issues and here has been no increase in costs since they started construction.

**CARRIED**

#BD20131205.1016 **MOVED BY B. SMITH** to defer the \$3 million for the Pipestone Road pavement project to a future budget in anticipation of resource road funding.

It was noted that the road qualifies for resource road funding as the traffic count is over 500 and the government should pay for half of the paving.

Councillor Sutherland commented that the paving project was deferred last year and if we keep deferring these we will never get all the paving done. Nichole Belcourt commented that the project would be funded from Gas Tax and MSI and there would be no change in the budget, but it can create a surplus.

CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we currently have 2 or 3 active applications for projects.

CARRIED

#BD20131205.1017 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to remove the second Deputy Fire Chief position and defer to a future budget.

Councillor Harpe commented that they can share the duties for another year. Councillor Bulford commented that he is against the motion because he knows how busy the Chief and Deputy Chief are.

DEFEATED

CAO, Bill Rogan inquired if Mrs. Vavrek should address the MSI from Pipestone. Mrs. Vavrek noted that it is grant funding and we need to show where the tax dollars go instead of Gas tax and MSI.

Mrs. Vavrek commented that \$0.5 million MSI could be transferred to the 732 Emerson Trail project. \$537,000 will come from reserves for this project and it will need to be done by Council motion.

#BD20131205.1018 **MOVED BY B. MARSHALL** to have the \$1.75 million come from the MSI funding for the Emerson Trail project.

CARRIED

#BD20131205.1019 **MOVED BY H. BULFORD** to reallocate the \$1,002,528 of Gas Tax revenue to the Divisional Road Program and have the project to be identified by Public Works.

CARRIED

#BD20131205.1020 **MOVED BY P. HARRIS** to raise the mill rate 200 basis points on residential, and 400 on agricultural and non-residential and have the additional funds generated put into reserves.

Councillor Marshall commented that our reserves have been depleting every year and there has been nothing going back in; we are cutting paving projects to balance the budget and still looking at a \$14 million deficit for next year. He is against tax increases but sees no other option.

Councillor Harpe commented that the County has always been fiscally conservative but a few projects are taking up the money from reserves now (Sportsplex and Dino museum). The taxpayers do not want an increase.

Reeve Beaupre commented on the Sportsplex budget.

Councillor Smith requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Beck commented that with the additional growth we won't catch up and have enough in reserves. It is better to plan now for the future and get ahead of the projects now.

Councillor Marshall inquired what would happen if we do not get the RCG from Municipal Affairs. Reeve Beaupre responded that Council would decide where the funding would come from at final budget. She stated Mr. Donovan is likely conservative with his numbers and the amount of revenue coming from assessment so there is potential for more revenue being generated.

Councillor Smith inquired about the increase for an average resident. Mrs. Vavrek responded that with 3% market value and the raise by basis points, it will be approximately \$96.00 more on a \$312,000 assessment; farm would see an increase of \$13.00 on an average quarter. Market value for non-residential is estimated at 3.5%; adding 400 basis points to that is approximately 3.8% plus market value.

Reeve Beaupre noted that she is against the motion because planning is coming back with recommendations on offsite levies. She would like to see the County with lower rates than the City so we are more competitive.

**TABLED**

#BD20131205.1021 **MOVED BY C. BECK** to table Councillor Harris' motion to increase the mill rates 200 basis points on residential and 400 points for agricultural and non-residential until April 2014 final budget deliberations.

Mrs. Vavrek noted that if there isn't a motion made the tax rates will remain the same and be assessed at 2014 Spring budget.

Council voted to table the motion until April Final Budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

#BD20131205.1022 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** that the request for the storage building for the CSB, and the decision on the type of building, be deferred to spring budget based on a needs assessment for all departments in the CSB.

CAO, Bill Rogan commented that we can leave the \$40,000 in the budget and defer the type of building to spring budget deliberations. Councillor Bulford commented that he agrees with the motion as they can also plan space for future years.

**CARRIED**

Schedule of Fees

Councillor Bulford commented that the park fees should be removed for the Bezanson townsite for day use.

Mr. Pfau noted some adjustments to water/sewage rates by Public Works.

#BD20131205.1023 **MOVED BY C. BECK** to defer the review of the schedule of fees until the next Council meeting on December 16, 2013.

CARRIED

**ACCEPT BUDGET**

#BD20131205.1024 **MOVED BY R. HARPE** to accept the interim budget for 2014 as presented.

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

#BD20131205.1025 **MOVED BY R. SUTHERLAND** that the 2014 Preliminary Budget meeting adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

CARRIED

These Minutes Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
REEVE

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR