

Council Highlights



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

June 17, 2013

Seniors and Special Needs Transportation Grants – Council approved \$85,457 in grants to 12 seniors and special needs groups including:

- Beaverlodge Senior Citizens Association - \$2,700.00
- Disabled Transportation Society of Grande Prairie - \$40,500
- Golden Years Club of Bezanson - \$4,937.00
- Grande Prairie & District Golden Age Centre - \$2,970.00
- Grande Spirit Foundation - \$8,000.00
- Hythe & District Pioneer Homes - \$11,000.00
- Sexsmith & District Seniors Association - \$3,000.00
- Sexsmith Sunset Homes & Tenant Association - \$1000.00
- Town of Beaverlodge - \$2,850.00
- Twilight Club of LaGlace - \$4,500.00
- The Silver & Gold Pioneer Club of Wembley - \$2,000.00
- Beaverlodge Hidden Potential Society - \$2,000.00

2012 Fire Service Report – County Fire Chief Everett Cooke presented the 2012 Fire Report to Council. Last year was very successful for each station and the Fire Service as a whole.

In 2012, the Fire Service responded to 1,178 calls. Total responses have risen by nearly 300 calls since 2010 with the largest increases in call volume in Medical Co-Response (MCR). Firefighters responded to 399 MCR calls including 199 from the Clairmont, Dunes and Bezanson stations.

The dry spring conditions and early start to the fire season was the second largest contributor to the increase in call volumes.

Bezanson Station began providing primary response services to their area of the County in 2012. In Teepee Creek, renovations began on the fire hall, a new brush unit was put into service, and a water tender will arrive later this year. Clairmont and Dunes stations responded to 548 calls for service throughout the greater Grande Prairie area.

A total of 3,800 fire permits were issued in 2012 compared to 1,924 permits in 2010. As part of fire prevention, the Fire Marshal performed 68 inspections and 17 investigations; and issued three violation notices.

A wide range of courses were scheduled, promoted and offered at the Dunes Training Centre to over 200 participants from all over the region.

Several modern firefighting vehicles were added to the fleet for a grand total of 10 engines, one ladder, seven water tenders, two reserve engines, five brush units, one rescue, two fire prevention units and seven utility or support units.

EMS Dispatch Consolidation Consultation – Council will write a letter to Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffith, local MLAs, and AHS Minister highlighting their concerns with the consolidation of emergency medical services (EMS) dispatch.

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For the past five years, the County of Grande Prairie Fire Service has experienced challenges and issues as a result of the consolidation of ambulance dispatch services for the Grande Prairie region into the Northern Communications Centre in Peace River. Since the transition to centralized ambulance has occurred, it is the County's opinion that fire and medical co-response services that are related to EMS have deteriorated with response times compromised. The County believes that this problem will only be resolved with the redevelopment of integrated local dispatch centres, similar to how Grande Prairie Fire Dispatch in Grande Prairie was previously set up.

Council Meeting and Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

Relocation – Council approved the motion to relocate Council Meetings and Municipal Planning Commission Meetings to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the Community Services Building starting on July 15th until further notice to accommodate renovations in the Administration Building. The Community Services Building is located 1 mile west of the Hamlet of Clairmont on Township Road 724.

Saskatoon Mountain Natural Area Update – Laurie Barry, County Parks Coordinator gave Council an update on the County's effort working with Alberta Parks to redesignate Saskatoon Mountain as a Provincial Recreation Area (PRA). Some other key recommendations are to take an inventory of trails to determine which areas are suitable for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV); develop policies for the usage of OHVs, hunting; develop a campground; and develop a stewardship group comprised of different users.

Alberta Parks will move forward in meeting with Horse Lake First Nation; preparing a PRA designation proposal and concept plan; conduct an online public consultation; and pending results from the consultation, proceed with redesignation and boundary amendment.

County Barbecue – Council approved the motion to allow community based groups and non-profit organizations to use the County owned barbecue free of charge. Administration will bring back to a future Council meeting the budget implications and a policy that is required to be implemented before the barbecue can be given to groups to use.

Evergreen Park Update – Evergreen Park General Manager Dan Gorman; Board of Directors President Daryl Beeston; and Bridget Hennigar provided an update on Evergreen Park to Council. Going into 2013, usage of Evergreen Park has steadily increased from 2012. Approximately 245 events have been held since May, 81 more than in 2012. Sponsorship and advertising has increased. Renovations and upgrades to the facility and grounds continue in 2013. Board members continue to look for ways to create and increase revenue for the facility and grounds through events, marketing, fundraising, sponsorship and advertising, and food and beverage services. In addition, a feasibility study to determine whether wind and solar energy system at Evergreen Park is a feasible option is being performed.

Verbenone Mountain Pine Beetle Repellent – Council made a motion to contribute up to \$30,000 for the purchase of verbenone mountain pine beetle repellent to protect high-value pine trees in Evergreen Park.

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Exemplary Fire Service Medal Recipients – Council will write a letter to four local firefighters – Stan Nyland (LaGlace, 26 years), Darryl Bekkerus (LaGlace, 24 years), Brad Haukedaul (LaGlace, 22 years), and Ken Atamanchuk (County, 20 years) congratulating them on the exemplary fire service medals they received from Alberta Lieutenant Governor in a ceremony at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton on June 13, 2013.

Regional Emergency Management Bylaw – Council gave Bylaw 2987 third reading which will allow Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership to officially establish a regional municipal emergency management committee, agency, and planning and coordinating group. The partnership between six municipalities was created to coordinate responses to large emergencies or disasters. Municipalities in the Partnership are:

The County of Grande Prairie, Town of Beaverlodge, the City of Grande Prairie, the Village of Hythe, the Town of Sexsmith, and the Town of Wembley.

2013 Alberta Recycling Conference – Council will sponsor the 14th annual Alberta Recycling Conference and the 20th anniversary of Alberta CARE in the amount of \$5,000. The conference will be taking place at the Slave Lake Inn and Conference Centre from September 4-6, 2013.

Regional EMS Foundation Golf Classic – Council will contribute \$1,200 for the Regional EMS Foundation 14th annual Golf Classic for

Life which will be taking place on September 6, 2013 at the Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club. Funds raised at the tournament will be used for training and educational initiatives surrounding the use of AEDs (automated external defibrillators).

Sportsplex Soft Landscape Project RFT – Council awarded the Request for Tender (RFT) for the Sportsplex Soft Landscape Project in the amount of \$163,231.43 to Greenblade Landscape Co. Ltd.

Tandem Truck Cab and Chassis RFQ – Council awarded the Request for Quotation for a tandem truck cab and chassis in the amount of \$124,192.00 to Western Star & Freightliner Trucks of Grande Prairie.

Letter to Alberta Transportation – Council approved the motion to make amendments to the letter addressed to the Minister of Alberta Transportation by NAEL (Northern Alberta Elected Leaders) outlining their concerns with the condition of highways in the north and requesting an explanation on why there is little investment planned for the development and maintenance of this critical infrastructure over the next few years.

Sportsplex Fieldhouse Netting – Council made a motion to help fund the replacement of the fieldhouse netting at the County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex. The new netting will reduce damage and operational concerns and increase the number of sports that can be played in the fieldhouse thus increasing revenue.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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Saddle Hills County Grand Opening – Council will donate a \$150 gift to Saddle Hills County to congratulate them on the grand opening of their new County Complex.

Alberta Culture Days Proclamation – Council proclaimed September 27th to 29th, 2013 as Alberta Culture Days. Alberta Culture is Alberta's largest celebration of the Province's heritage, arts and cultural diversity.

CN Miracle Match for Stollery Children's Hospital – Council approved the motion to donate \$1,000 for the CN Miracle Match for the Stollery Children's Hospital hosted by the Northwest Corridor Development Corporation which will be held on June 21, 2013 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre in Grande Prairie.

Beaverlodge Family Care Clinic – Council approved the motion to appoint Pat Jacobs and Leanne Beaupre as the County representatives on the Beaverlodge Family Care Clinic committee.

Borrowing Bylaw Petition – According to the Municipal Government Act, Administration was required to validate the petition received from County ratepayers opposing the bylaw which would have allowed the County to borrow up to \$5 million to build the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum within 30 days. Following its validation, Administration deemed the petition as insufficient.

Next Council meeting is June 24, 2013.

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