

Council Highlights



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

June 24, 2013

New Structure Protection Unit – County Fire Service rolled out a new Structure Protection Unit to Council. The Structure Protection Unit (SPU-1) is a 2013 bumper pull trailer specially designed and outfitted to carry equipment needed to protect lives and property. It will be brought into areas that are threatened by wild land or grass fires as a last line of defense where it can be then used to dampen areas around structures protecting walls and roof from ignition. The SPU-1 can protect up to 25 structures at a time. For more information, see news release, “**Unique, new fire protection unit to benefit region.**”

County Donates two Fire Engines to Highway to Mexico Project – Mike O’Sullivan, Chairman of the Highway to Mexico Project made a presentation to Council requesting the County donate vehicles to the Highway to Mexico Project. Council made a motion to donate two used fire engines. This project involves the delivery of vehicles and equipment to the region of Mazatlan, Mexico. To date, three Grande Prairie area Rotary Clubs and the Rotary Club in Edson have helped in donating 59 vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances and school buses) since the start of the project in 2002. The vehicles and equipment donated to Mazatlan and surrounding communities will be used for many years providing fire protection to the local citizens.

Wedgewood Intersection Upgrade Tender – Council awarded the tender for the Summerside Way – Wedgewood Drive at Resources Road Intersection Upgrade project to Wapiti Gravel Supplier in the amount of \$576,481.85.

Teepee Creek Sewer System Upgrade – Council awarded the Request for Quotation to upgrade the low pressure sewer system for Teepee Creek to Westcan Tel Ltd. in the amount of \$97,912.50.

Alberta Safety Codes Council Certification Award – Council congratulated Rob Renschler, County Safety Codes Manager on receiving the Alberta Safety Codes Council Certification Award for Outstanding Safety Codes Officer in the Province. This distinguished award recognizes a safety codes officer who is exceptional in field inspections; and proactive in mentoring, course review, and codes advancement.

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. Administration deemed the petition as insufficient. On May 27th, Council made a motion to take \$5 million out of the County’s Reserves to fund the construction of the Museum rather than borrow for the project. Council passed a resolution not to proceed with the Borrowing Bylaw.

Technologies for Municipal Service Delivery Project – Council gave approval for the Information Systems department to apply for funding along with collaborative efforts with other municipalities under the Alberta Municipal Affairs Regional Collaboration Grant Program.

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If the grant is approved, funding will be used for a study to determine options of potential savings if municipalities work collaboratively on IT issues regarding municipal service delivery.

Lymburn Community Association Project – Council made a motion to waive the fees for the development and building permits for the construction of a stage, storage area and deck with covered entrance for the Lymburn Community Hall.

Monkman Homestead Historic Site – Council made a motion to participate in a meeting with the Monkman Preservation Society to discuss the significance of the Monkman Homestead Historic Site and the protection of the natural area surrounding Cutbank Lake.

4-H delegation trip to Japan – Council made a motion to contribute gifts, pictures of Trumpeter Swans, and other information and materials that represent the County of Grande Prairie to 4-H delegation to present during their trip to Japan in July.

Aquatera Annual Report – Bernd Manz, Aquatera Board of Directors President presented Council with the Aquatera 2012 Annual Report. To view the 2012 Annual Report, visit www.aquatera.ca.

Clairmont Infrastructure Update- Strong growth persists in Clairmont. Water and sewer master plans are being updated for 2013-2014. Upgrades to the existing Clairmont Pump House are underway and will address peak hour demands for water.

Upgrading of the Clairmont Main Lift Station and Force Main is now complete, providing improvements to the operation and maintenance of the system and more capacity to support growth in Clairmont Heights.

Aquatera continues to participate in a partnership piloting the irrigation of fast-growing poplar trees from the Clairmont Lagoon to reuse treated effluent and reduce discharge volumes. An assessment of wastewater infrastructure in the Clairmont Industrial area identified the need to immediate upgrades to the Industrial Lift Station.

Hythe Legion Building Upgrades – Council made a motion to contribute \$50,000 to the Hythe Legion for their restoration project to help replace the flooring, boiler and air exchange.

Sexsmith Museum – Council approved the motion to provide two truckloads of gravel to the Sexsmith Museum.

Mental Health Support – The County's FCSS department has advised of the need for further mental health support during their recent meeting with Council. Council made a motion to write a letter to the Alberta Minister of Health and local MLAs to identify the need for mental health support in the region.

Next Council meeting is July 15, 2013. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

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