

Council Highlights



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

October 7, 2013

Odyssey House Affordable Housing Project – Council presented a cheque in the amount of \$450,000 to the Odyssey House for their Supportive Housing Project. The supportive housing project will provide long-term, affordable and secure and safe housing with essential programming and supports for women and children in the County and across the Peace Region to transition to independent and violence-free lives. For more information, see news release, **County of Grande Prairie Contributes \$450,000 to Odyssey House Supportive Housing Project.**

Fire Service Quarterly Reports - Fire Chief Everett Cooke provided a first and second quarter report. The Fire Service received a total of 714 service calls throughout the County and issued 1067 fire permits. Training remains a top priority for the Bezanson station with six new members joining the ranks. Vehicle extraction tools are now being used in La Glace. The County held the re-grand opening of the Teepee Creek fire hall. The federal government provided the Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (CIIF) Grant program in the amount of \$26,010 while the County covered the remaining cost (26 K) of the renovations. These included extending the Fire Hall front bay; adding administrative facilities; and upgrading the building’s insulation, plumbing and electrical systems.

Promotions- Captain Ken Atamanchuk was named the new Fire Marshal following the retirement of Mark Whelpton. Senior Fire fighter Rob Campbell was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Fire Prevention – The fire prevention branch conducted 26 investigations and 32 inspections. The Fire Marshal has conducted many safety programs including fire prevention week open houses, debris clean-up events for residents, and The Arson Prevention Program for Children to reduce the risk of fire setting among children.

Training – The 2013 recruit class is on schedule to complete their training in January. Renovations were completed at the training centre to allow for additional scenarios for participants. The centre was well used by County fire fighters and other departments from as far away as British Columbia as well. A replacement fire engine was delivered to the Town of Wembley and another one will be supplied to the Village of Hythe this week.

Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum– Council awarded the contract to design Phase One Exhibit Design Development of the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum to Reich & Petch Design International in the amount of \$429,768.

Council passed a motion to apply for the Cultural Spaces government grant in the amount of \$400,000 on behalf of the River of Death and Discovery Dinosaur Museum Society.

Also, Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum Executive Director Brian Brake provided Council with an update on the Museum’s fundraising efforts.

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Grande Prairie Sports Council – Council approved an in kind donation of \$30,000 for office space in the County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex to the Grande Prairie Sport Council. They also made a motion to have an additional \$25,000 over four years for the Sports Council to be deferred to 2014 budget deliberations in December. Grande Prairie Sports Council is an organization that provides leadership in delivering quality sport experiences and events to all. Their vision is to provide leadership and a strong, collaborative voice for sport in the Grande Prairie region.

Home Support Appreciation Week Proclamation – Council approved the motion to proclaim October 20-26, 2013 as Home Support Appreciation Week in the County of Grande Prairie. This week will give the County an opportunity to express their appreciation for home support workers for their dedication in helping residents maintain safe, comfortable homes throughout the community.

Community School Liaison Program 25th year celebration – Council approved the contribution of \$1,500 to the County Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) department to go towards the Community School Liaison Program 25th year celebration luncheon.

Letter of support request from ACFA – Council will write a letter for the ACFA regionale de Grande Prairie supporting AFCAs recent funding application to Heritage Canada. ACFA is a regional association that assists French speaking/bilingual people settle into the area, and provides them with guidance for employment, schools, healthcare and more.

County Environmental Committee – Council passed a motion to allow up to three public community members join the Environmental Committee for future organizational meetings.

County of Grande Prairie Logo – a presentation on the several variations of the County logo was made to Council. The inconsistent logo has posed challenges for Administration as well, allows external agencies to manipulate the County's visual identity. Council made a motion to have the communications department bring back logo options based on the current blue swan logo design and obtain cost estimates for developing a standardized visual identity guide. This guideline will ensure the proper use of the County logo and allow for easy application to internal and external clients.

Private Supply of Gravel RFP – Council awarded the RFP for the County private supply of gravel for 2014 and 2015 to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers.

Letter of request for Rest Stop near Teepee Creek – Council will write a letter to the Alberta Minister of Transportation requesting that a Rest Stop with bathroom facilities and garbage cans be set up off Highway 674 in Teepee Creek as this highway receives a considerable amount of traffic along it.

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County of Grande Prairie No. 1

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Big Heart for Big Kids – Council approved the motion to contribute \$2,500 to the Sunrise House Big Hearts for Big Kids annual concert fundraiser for youth at risk of homelessness in the region. The concert will be taking place at the ENTREC Centre (formerly TEC Centre) on February 15, 2014.

Grande Prairie Petroleum Association Hanger Dance – Council approved the motion to be corporate table plus sponsor in the amount of \$1,700 for the Grande Prairie Petroleum Association fourth annual Hanger Dance in support of STARS. The event will be taking place on January 18th at the Evergreen Park ENTREC Centre.

Grande Spirit Foundation Fundraising Event – Council made a motion to purchase a corporate sponsor table in the amount of \$450 and contribute a \$150 door prize for the Friends of Grande Spirit Foundation fundraiser that will be taking place on Saturday, October 19th at the Pomeroy Inn in Grande Prairie,

Next Council meeting is October 21, 2013. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

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