

# Council Highlights



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

**April 28, 2014**

**National Day of Mourning** – The County participated in the National Day of Mourning. At 11 a.m. Council and staff observed a moment of silence, and County flags were lowered to half-mast to honour workers who have been killed, injured or disabled at work.

**Alberta Emergency Services Medal** –Reeve Leanne Beaupre presented the Alberta Emergency Services Medal on behalf of the Province of Alberta to Fire Chief Everett Cooke. This medal is awarded to members of emergency services including firefighters, officers, dispatchers, Alberta Emergency Management Agency Personnel, and Emergency Medical Services who have served in Emergency Services in Alberta for 12 years or more. Council thanked and congratulated Fire Chief Cooke for his exemplary service to the County and the region.

**2013 Financial Statements Audit Review** – County Finance & Systems Director, Noreen Vavrek; and Lowell Lovrod, Fletcher Mudryk & Co Auditor presented the County's audited financial statements for 2013. The financial statements will be posted on the County's website and sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs on May 1, 2014.

**Tax Rate Bylaw** – Council approved the 2014 tax rate bylaw. Highlights of the 2014 Budget can be viewed at [www.countygp.ab.ca](http://www.countygp.ab.ca).

**Regional Collaboration Program** – The County is a part of committees that oversee of the following projects: The City of Grande Prairie Wapiti Watershed Cumulative Effects Modelling project; the Town of Wembley West Corridor Potable Water Transmission Line Study; and the City of Lethbridge for the Regional Technology and Service Delivery Program.

These municipalities have each received Regional Collaboration Program (RCP) grants from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The County provided letters of support which aided in the success of these grant applications. The regional collaboration program helps strengthen relations between municipalities and regions by encouraging municipalities and regions to collaborate on various planning projects and providing funding for mutually beneficial projects.

**Aquatera Infrastructure Projects** – Bernd Manz, Aquatera Utilities Inc. CEO updated Council on Aquatera's plans to apply for Build Canada funding. Build Canada is a Federal program that provides 1/3 funding for municipal infrastructure projects. The Province will provide a further 1/3 as will the municipal partner/agency. Council will provide a letter of support to Aquatera for their applications.

Proposed projects are upgrading the water facilities at the Wapiti River including the construction of a new water intake and expansion of raw water storage, as well as the completion of the 116 Street sewer trunk main in the City of Grande Prairie and to connect it to the Clairmont lagoon. These projects will accommodate the growth of areas serviced by Aquatera such as Clairmont, Sexsmith, and the City of Grande Prairie.

**Evergreen Park Update** – Dan Gorman, Evergreen Park General Manager provided Council with an update on Evergreen Park/Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural & Exhibition Society. As well, the new President of Evergreen Park, Rob Clayton was introduced to Council.

Usage of Evergreen Park has steadily increased by 50 per cent since 2012; sponsorship and advertising has increased from 80 K to 175 K in

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the last year; and upgrades have been made to several areas of Evergreen Park improving the users' overall experience. Board members will 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. Gorman and Clayton thanked County Council for their continued support of the park.

**Community Foundation Vital Signs Report** – Tracey Vavrek, CEO of the Community Foundation Northwest gave an update to Council on the Vital Signs report for the Grande Prairie region and Northwestern Alberta. Vital Signs is a bi-annual community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends, and supports actions on issues that are critical to quality of life. Areas such as the environment, safety and food security in the region were addressed, The Vital Signs 2013 report for Northwestern Alberta can be found at [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca).

**Bylaw 2680-14-026** – Council gave bylaw 2680-14-026 third and final reading which will allow for the rezoning of approximately 9.98 acres of land located 2 miles west of the Town of Sexsmith and adjacent to Twp Rd 734 and Rge Rd 64 from Agricultural (AG) to Country Residential (CR-5) for the subdivision of one residential lot.

**Service Road Closure Bylaws** – Council gave bylaw 2995 third and final reading. This will allow the closure of portions of Service Road Plan 002 0755 located within NE-23-72-6-W6M in the hamlet of Clairmont as the road is no longer needed due to the development and use of 102 Street.

Council gave bylaw 2991 third and final reading. This will allow the closure of Service Road Plan 032 3780 located within NW-12-72-6-W6M to accommodate the development of the multi-modal site in the NW-12-72-6-W6M for a truck-rail trans-load facility.

**Sunrise House & Odyssey House Golf Tournament** – Council approved the contribution of \$3,000 to be corporate partnership sponsors for the Sunrise House and Odyssey House Golf Tournament. The tournament will be taking place on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Grande Prairie Golf & Country Club where all proceeds raised will go towards the Sunrise House and Odyssey House.

**Grande Prairie Garden Club** – Council approved the donation of \$1,500 for the Grande Prairie Garden Club. The contribution will be going towards sponsoring the Annual Alberta Horticultural Association Conference being held on June 20-21 at the Montrose Cultural Centre.

**Next regular Council Meeting is May 5, 2014. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.**

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