

Council Highlights



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

February 3, 2014

Grande Prairie Sport Council – Grande Prairie Sport Council (GPSC) introduced the newly hired Executive Director, Karna Germsheid to County Council. As well, GPSC provided Council with an update and requested a Council member be appointed as a board member. Council appointed Councillor Daryl Beeston to serve as a board member of the GPSC.

In 2013, County Council passed a motion to support the GPSC with a \$30,000.00 Gift in Kind for office space and support (to be distributed over the next 4 years) at the County Sportsplex and to provide them a \$25,000.00 operating grant per year for 2014-2017.

Alberta Transportation Update – Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Transportation addressed questions brought forward by Council that are important to the region. Some of the topics discussed were the development of the new health facility in Beaverlodge; the completion of twinning and improvements to Highway 43 from Bezanson to Grande Prairie and from Beaverlodge to the British Columbia border; improvements to the Highway 43/733 intersection; the traffic signalization at the Clairmont intersection; and, the status of changes to the Provincial Regional Collaboration Grant.

Alberta Energy Regulator – Leanne Chartrand of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) provided an overview and update on the organization. The AER is a new regulatory body, combining the legacy Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) functions with the oil and gas functions that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development had jurisdiction over.

The AER's mandate is to provide efficient, safe, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of the Alberta's energy resources as well as regulating the life cycle of oil, oil sands, natural gas and coal projects in Alberta from application and construction to production, abandonment and reclamation. AER has invited Council to bring forth questions about the organization's mandate, and any concerns about the oil and gas operation and development in the region.

School Liaison Program Funding – Council will write a letter to the Peace Wapiti School Division (PWSD) thanking them for their commitment to increasing the funding for the County's FCSS school liaison program. PWSD has been a partner of the Program since its inception 25 years ago. PWSD will be increasing annual funding from \$50,470 from 2013 to \$75,470 for 2014 and \$100,470 for 2015. In addition, the County will also write a letter thanking the Valhalla School Foundation for contributing \$1,375 to the Program.

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Procedural Bylaw – Council passed the motion to have administration draft a Code of Conduct and review the Procedural Bylaw and bring back to a future Council meeting for review and approval. Both the Procedural Bylaw and the Code of Conduct apply to Council and staff will improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of local government.

Highway 43 East and 40 South Alignment – Council will approach the provincial government for funding support to undertake a highway alignment study which identifies a future bypass for Highway 40 south of Grande Prairie to Highway 43 east of Grande Prairie.

Teepee Creek Stampede Diamond Dinner – Council approved the donation of a \$100 and a silent auction item for the 4th annual Teepee Creek Ladies Night Diamond Dinner which will be taking place at the Teepee Creek Hall on April 5, 2014. The proceeds from the event will go towards the Miss Teepee Creek Stampede Queen Scholarship Endowment Fund and towards expenses for Miss Teepee Creek to travel to various community events.

Clairmont Minor Hockey Association – Council approved to support the Clairmont Minor Hockey Association in the amount of \$250. This contribution will go towards a meal sponsorship at the Association's Initiation Tournament at the County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex taking place on February 8, 2014.

Physician Recruitment Efforts – Council approved the motion to supply medical school students who will be spending their residency training and internship in the Grande Prairie region hospitals and medical clinics with recreation passes to the recreation/fitness facility of their choice.

Next regular Council Meeting is February 10, 2014. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

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