

# Council Highlights



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

**June 9, 2014**

**2014 Operating Assistance Grants** – Council approved recommendations brought forward by six community recreation boards to distribute a total of \$743,926 in operating assistance grants allocated to 51 local non-profit organizations and 26 sports, cultural and recreation facilities. The grants provide operating assistance to non-profit organizations and volunteer groups that provide recreational or cultural services to their community.

**Cemetery Improvement Grants** – Council approved the cemetery improvement grants for 2014 in the amount of \$20,500. These funds assist local groups with improvements to cemeteries located within the County. The following cemeteries will receive grants:

- \$6,000- St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rio Grande  
Tear down and remove old building, and landscape
- \$5,000- Halcourt Cemetery, Halcourt  
Purchase and install memorial plaques, reposition headstones, and landscape
- \$5,000- Spring Creek Cemetery
- Revitalize old site, feasibility study to restore church, identify internal roads for gravelling, built fence, and landscape
- \$3,000 Norden Cemetery, La Glace  
New signs and posts, repair washrooms, repair sunken graves, and straighten headstones
- \$1,500- Northfield Cemetery, La Glace  
New sign for cemetery

**Bridge culvert replacement** – Council approved the motion to have the bridge culvert located on Range Road 80, one mile south of Highway 43 (BF.13224 WNW-18-71-7, W6M) replaced for an estimated \$120,000.

**Public Transportation for Clairmont** – Clairmont Community School Grade 7 Class presented to Council on the benefits public transportation would provide to the youth and residents of Clairmont. Council thanked the students for their excellent presentation. They will be discussing the feasibility of providing public transit in Clairmont at a future council meeting.

**County Sportsplex Update** – Garfield Ganong, Nustadia Recreation Inc. Senior Vice President and Ramona Rollins, County Sportsplex General Manager provided an overview of the County Sportsplex six-month report. Since its opening in January 2013, the usage of fieldhouse, arenas, and other facilities has significantly increased. Programs for children, youth and adults have been created year-round and have been very successful. Several sporting events and tournaments have taken place or are slated to take place including the Junior B provincials, Canada women's national hockey team practice and game with the County JDA Kings, Relay for Life 2014, County Cup, and Ball Hockey Provincials. Sponsorship continues to do well. Motion Fitness, Players' Bench Lounge, Tito's Concession, and Ernie's Retail Store continue to lease space. With the recent opening of the eight outdoor fields, it is anticipated this will increase usage of the facilities and attract sporting events and tournaments.

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**Virulent Blackleg Policy** – Council approved an updated policy for the Virulent Blackleg. Virulent Blackleg is a regulated pest under the Agricultural Pest Act of Alberta. Under this Act, municipalities are required to survey for it and have a policy in place consistent with the Act to outline how they proceed with enforcing the Act, should it be necessary. The policy was updated to focus on education and outlined the steps to be taken when Virulent Blackleg is found on property within the County. The policy focuses on education and working with the affected producer allowing them to have input when developing a plan for control of this pest.

**Letter of Support for Use of Specialized Equipment** – Council approved the motion to provide a letter of support to Erick Hansen from Safety Training and Regulatory Technology which will be sent to Alberta Transportation. The letter will address the County's support for the industry's use of specialized equipment (16 and 24 Wheeler trailers) for divisible loads on drilling rigs. This equipment would offset the amount of weight applied to County Roads and would reduce the damage done to the road system.

**Heritage Point Project** – Council will provide a letter of support for the Heritage Point Phase Two Seniors Housing Project which will be sent to the Government of Alberta. Heritage Point is located in the Town of Sexsmith. Phase One was recently completed where 22 affordable housing units for seniors were built. Heritage Point will be submitting a request for the Government of Alberta for additional funding to begin Phase Two which would add another 22-24 units and further serve the seniors residing in the County.

**Seven Generations Energy Update** – Susan Targett and Steve Haysom of Seven Generations Energy Inc. made a presentation to Council about their company and the Kakwa River Project that is currently underway in the south Peace Region. Seven Generations Energy Ltd. is a private oil and gas company focused on resource plays in North America, including shale gas, tight gas, tight oil and oil sands. Seven Generations currently has eight rigs dedicated to the development and delineation of the project focused primarily on the unconventional Montney. The Kakwa River Project area is over 500 square miles of leased minerals from the Alberta Crown.

**Request for Purchase of Closed Road Allowance** – Council approved the sale of Service Road Plan 002-0755 adjacent to Lot 3, Plan 002-0037 to the adjacent landowner in order to combine this land into their existing lot. Previous to this sale, this road area was closed when the quarter section to the north of this lot was subdivided and access was changed to 102 Street.

**Next Council meeting is June 16, 2014. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.**

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