

Council Highlights



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

March 24, 2014

Curbside Recycling Program Expanded – Council approved providing curbside recycling services to homeowners in the Hamlet of Clairmont who already receive waste collection services and an Aquatera water and sewer bill. Residents completed a survey, mailed by Administration, indicating their desire to implement the program. A nominal fee of \$3.25 will be added to the homeowner's monthly water and sewer bills for the blue bag program which will enable residents to recycle tin, paper, cardboard and plastic. The recycling service is expected to begin this spring.

Curbside Waste Collection for Hamlets – Council made a motion for administration to distribute a survey to homeowners in the hamlets of Valhalla, Laglace, Teepee Creek and Bezanson to determine whether they are interested in receiving curbside waste collection for a monthly fee.

Bear Hill Recreation Grounds Survey – Residents living in close proximity to Bear Hill recreation grounds were surveyed by the County to determine how the grounds should be used. The site has not been active for about 10 years. The responses from the survey strongly indicated that residents would prefer the grounds remain a public facility operated by the County that get converted into a campground with recreation opportunities excluding motorized recreation, and the Hall on the site be refurbished. Council motioned administration to bring back information regarding the feasibility of a municipality operated campground at Bear Hill Grounds and the costs of moving the existing Hall to the Bear Lake Historical Society.

County Parkland Conservation Bylaw – County Council gave the new Parkland Conservation Bylaw first and second reading. The Parkland Conservation Bylaw will create legislation to regulate the activity on County environmental and municipal reserves, campgrounds, parks, trails and outdoor spaces used for recreation and leisure. The conditions of this bylaw would encourage healthy, safe and environmentally sustainable use of the County's green spaces. The Bylaw will return to a future Council Meeting for third reading.

TRAVIS Implementation – Council approved the roll out of TRAVIS (Transportation Routine and Vehicle Information System) – an initiative led by the provincial government. TRAVIS, which takes effect on April 1, 2014, will simplify the process to apply for road permits. With this new system, transportation routing companies will only have to apply for all for road permits including County roads through Alberta Transportation rather than separately through the Province, County and Agency.

Drilling and Service Rig Permit Inspections – Council approved the motion to increase the fees for drilling and service rig permit inspections. Starting July 1, 2014 drilling rigs will be required to pay \$800 for a road inspection permit, \$200 for service rigs, and an additional \$800 for drilling rigs who give less than 24 hours of notice. These fees are applied to help cover costs to mitigate damage to County roads caused by drilling and service rig movements.

County Regional Fire Service Year-End Report – Fire Chief Everett Cooke; Deputy Fire Chief of Rural Operations Dan Verdun; and Fire Marshall Ken Atamanchuk presented Council the 2013 year-end report. Fire prevention, education, emergency preparedness along with continuous training in all stations remains a priority for the service.

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Fire Chief Cooke advised that 2013 was a slower fire season compared to other years; however, responses to incidents increased in the Clairmont and Dunes service areas. A total of 1668 new fire permits were issued in 2013.

Fire Prevention – In 2013, the Fire Marshal conducted 51 inspections and conducted 56 investigations. The Fire Prevention Branch delivered the “Learn Not To Burn” program to 10 schools in the County, as well, attended many events including safety fairs, community nights and hosted open houses. In the fall, residents were invited to bring wood debris, branches and deadfall from their yard to the County FireSmart Wood Waste Clean-up events. There were 40 truckloads and 20 trailer loads of chipped wood collected.

Philip J Currie Museum Update – Brian Brake, executive director for the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative presented a monthly update from the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative on the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum to Council. He and Dr. Matthew Vavrek, PCDI head palaeontologist/curator, met with the TELUS World of Science on March 13 to discuss the potential of a World of Science display at the Currie Museum. It was agreed that a display was not a good fit at this time though a future partnership on exchanging education programs was discussed as a possibility. The PCDI team also met with the Edmonton International Airport who requested a meeting to discuss a display promoting the Currie Museum at the airport.

PCDI will work with Reich + Petch International (the museum’s exhibit design development team) and the University of Alberta to put together displays that will create excitement for and awareness of the Currie Museum amongst air travellers. Alliance Pipeline visited the site on March 17 to make a cheque presentation representing a \$250,000

contribution to sponsor the museum’s Education Centre. Several Grade Four students from Wembley Elementary attended to symbolically receive the cheque on behalf of all the area students who will benefit from the education programs at the museum. A PCDI volunteer program is up and running to train volunteers to prepare fossils. The program is popular - volunteer events are filling up within hours of the event’s posting. Everything is continuing well for the events of August 7-9, including the Amber Ball on August 9. Tables are still available for the event and can be purchased by calling 780-532-2362.

Staff Introduction – Council and staff welcomed Lynette Vetsch and Fran Pederson to the County. Lynette will be working as a programmer for the FCSS department. Fran will be working as a payroll clerk for the Finance & Systems department.

Public Hearing – Council held a public hearing on Bylaw 2680-14-020 to rezone approximately 116.6 acres of land located within the Hamlet of Clairmont adjacent to Twp Rd 730 and Rge Rd 55 to facilitate the development of land for rural residential, rural residential mixed, medium density residential and high density residential purposes. Council gave the bylaw third and final reading.

Peace Library System – Linda Duplessis, Director of the Peace Library System (PLS) provided Council with an update on the organization. Linda went over the existing and new services they provide; funding sources and 2014 budget; and the benefits of the PLS. She also thanked the County for their continued support for PLS. PLS is one of seven library systems in Alberta. PLS has a partnership with several municipalities with a goal of offering enhances public library services to its residents. The County provides financial support to PLS annually.

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Youth Volunteer Certification Program – Valerie Thiessen, Youth Volunteer Certification Program Project Coordinator for the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau made a presentation to Council. Youth Volunteer Certification Program provides access to training and certification opportunities for those ages 16 to 30 for programs such as First Aid, H2S, WHMIS, TDG, Food Safe, Customer Service; and job application, resume and interview skills improvement. In exchange, program participants put in volunteering and community services. This will benefit participants by helping them become more skilled and experienced in life and work while fostering volunteerism and community service.

Alberta Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference – Council approved a \$7,500 sponsorship of the 2014 Alberta Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) annual conference. The AFCA Conference is being co-hosted by the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service and the City of Grande Prairie Fire Department from June 7-10, 2014.

Reel Shorts Film Festival – Council approve the contribution of \$2,800 to the Reel Shorts Film Festival which will be taking place on May 7-11, 2014 in Grande Prairie. The Reel Shorts Film Festival is a production of Grande Prairie Live Theatre which is a registered non-profit, charitable organization. The festival celebrates short films and the filmmakers who make them by screening gems of storytelling brilliance here in the Peace Region. The films entertains audiences of all ages, showcases Peace Region filmmakers, and provides opportunities and programs for youth throughout our region to learn about film production.

2014 College Classic – Council approved the sponsorship of the 27th annual Grande Prairie Regional College Classic in the amount of \$1,250. All funds raised at the College Classic will be going to health services, quality care and education for GPRC students. The event will be taking place on June 6, 2014 at the Grande Prairie Golf and Country Club.

Junior B Hockey Provincials – Council approved sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 (Game Sponsor) for the Junior B Hockey Provincials that will be taking place at the County of Grande Prairie Sportsplex from April 3-6, 2014.

McNaught Homestead Preservation Society Fundraiser – Council approved the contribution of a \$150 silent auction item for the McNaught Homestead Preservation Society's 5th annual fundraiser which is being held at the Beaverlodge Community Hall on April 12, 2014.

Bollywood Hollywood Fundraiser – Council approved the donation of a \$150 silent auction item for the Bollywood Hollywood Fundraising Gala event which is being held on June 7, 2014. Proceeds raised from this event will be going to Signature Support Services who provide support and programs for adults with developmental disabilities.

National Volunteer Month – Council proclaimed the month of April in 2014 as Volunteer Month in the County of Grande Prairie.

Next regular Council Meeting is April 7, 2014. These meetings will be held in the EOC in the Community Services Building until further notice.

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