

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

April 27, 2015

Bezanson Grade 5/6 Class Mini Area Structure Plan Presentations

– Council approved select Bezanson Grade 5/6 Students Mini Area Structure Plans (ASP) to be included in the Bezanson ASP under the public consultation section. Council also thanked the class for their hard work on developing these plans for future vision of their community.

Over the past few months, the County Planning and Development department staff has been working with the Bezanson School Grade 5/6 students to each create a Mini ASP. On April 22, the students presented their plan to a panel of judges who then selected the best land use concept map, promotional brochure, development suggestions article, and general news article relating to the Hamlet to be included in the Bezanson ASP public consultation process. See news release, **Bezanson Grade 5-6 Students present future visions for their community to County Council** at <http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EN/meta/whats-new/latest-news.html>

Seniors and Special Needs Transportation Grants – Council approved \$94,487 in grants to 13 seniors and special needs groups including:

- Disabled Transportation Society of Grande Prairie- \$49,500
- Hythe & District Pioneer Homes- \$11,000
- Grande Spirit Foundation- \$8,000
- Golden Years Club of Bezanson- \$4,937
- Twilight Club of LaGlace- \$4,500
- Town of Beaverlodge \$2,850
- Beaverlodge Seniors Citizens Association- \$ 2,700

- The Silver & Gold Pioneer Club of Wembley- \$2,500
- Beaverlodge Hidden Potential Society - \$2,000
- Hythe Golden Age Craft Centre - \$2,000
- Amisk Court Social Club - \$2,000
- Grande Prairie and District Golden Age Centre-\$ 1,500
- Sexsmith Sunset Homes & Tenant Association- \$1,000

2014 Financial Statements Audit Review – Dan Sieben, Financial Services Manager and Lowell Lovrod, Fletcher Mudryk & Co Auditor presented the County's audited financial statements for 2014. The financial statements will be posted on the County's website and sent to the Municipal Government Board on May 1, 2015.

Tax Rate Bylaw – Council approved the 2015 tax rate bylaw. Highlights of the 2015 Budget can be viewed at www.countygp.ab.ca.

Response to City of Grande Prairie notice of proposed amalgamation – Council made a motion to respond to the City of Grande Prairie's notice of the proposed amalgamation stating that the County does not accept the letter from the City of Grande Prairie as "Notice of the proposed amalgamation" as the letter does not meet the requirements as outlined in the *Municipal Government Act* under Division 5, Sections 100-112.

Highway 43X and Range Road 63 Intersection – Council will write a letter to the Alberta Minister of Transportation acknowledging that the County is prepared to proceed with constructing a Right In / Right Out configuration at the intersection of Range Road 62 and the westbound lane of Highway 43X on the understanding that the need for the intersection will be reviewed if and when an overpass is constructed

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at the intersection of Range Road 63 and Highway 43X. This new intersection will allow traffic easier access to the Crosslink County Sportsplex and other businesses in the area.

Staff Introductions – Council welcomed Darcy Paterson to the County. Darcy will be working for the Communications department as a seasonal communications officer.

Balderston Area Structure Plan Funding – Council approved \$2.5 million in funding to assist in the construction of a pressurized water line from within the Hamlet of Clairmont to the development site east of Clairmont along Hwy. 43 and Rge Rd 51 and 52. Council also directed Administration to bring back funding options to the next Council meeting. The County expects to recover the investment over time through future development fees.

County Contributions – Council approved the contribution of a \$150 silent auction item to the M.D of Opportunity's STARS Charity Golf Tournament taking place on July 15, 2015. Proceeds raised at the tournament will go towards STARS in providing specialized emergency medical transport for the critically ill and injured.

Council approved the contribution of \$100 to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference. The funds raised at the conference will go towards education and programs that support and encourage women to get involved in local politics and leadership.

Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region Update – Holly Sorgen, Executive Director of Community Futures Grande Prairie & Region provided Council with an update on the organization and provided

information regarding a potential investment opportunity for the County and other shareholders. Community Futures is an Economic Development organizations operation in the region since 1986 focused on business development, training, advice, coaching and financing

NW Clairmont Area Structure Plan – Council awarded the Request for Proposal for the NW Clairmont Area Structure Plan to WSP for \$98,742.

Next Council meeting will take place on May 11, 2015.

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