

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

February 23, 2015

Regional Enforcement Services Year-End Report – Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, Stuart Rempel; Sergeant Stuart Fry; RCMP Corporal Jason McFarlane; and RCMP Staff Sergeant Kyle Palfy presented Council the 2014 year-end reports for the County's Regional Enforcement Services, RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit, and RCMP Grande Prairie Rural Detachments.

RCMP Staff Sergeant Kyle Palfy was introduced to Council as the non-commissioned officer in charge of both Grande Prairie and Beaverlodge RCMP Detachments; and, RCMP Sergeant Carolin Respet as the new detachment commander for the Beaverlodge RCMP detachment.

Regional Enforcement Services Report – A total of 2,654 violation tickets were issued in 2014 of which 90.5 per cent were traffic safety related. Approximately 1,764 complaints were received and investigated.

Traffic safety and road/infrastructure protection, adhering to road safety, parking, unsightly premises, snow removal, regulatory municipal bylaws, animal control, community safety, special events coordination, and traffic safety and crime prevention will remain as Regional Enforcement Services main priorities.

RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit – A total of 552 traffic violation tickets were issued in 2014, this is an 18 per cent decrease from 2013.

The unit will focus more on a number of infractions such as impaired driving, speeding, seatbelts, school zones, distracted driving, and intersection related infractions.

Regional Enforcement Services remained active in delivering several crime prevention initiatives such as special events coordinating, various patrols, Checkstops, Rural Crime Watch, and Report-A Drug House; and traffic safety programs and presentations to various groups, schools, and communities throughout the County such as DARE, Bike safety, Detachment Tours, Internet Safety, Bullying, and Cyberbullying.

Wildfire Mitigation Strategy – Jerry Bauer, FireSmart project consultant presented the draft plan for the wildfire mitigation strategy to Council. The wildfire mitigation strategy is a formal plan that outlines strategies to minimize the risk of wildfires on crown land and land within the County. This plan recommends public education, communications and close partnerships with all main stakeholders including AESRD, private landowners, community groups, businesses, the City of Grande Prairie and other neighbouring municipalities to apply FireSmart tactics to reduce the risk of wildfire, or if there is a wildfire, to reduce the risk of loss of life and damage to infrastructure. Areas where the wildfire mitigation strategy will emphasize on are south of Grande Prairie (specifically Wapiti Sand Dunes).

Council directed administration to make changes to the draft plan to address additional areas of the County and a revised draft be brought back to a later Council meeting for review.

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Public Works Division 2014 Report – Dale Van Volkingburgh, Director of Public Works presented the 2014 report on the Public Works Division to Council. The report included a progress report on the success of various waste and recycling management programs, services and events available to residents and the public including the annual recycling round-up that is held in May each year; Clairmont Spring Clean Up which is held in May; bottle donation program, annual roadside cleanup; recycle bin locations; and more. Information about resources and industry such as amount of drilling and service rig moves, well and pipeline consent, wells and pipelines in progress, and drill rigs presently in the County was also presented. As well, operations information including snow removal and maintenance and spring road maintenance was provided.

Clairmont and Dunes Fire Station Equipment Funding – Council approved \$41,955,60 of funding to purchase replacement equipment for the Clairmont and Dunes Fire Stations including new bunker gear and slash resistant/ballistics vests. Funding will come out of the Clairmont and Dunes fire station operating reserve.

Fire Guardians – Council approved the appointment of 31 fire guardians to assist the County with issuing Fire Permits during the 2015 fire season as well as educating and informing residents on safe burning practices.

Letter to Aboriginal Affairs – Council approved the motion to write a letter to Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and include Premier Jim Prentice, MP Chris Warkentin and local MLAs Everett McDonald and Honourable Wayne Drysdale, requesting consideration

of financial support for firefighters and First Responders who are working with and responding to fires on First Nations communities.

Sponsorships/contributions – Council approved the contribution of \$5,000 to be platinum sponsors for the 10th annual Bezanson Firemen's Ball. Proceeds raised from the firemen's ball will go towards phase three of the community skating rink project.

During phase three of the project, the Bezanson Fire Department will be installing a roof structure over the rink to reduce the work involved with shoveling and general maintenance.

Council approved the contribution of \$3,000 to be silver sponsors for the Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) Northwest Regional Skills Canada Competition, which will be taking place on April 23-24, 2015 at GPRC. Skills Canada Competitions feature the talents of Alberta's trade and technology students. Regional Skills Canada Competitions (RSCC) connects students to local post-secondary and industry leaders. By taking their skills out of the traditional classroom setting, students gain an appreciation for where their skills can take them, and are encouraged to reach for their personal best.

Grande Prairie Stompede – Council made a motion to write a letter to the Grande Prairie Stompede committee requesting that they recognize the County of Grande Prairie as a safety sponsor due to the County providing overtime RCMP services free-of-charge for the Stompede.

Recreation Advisory Committee – Council approved the motion to form a Recreation Advisory Committee comprised of all council members, the Parks & Recreation department.

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Volunteer Month Proclamation – Council proclaimed April as Volunteer Month in the County of Grande Prairie. There will be a proclamation read at the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards and National Volunteer Week Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon being held on Friday, April 17, 2015 at the People's Church Auditorium in Grande Prairie.

Invitation to Alberta Human Services Minister – Council made a motion to invite Alberta Health Minister Heather Klimchuk to tour the County's FCSS to increase awareness of what FCSS does in rural Alberta.

Letter to Alberta Special Olympics Winter Games committee – Council made a motion to write a letter to the Alberta Special Olympics Winter Games chair and committee congratulating and thanking them for the wonderful job done with organizing and hosting the Winter Games that took place in the Grande Prairie Region on February 20-22, 2015.

Bear Hill Property Site – Council directed Administration bring back more info on the costs for bringing power in to the County's Bear Hill property site for Council consideration at a later Council date.

Equipment Purchases – Council approved the RFP for the purchase of a new D7R Crawler Tractor or equivalent model to Finning Canada for \$655,000, which will replace an existing unit that is being removed from service.

University of Alberta Professorship Opportunity – Council made the motion to enter into an agreement with the University of Alberta in principle, subject to the negotiation of a successful contract; for the employment of a qualified palaeontologist for the Philip J. Currie Museum. Funding sources will be determined at a future Council meeting. In order to store, display or research fossils, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum must employ a qualified palaeontologist.

Next Council meeting will take place on March 9, 2015.

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