

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

March 30, 2015

Beaverlodge Recreation Centre Funding Request – Town of Beaverlodge Mayor Leona Hanson and CAO Chris Parker presented the Beaverlodge Recreation Centre’s operating budget for 2015. To offset the projected deficit, the Town requested additional funding for operating assistance from the County from \$185,000 to \$237,000 for 2015. Council deferred the request to final budget discussions in April.

Beaverlodge FCSS Requests– Town of Beaverlodge Mayor Leona Hanson and CAO Chris Parker requested \$55,000 for the Town of Beaverlodge’s Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). The funding will help offset the loss of a provincial grant in 2015. Council deferred this request to final budget discussions in April.

Council approved the motion to extend the FCSS contract with the Town of Beaverlodge to June 30, 2015 to allow further discussions on services.

Five Mile Hall Funding Request – Council approved the emergency funding request from the Five Mile Community Agriculture Society for \$50,000 for a new water treatment system, storage and additional storage for the Five Mile Hall to meet the needs of users.

Regional Fire Service Year-End Report –Fire Chief Everett Cooke; Deputy Fire Chief of Urban Operations Trevor Grant; Deputy Fire Chief of Rural Operations Dan Verdun; and Fire Marshal Ken Atamanchuk presented Council the 2014 year-end report. Fire prevention; education; regional partnerships for elevated training; mutual aid agreements; technical search and rescue; emergency preparedness; along with

continuous training in all stations remains a priority for the service. The service responded to 1,369 calls which is an increase of 144 calls from 2013. Of these responses, 555 were medical co-responses. A total of 1,745 fire permits were issued in 2014.

Fire Prevention – In 2014, the Fire Marshal conducted 54 inspections and conducted 96 investigations. The Fire Prevention Branch delivered the “Learn Not To Burn” program to 11 schools in the County, as well, attended many events including RV and trade shows; the Peace Country Agriculture Show; music festivals; rodeos and stompede; 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. Over 25 truck and trailer loads of chipped wood was collected.

Urban Operations – Staff from the Clairmont and Dunes stations continued to provide several fire prevention and education programs, attend community events, training, and respond to calls.

Rural Operations – Rural stations responded to a record amount of calls: Bezanson Fire Station 97, LaGlace Fire Station 70 and Teepee Creek Fire Station 25.

Bezanson Station – remains committed to firefighter and medical co-response training. They participated in a number of fundraising events; and hosted fire prevention education programs

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LaGlace Station – kept busy with calls, training and special events. They hosted numerous fire prevention programs and special events including Learn Not to Burn, bicycle safety, community education night, Station Open House.

Teepee Creek Station – remained committed to growing and development their team and services. The station focused on training.

Township Road 750 Tender – Council awarded the tender for the grade, base and pavement work to be completed on Township Road 750 to Knelsen Sand & Gravel Suppliers for \$3,634,441.09.

Sponsorships – Council approved the contribution of \$7,500 for the Community Foundation for the County of Grande Prairie Firefighters. The Community Foundation for the County of Grande Prairie Firefighters is a non-profit group comprised of County Regional Fire Service members with a goal of helping and being actively involved in the community. They provide service and support and help fundraise for various community organizations, charitable functions and regional events. The funds will be used to assist the foundation with advertising and purchasing promotional items for fundraising events.

Council approved the sponsorship of \$1,250 for the Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) Classic taking place on June 5, 2015. Funds raised at the event will be going towards supporting athletics and increase scholarships at GPRC.

Council approved the contribution of \$150 silent auction item for the Women Investing in Literacy and Leadership Luncheon taking place on May 4, 2015 at the Pomeroy Hotel. The purpose of the luncheon is to provide local female students with the opportunity to network with key role models in our community including guest speaker Meaghan Mikkelson of the Canadian Women's National Hockey Team.

Council approved the contribution of \$500 to Teepee Creek School for the Destination Imagination Group trip to Vancouver. Destination Imagination is a non-profit, volunteer led organization which helps students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. Six students from Teepee Creek School will be going to Vancouver to compete in various challenges which allow them to learn and experience the creative process from imagination to innovation.

Combative Sports Commission – Council appointed Shane Kessler as the County representative for the Combative Sports Commission.

Next Council meeting will take place on April 20, 2015.

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