

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

May 25, 2015

2015 Operating Assistance Grants – Council approved recommendations brought forward by six community recreation boards to distribute a total of \$739,293 in operating assistance grants allocated to 49 local non-profit organizations and 29 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. See news release, **County Distributes Operating Assistance Grants to 78 Groups**, at <http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EN/meta/whats-new/latest-news.html>

Cemetery Improvement Grants – Council approved the cemetery improvement grants for 2015 in the amount of \$22,187. These funds assist local groups with improvements to cemeteries located within the County. The following cemeteries will receive grants:

- \$5,000- Hythe Cemetery- construct gazebo
- \$5,000- Riverview Cemetery- cover costs of supplies and labour to assist with brushing, digging roots and spraying
- \$4,600- Teepee Creek Cemetery- survey and mark additional plots
- \$3,700- Emerson Trail Cemetery- paint fence, repair sunken graves and weed control
- \$2,314- St. Patrick's Cemetery- cover costs of shed, tools and grass seed
- \$1,572- Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery- cover cost of one headstone for adult grave

Fire Service Exemplary Medal – Council and staff congratulated Stuart Rempel, Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services,

who has a background in firefighting, for receiving a Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal at the opening ceremonies of the 2015 Alberta Fire Chiefs Association Conference in Red Deer on May 24, 2015. The Exemplary Service Medal acknowledges firefighters for their outstanding contribution to public safety. See news release, **County's Stuart Rempel Receives Exemplary Service Medal** at <http://www.countygp.ab.ca/EN/meta/whats-new/latest-news.html>.

Regional Enforcement Services First Quarter Report – Superintendent of Regional Enforcement Services, Stuart Rempel; Sergeant Dave Campbell; RCMP Corporal Jason McFarlane; and RCMP Staff Sergeant Kyle Palfy presented Council the 2015 first quarter report for the County's Regional Enforcement Services, RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit, and RCMP Grande Prairie & Beaverlodge Rural Detachments. As well, RCMP Constable Daniel Hine was introduced to Council as the new enhanced policing member replacing Cst. Gabby Martin who is leaving the unit to go onto maternity leave. RCMP Superintendent Ray Noble and Inspector Don McKenna attended to provide additional support and answer any questions Council had arising from the RCMP report.

Regional Enforcement Services Report – From January to March 2015, a total of 621 violation tickets were issued as opposed to 606 in 2014.

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

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RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit – A total of 144 traffic violation tickets were issued in the first quarter of 2015.

The majority of the RCMP Enhanced Policing Unit's time in the first quarter was spent delivering DARE to regional schools. Second quarter will focus on special events policing as well as as impaired driving, speeding, seatbelts, school zones, distracted driving, and intersection related infractions.

Regional Enforcement Services remains active in delivering several crime prevention initiatives such as special events coordinating, various patrols, Checkstops, Rural Crime Watch, and Report-A Drug House; seasonal parks patrol; 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.

Baseball Diamond for Crosslink County Sportsplex – Council approved the motion to convert the rugby fields at the Crosslink County Sportsplex into a senior baseball diamond at a cost of \$88,850.

Intermunicipal Service Integration – Council approved the motion to accept the Town of Beaverlodge's offer to participate in reviewing and evaluating a range of service integration models along with the Town of Wembley and Village of Hythe.

Council also directed administration to arrange a meeting with the towns of Beaverlodge and Wembley, and Village of Hythe to discuss the various intermunicipal service integration models.

Staff introductions – County council and staff welcomed several new and returning seasonal staff, summer students and fulltime staff to the County and the Public Works Division. Paydon Zenner, Jeff Ball, Vernon Nilsson, Henry Wanotch and Lavern Robideau will be working for the SPOT Construction crew; Devon Stark and Gerald Huppe as area grader operators; Chris Bain, Landis Eastman, Phil Marcy, Warren Wageman and Lester Hambler as seasonal equipment operators; and Jennifer Besinger, Christine Harris and Aallyah Rowland for Environmental Services.

Bylaw 2680-15-028 – Council gave Bylaw 2680-15-028 third reading. This will allow the land located on Lot B, Plan 882 0528; Pt. N1/2-27-72-10-W6M to be labelled as a Beaverlodge Airport- Direct Control (BA-DC) District; and redesignated from Agricultural (AG) District to Beaverlodge Airport –Direct Control (BA-DC) District to allow for use of the property as per the BA-DC District.

Encana Synergy Group Update – Mike Forgo, Encana Senior Manager provided Council with a yearly update on Encana's activities within the County. The update included information about their strategic growth assets, development highlights, the responsible development of water management, safety and community relations, as well as information on a proposed synergy group in the Wembley area.

Renata Project Presentation – Ben Gray of the Renata Project presented urban development suggestions to be included in the Clairmont Heights Area Structure Plan. This plan proposes high density residential and commercial development, a regional rail system,

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spacious residential properties, and plenty of space for parks and greenspace.

Economic Development Update – Chris King, Economic Development Manager provided Council with an update on Economic Development in the County. As well, Caitlyn Barbutza and Tyler Vant Erve were introduced to Council. Caitlyn is the new economic development officer/ planning clerk; and Tyler is the new economic development summer student.

Updates included information on the recent conferences the team has attended; recent completion of the County’s Retail Gap Analysis; Clairmont Heights development progress; results from the Growing the North Conference; Tour of Alberta; Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum; proposed business retention and expansion program; and current economic trends in the County.

Range Road 82 Tender Award – Council awarded the tender for the grading, basing and paving of Range Road 82 (Pipestone Road) to Knelsen Sand & Gravel for \$2,564,454.56.

Hamlet of La Glace Proposed Bus Lane – Council approved the motion to construct a school bus lane within the Hamlet of La Glace adjacent to and east of the school. This will provide a new student drop off location providing safer conditions for these students entering and leaving the buses.

Letter of support – Council will write a letter of support to the Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities for their redesignation as a safe community to reduce injuries.

Letter of congratulations – Council will write a letter congratulating Premier Rachel Notley and her Cabinet on their recent swearing in.

Letter of thank-you – Council will write a letter of thank you to former MLAs in the northern zone for their commitment to all Albertans.

Meeting with Premier and New Cabinet members– Council approved the motion to contact the province to set up meetings with Premier Notley and new members of the Cabinet.

Next Council meeting will take place on June 1, 2015.

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