

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

April 3, 2017

2017 Municipal Election –The 2017 Municipal Election for the County of Grande Prairie will take place on Monday, October 16, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Advanced Voting on October 7 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Council appointed Sheryle Runhart as Returning Officer and Amanda Westwater, Megan McCormick and Tatiana Catana as Deputy Returning Officers for the election.

Council approved the motion to have two deputy returning officers travel to voters places of residence to take incapacitated elector votes during the hours and dates the advanced voting stations are open.

Locations of the Election Day, Advanced, and Institutional voting stations will be posted on www.countygp.ab.ca/election once they are fully confirmed.

100 Years of Farming Program – Council approved the motion to make changes to the 100 Years of Farming Recognition Program. The program will formally recognize farm families from the County that have been farming for 100 years or longer. Two different awards will be given out on an annual basis– the Heritage Homestead Award, which focuses on the achievement of maintaining the homestead quarter within the family through the generations; and the Pioneer Farming Family Award, which recognizes 100 years of residing and farming within the County.

Fire Hall Review – Fire Chief Trevor Grant and Deputy Fire Chief Dan Verdun presented findings in the Fire Hall Review to Council. The Fire

Review includes building upgrades and apparatus replacements required from highest to lowest priority over the next 25 years.

Upgrades to the Dunes Fire Hall totaling approx. \$650,000 was identified as a high priority item in the review. Council made a motion to forward this item to 2017 final budget for consideration.

Cemetery Improvement Grant Program Extension – Council made a motion to extend the Cemetery Improvement Grant application deadline to April 30, 2017.

GP Networks Connect to Innovate Presentation – Kobus De Jager, GP Networks CEO and Business Manager made a presentation on the Connect to Innovate Program to Council as well as requested a letter of support to aid them in seeking financial support through the Government of Canada’s Connect to Innovate (CTI) Grant Program. GP Networks is aiming to expand fibre optics (high-speed internet) infrastructure to various rural and remote areas of the County of Grande Prairie. Council will write a letter of support.

United Way Alberta Northwest 211 Program – Brenda Yamkowsky, United Way Alberta Northwest Executive Director requested financial support to start up the new 211 Program. The 211 Program would be a 24/7 phone service to connect callers to a range of social, health, community and government services. 211 would be a joint project with United Way, the County and City of Grande Prairie, MD of Greenview and possibly Swan City Rotary Club. Council made a motion to discuss this program with other potential partners and bring back the information to final budget for consideration.

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Sponsorships – Council approved the following contributions:

- Gift in kind sponsorship valued at \$16,000 for the Grande Prairie Stompede for Enhanced RCMP Policing services
- \$3,000 sponsorship for the Skills Canada event
- \$1,500 sponsorship for the Hospital Bed Races event
- \$1,423 sponsorship for the South Peace Centennial Museum's 50th Anniversary Pancake Breakfast
- \$1,275 sponsorship for the Provincial High School Rodeo Finals being held at Evergreen Park
- \$1,250 sponsorship for the GPRC College Classic
- \$150 silent auction item for the GPRC President's Ball

2017 Road Project Tenders – Council awarded the following road projects to the following contractors:

- Base and pave Lakeview Estates to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$913,739.
- Overlay Wedgewood Phase II to Wapiti Gravel Suppliers for \$299,976.

The complete list of 2017 Road Construction projects can be viewed at www.countygp.ab.ca/roadconstruction.

Next Council meeting will take place on April 10, 2017.

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