Whispering Ridge Proposed Crosswalks – Council approved the construction of a crosswalk at 156 Avenue and 104 Street, a trail to connect to the existing trail network, and a crosswalk where the trail crosses 154 Avenue, to address high traffic volumes and pedestrian traffic near the Whispering Ridge School in Clairmont at an estimated cost of $22,458. Both crossings will consist of crosswalk road paint and non-flashing signs until the Public Works department and Peace Wapiti School Division can analyze if flashing crosswalk signs will be required.

Sponsorships – Council approved the following contributions to community groups:

- A maximum sponsorship of $15,000 as well as $5,000 for shuttle bus services for the Bear Creek Folk Festival, which will be taking place on August 17-19, 2018 at Muskoseepi Park in Grande Prairie
- A $5,000 sponsorship for the Grande Prairie Children’s Festival taking place May 23-24, 2018 at various venues in Grande Prairie
- A $2,000 sponsorship for the Northwest Regional Skills Canada competition on April 19, 2018 at the Grande Prairie Regional College
- A $1,500 sponsorship for the Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern Alberta and Kids With Cancer Society’s Fight For Hope fundraiser taking place on April 28, 2018 at the Crosslink County Sportsplex
- A $500 sponsorship for the Beaverlodge and Area Volunteer Awards of Recognition Dinner held by the Beaverlodge Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) on April 19, 2018 at the Beaverlodge Community Centre
- A silent auction item for the ATB Financial Teddy for a Toonie Auction fundraising campaign

Kleskun Hill Museum Society Funding Request – Council approved Kleskun Hill Museum Society’s request to provide $14,240 in funding to aid the group in hiring seasonal staff for the museum to offer tours, programming and manage the museum’s assets on a one-year pilot basis. Council will also write a letter of support for the Society’s application for the provincial government’s Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP) to help fund these seasonal staff positions.

Bezanson and Area Historic School Signs – Council will write a letter of support for the Kleskun Hill Museum Society’s application for the provincial government’s Community Initiatives Program (CIP) grant for signs to be developed for 11 sites of former one-room schools in the Bezanson and surrounding area. Council will also provide gift-in-kind services to assist with the installation of these signs if the Society’s CIP application is successful.

Grande Prairie Legion Branch 54 – Council approved a donation of two County flags for the Grande Prairie Legion Branch 54.

County Campground Fees – Council approved a five to 20 per cent discount be applied to fees for group bookings of individual campsites at all County campgrounds as an incentive to increase campground
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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occupancy. Council also approved an increase in fees for overnight camping to help offset rising operational expenses for septic system maintenance, garbage removal, firewood costs and general upkeep. The camping fees for 2018 will be as follows:

- Bear Lake Campground non-powered individual sites - $26 per night
- Demmitt Campground non-powered individual sites - $20 per night
- Hommy Campground individual powered sites - $36 per night
- Kleskun Hill Campground non-powered individual sites - $26 per night
- Pipestone Creek Campground
  - Individual sites - $26 per night
  - Powered individual sites - $36 night
  - Powered group site - $300 per night
  - Non-powered group site - $125 night

For more information, visit www.countygp.ab.ca/campgrounds.

Bylaws – Council gave Bylaw 3085 third reading to amend Bylaw 2896 in relation to the Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP) between the County of Grande Prairie and City of Grande Prairie. The reference to the short-term annexation area will be removed and the City boundary will be adjusted to reflect the current municipal boundary.

Council gave Bylaw 3089 third reading to update Bylaw 2456 to incorporate new legislation under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and to designate the FOIP heads for the County.

Tenders – Council awarded the following road and infrastructure project tenders:

- Range Road 121 grade, base and pave; and Rio Grande Community Hall parking lot paving to Knelsen Sand & Gravel Ltd. for $2,082,740
- Replacement of BF.81171 culvert to Cox Contractors for $607,492
- Range Road 51 and the Township Road 704A/Resources Road Hill chip sealed to West-Can Seal Coating Inc. for $254,207

Employee Introductions – Council and staff welcomed new employees Cherie-Ann Milroy, Lori Grant, Fran Pedersen, Miranda Copeland and Tara Simard to the County.

Cherie-Ann will be working for the Parks and Recreation department as the Park Host for Bear Lake Campground; Lori as a Temporary Safety Coordinator, Fran Pedersen as a Human Resources Advisor and Miranda as a Payroll Clerk for the Human Resources and Payroll department; and Tara as an Administrative Assistant for the Public Works Division.

2018 Final Budget meetings will take place April 12-13, 2018.

Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on April 16, 2018.