

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

**April 27, 2020**

**Regional Enforcement Services Year-End Report** – Regional Enforcement Services Manager Stuart Rempel presented a report of the department’s activities in 2019.

From 2018 to 2019, tickets given out increased from 3,468 to 4,353 with 90% of charges related to traffic safety.

*Regional Animal Care Facility* – Animal intakes increased at the Pound to 1,213 from 1,140 in 2018. Intakes and adoptions at the Animal Care Facility decreased from 705 to 631, and 202 to 187, respectively.

**Commercial Vehicle Inspection Pilot Program** – Council approved that Regional Enforcement Services continue the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Inspection Program. The program is focused on inspecting, educating and enforcing the safety of hundreds of commercial vehicles travel through the County daily.

In December 2018, Council approved the CVSA one-year Pilot Program. During 2019, 1,684 commercial vehicle violations were identified and addressed through the program resulting in 136 vehicles failing and being placed out of service.

**Enhanced Authority for Peace Officers** – Council directed Administration to apply to the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General for County Peace Officers to have jurisdiction on single and double-digit numbered highways, as well as on unoccupied public lands.

Currently, Officers have jurisdiction on triple-digit numbered highways and County roads. Expanding the authority of County Peace Officers supports community safety and security, and the effectiveness of our

transportation network. Traffic patrol will remain focused on County infrastructure, with numbered highways being secondary.

**Request from Evergreen Park** – Council will continue to support the payroll needs of existing employees at the Grande Prairie Regional Agricultural and Exhibition Society until August 31, 2020. By that date, the Society will report on their efforts to identify alternate sources of funding so Council can discuss the total funding required and potential repayment. Council directed Administration to research and present options for funding at a future meeting.

The County has allocated \$414,000 in annual operational funding to the Society for 2020, which is partially allocated to payroll expenses. Since the facility has cancelled all events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, alternate sources of revenue are being explored.

**Whispering Ridge Area Structure Plan** – Council gave first reading to Bylaw 3135 to allow for a public hearing to be scheduled. The plan includes 65 hectares of land located within NW-2-72-6-W6 referred to as the second phase of the Whispering Ridge subdivision in the Hamlet of Clairmont.

**Traffic Congestion Locations** – Council approved Administration proceed with investigating 27 intersections identified as congested. Administration will install electronic traffic counters and complete site inspections. Tree clearing is approved for 48 different intersections to maintain sight distances required by the Province. The total cost of the project is just under \$300,000 and is scheduled for 2021.

**Line Painting and Crack Sealing** – Council awarded the 2020 contract to supply road pavement marking and crack-sealing application to Alberta Parking Lot Services for a cost not to exceed \$608,223.

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**Animal Waste** – Council direct Administration to engage Alberta Environment and Alberta Ag and Forestry to investigate the cost, timeline, and possible reimbursement for the disposal of larger animals. As well, Administration will contact Aquatera to inquire if they accept, hides, offals, etc.

**Bylaws** – Council approved Bylaw 3137 and Bylaw 3138 in relation to the 2020 Tax Bylaw and Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw.

**Aquatera Board of Directors** – Council supported the Aquatera Board of Directors' recommendation to appoint Jim Smith as Chair of the Aquatera Board and reaffirmed the County's commitment to reappoint Mary Bulmer for a three-year term and appoint Abe Neufeld to an additional one-year term, effective at the Annual Meeting in June 2020.

**27 Pay Period Earning Year** – Once every 11 years, the pay year will be comprised of 27 pay days instead of the more common 26 pay days. When this occurs, as it does for pay year 2020, salaried staff at the County will continue to receive their regular bi-weekly amount, plus one additional payment for the 27<sup>th</sup> pay day Friday. In 2020, the County will fund this additional pay period with savings experienced from routinely occurring vacancies throughout the year. Today Council approved setting of funds into a reserve to fund this additional pay period in the future.

**Request to Waive Rent** – With childcare services being suspended in March 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Council approved a request from the YMCA of Northern Alberta to waive their lease payments at the Wellington Resource Centre of \$3,000 per month until operations can resume.

**Medical Clinic in Town of Wembley Request** – Council will reply to a letter of request from a local physician for financial support to establish a medical clinic in the Town of Wembley. As clinics are privately operated businesses, the physician will be referred to support available through the Physician Recruitment and Retention Policy.

**Advancing Shovel Ready Infrastructure Projects** – In addition to previously identified projects during April 16 and 17 Budget meeting, Council will advance the proposed flyover for Range Road 62 over Highway 43X, including a pedestrian and non-vehicle traffic crossing, to the Provincial Government as a shovel-ready infrastructure project.

## Appointments

Council appointed Reeve Beaupre and Councillor Beeston to join the Clairmont Arena and Community Hall Community Needs Assessment Steering Committee. The Committee is being established as part of the Community Needs Assessment for the Clairmont Arena and Community Hall, approved by Council in March 2020.

Council appointed Sarah Erb to the Grande Prairie Area Recreation Board for a four-year term from April 2020 until the October 2023 County Organizational Meeting. Recreation Boards with vacancies will be advertised in time for appointments at October 2020 County Organizational Meeting.

## Committee Meetings

Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) Meetings scheduled for April 28 and May 12 are cancelled due to lack of pressing applications to be addressed and to allow the County time to establish a virtual meeting system that will accommodate public participation.

A Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2020.

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**Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on May 11, 2020.**

A Special Council Meeting to discuss Economic Stimulus Projects is scheduled for May 5.

Council meetings can be accessed electronically through the events calendar on the County website.

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