

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



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

**February 24, 2020**

**Aquatera Rate Subsidy for 2020** – Council approved \$200,000 to subsidize water and wastewater rates for 2020 in the Hamlet of Clairmont. This will lower water and wastewater rates for County residents and businesses.

**Early Distribution of Grant for Hythe Community Hall** – Council approved a request from the Hythe & District Recreational Society to release a 2020 Major Capital Grant for \$40,000, with the understanding that the repair work aligns with recommendations from the recent engineering report. Council awarded the grant in Interim Budget Deliberations, pending the engineering report. Major Capital Grants are typically distributed by July.

**Beaverlodge RCMP Update** – Beaverlodge RCMP reported a significant increase in property crimes such as theft of motor vehicles in 2019. There was a 10 per cent decrease in theft under \$5,000. The County of Grande Prairie recently funded two more RCMP Enhanced Policing members who will work out of the Beaverlodge RCMP detachment. The officers will focus on crime reduction in the West County, allowing our existing enhanced policing officers to concentrate on crime reduction in the remaining areas of the County. This will bring the amount of RCMP Enhanced Policing positions the County funds to eight. The Soaring Eagles Aboriginal Youth Camp is accepting applications for a camp for students to explore policing as a career.

**Grande Prairie RCMP Update** – Lyle Gelinis, RCMP Superintendent and Rhonda Blackmore, District Commander for the RCMP's Western Alberta District outlined the crime reduction strategy.

**2020 Fire Guardians** – Council approved the appointment of this year's fire guardians to assist the County with issuing Fire Permits during the 2020 fire season, as well as educating and informing residents on safe burning practices. Contact information for this year's fire guardians will be available by the end of the week at [www.countygp.ab.ca/fireguardians](http://www.countygp.ab.ca/fireguardians).

**Caribou Task Force** – Paul McLauchlin, member of the West Central Sub-Regional Caribou Task Force, presented Council with an update and listened to input for the plan. In August 2019, the province created three caribou sub-regional task forces that will advise government on land-use planning at a local scale, including caribou recovery actions. Sub-regional plans will be built on a foundation of science and socio-economic assessments, which help the province to understand how subregional plans work within local and regional economies.

## Bylaws

**Dunes & Tamarack Estates** – Council approved Bylaw 3126 which adds an additional two parcels to the Dunes and Tamarack Estates Local Improvement. The addition of the two parcels spreads the cost of the local improvement over more parcels reducing the cost to residents in the subdivision.

**Regional Emergency Management** – Council passed Bylaw 3133 due to new requirements in the Alberta Emergency Management Act.

**Borrowing Bylaws** – Council passed the bylaw to purchase 273.71 acres of land with the intent to sell it to the company, Nautical for industrial development. Council gave Borrowing Bylaw to fund the 156 Avenue Storm Drainage installation project with long term debt.

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*Amended Road Use Agreement Bylaw* – Council gave first reading to Bylaw 3128 to update existing Bylaw 2986, adding definitions and amending wording.

## Policies

*Public Appointments to Boards and Committees* – Council approved Policy B30, which guides public appointments to County Boards and Committees.

*Cash Receipting* – Council approved Policy C1, to update the existing Cash Receipting policy with new wording, references and definitions.

*Public Access Tax Account Financial Information* – Council approved rescinding Policy C4 and approving Policy E9 to move this policy under the Assessment department, from the Finance department.

*Budget Development Policies* – Council approved rescinding Policies C9 – Operating Budget and C 17 – Capital Budget. Council approved Policy C31 – Budget Development to replace the previous policies with a comprehensive one.

## Tender Awards

*Road Maintenance* – Council awarded tenders for asphalt concrete pavement and repair work for sections of Range Road 73, Range Road 100, and Wedgewood Phase 3 to Knelsen Sand & Gravel Ltd. for \$1,234,628.53.

*County Vehicles* – Council awarded a tender for the supply and delivery of five new County vehicles to Doug Marshall Motor City for \$193,497.

**Agreement with the YMCA** – Council will renew an agreement with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to operate a childcare program from the Wellington Resource Centre at the cost of \$36,000 per year over five years.

**Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership** – Program Coordinator Jennifer Wood provided an update on GPREP activities in 2019 and priorities for 2020 such as recruitment and training. GPREP is a regional emergency management partnership between six municipalities to prepare for and respond to large emergencies and disasters.

**Municipal Reserve Land** – Administration reported to Council the location and value of all County-owned vacant Municipal Reserve land. Council directed the County Finance Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

**Public Hearings** – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-20-003 to redesignate 0.137 acres of land located within the Hamlet of Clairmont, adjacent to 102 Avenue from a Rural Residential Mixed (RR-4) District to a General Commercial (GC) District to facilitate the consolidation of lots and possible future expansion. Council gave the bylaw three readings.

Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 2680-20-004 to redesignate 10.00 acres of land located 2.5 miles west of the Hamlet of Webster, adjacent to Range Road 55 from an Agricultural (AG) District to a Country Residential (CR-5) District to facilitate the subdivision of one lot for country residential use. Council gave the bylaw three readings.

## Sponsorship Requests

*North West Regional Skills Canada Competition* - Council approved the contribution of \$2,000 (bronze level) to this year's Northwest Regional Skills Canada Competition on April 23 & 24. The event showcases the talents of today's youth in trades and technology.

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**Janitorial Services** – Council approved bringing janitorial services in-house once the current contract for service expires in September.

## Council Invitations

*Discuss Aquatera* – Council accepted an invitation from the City of Grande Prairie to meet with officials, as well as the Town of Sexsmith and Aquatera to discuss existing agreements. The County will request the meetings take place late this year or early 2021.

*Business Retention and Expansion International Conference* – Council is invited to attend the Business Retention and Expansion International Conference taking place in Grande Prairie from June 17 – 19, 2020.

*AUMA Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus* – Council is invited to attend the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Spring Municipal Leaders' Caucus on March 25 – 26, 2020 in Edmonton.

**Committee of the Whole** – Council supported replacing the individual Finance, Public Works, and Recreation Advisory committees with one Committee of the Whole, which will meet monthly. Council directed Administration to revise the existing Committee Procedural Bylaw, to be presented at a future Council meeting.

**Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Rescheduled** – The Recreation Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for June 18, 2020 was rescheduled to May 27, 2020.

## Appointments

*Staff Appointed as Development Officers* – Three staff members from the Planning and Development Services Department, Planning Compliance Officers Josh Barrett and April Dunn, as well as Senior

Planning Stuart Wraight have been appointed as Development Officers, as per the Land Use Bylaw.

*Assessment Review Board Public Members* – Council appointed the following individuals to the Joint Assessment Review Board with the towns of Wembley, Sexsmith, Beaverlodge and the Village of Hythe: Darren Maki for a one-year term, Karen McGriskin for a two-year term, and Vern Moore for a three-year term.

**Next Regular Council Meeting will take place on March 9, 2020.**

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