



Media Release – For Immediate Release Monday, March 9, 2020

County to work with Clairmont and District Agricultural Society on needs assessment for arena and community hall

After discussing all the options during the March 9, 2020, Council meeting, County of Grande Prairie Council has determined the most appropriate next step for the Clairmont Arena and Community Hall is to conduct a community needs assessment before committing any further funding to the facilities.

“We appreciate the challenges the Clairmont and District Agricultural Society has been facing with respect to the arena and the hall,” said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “Council has reviewed the estimated costs for both facilities, which are significant, especially for the arena. The most practical decision at this time would be to work with the Society in conducting a community needs assessment to better understand the existing and potential future roles of these facilities in our region to help us determine the appropriate level of investment to address those needs.”

On December 3, 2019, the County of Grande Prairie was notified by the Clairmont & District Agricultural Society that they have had to close their arena until further notice. The Society, which owns and operates the facility, made the decision to close the arena due to potential safety concerns caused by what was suspected to be a leaky roof. On December 9, County Council approved funding in the sum of \$9,850 to Spa Engineering to complete engineering and environmental studies on the arena, in addition to a study done on the hall in October 2019. Estimated costs to bring the hall up to safety standards are \$99,800, plus an additional \$700,000 to \$4.2 million for the arena.

“By engaging the public and community partners in a needs assessment, we will get a better understanding of how the Clairmont Arena and Community Hall fits in with the recreational needs for the community and how the Society would be best served in addressing those needs,” said Christine Rawlins, Parks and Recreation Manager.

County Council has directed Administration to partner with the Society to retain the services of a professional consultant to perform the needs assessment. The cost of the assessment and report will be covered by the portion of the County’s 2020 Operating Assistance funds allocated to the arena. A timeline for the assessment and report has not yet been established.

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