

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS November 28, 2012

Keeping you informed of the services, business and development that affect YOU!

☐#1 2013 Interim Budget Approved – The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved an \$84.3 million interim balanced budget. M.D. Council will pass the final 2013 budget in the spring, once the provincial government releases its Education Requisition. For interim budget purposes, tax estimates are based on the 2012 assessment and mill rates. The 2013 estimated expenditures are funded by \$46.15 million in Taxes; \$4.16 million in Provincial Grants; \$11.61 million from General Revenues such as fees and partnership dollars and \$22.43 million in transfers from surplus (reserve funds from carried over projects and funds remaining from previous year's budgets).

Reeve Ed Rondeau says residents should be prepared to see an increase in road construction, road improvements and maintenance in 2013. Council has allocated \$31.1 million for Road Improvements/Construction, \$20.2 million for Gravel/Oil Road Maintenance and \$3.6 million for Public Works Equipment in the interim budget. “The additional crews that Council planned for in 2012 will be hired on in 2013. There will be two full crews doing rip and relay and oiling, a third crew will take advantage of existing equipment and work in coordination with the other crews, and there will be a new crew dedicated to repairing larger soft spots on roads.”

The 2013 budget emphasizes services to residents as the first priority Rondeau said. “M.D. residents are concerned about road improvements, maintaining our current rural infrastructure and community services such as recreation. Council will continue to fund the Senior's Transportation Grant for \$60,000. Playgrounds will be built at the Ethel Lake and Pelican Point Campgrounds for a cost of \$60,000. At Kinosoo Ridge, a Children's Snow Park will be constructed for \$20,000 and a new Chair Lift is estimated to cost \$1.5 million. Regional projects such as Landfill Operations at \$1.7 million; Regional Fire Training Centre at \$200,000; Bonnyville Centennial Centre at one million dollars and the Regional Community Development Agreement Grant for the Town of Bonnyville and the Village of Glendon at \$900,000 serve the needs of M.D. ratepayers. Council has also budgeted \$20,000 each for the Glendon, Bonnyville and Cold Lake Agricultural Societies.

Rondeau says the M.D. continues to be a good “regional citizen” by providing funding support for the Beaver River Regional Waste Management Commission, Regional Fire Authority, Bonnyville and District Family and Community Support Services and Cold Lake and District FCSS. “Council is committed to supporting the Regional Community Development Agreement as well as cost-sharing agreements for fire, ambulance, libraries, FCSS, airport and Part 9 Companies because these entities provide services to the residents of the whole region.”

Council will take a second look at the budget in early 2013, once the year-end is complete and assessment figures are tallied.

☐#2 VSI 2012 Funding Increased, But 2013 Coverage Decreased – Council agreed to provide a \$20,000 increase for the 2012 Veterinary Services Incorporated Program to cover a projected deficit. The total cost of the 2012 VSI program is approximately \$79,700. Council then voted to decrease the 2013 coverage provided by the M.D. to a

50/50 split with producers, rather than the current subsidization of 60 percent. Under the VSI Program livestock producers are provided a subsidy on difficult veterinary procedures such as caesarians, prolapsed uteruses and pregnancy testing. The VSI Program encourages farmers to use the services of local vets to help keep their livestock herd healthy.

□#3 Don't Pass School Buses When Red Lights Flashing – The Public Safety Department has received multiple complaints regarding vehicles on Range Road 473 (Wolf Lake Road) and the La Corey North Resource Road passing school buses when the red lights are flashing. Peace Officers are consistently patrolling both roads to hand out infraction tickets. The fine for passing a school bus with red flashing lights is \$402 and six demerit points. In one instance the Officer stopped a vehicle travelling 163 km/h in an 80 km/h zone. This infraction resulted in an automatic court appearance. The M.D. of Bonnyville urges drivers to watch out for school buses on all roadways and reminds drivers that Peace Officers are patrolling in all Wards.

□#4 Transportation and Utilities News – Winter weather has put a halt to work on the Gurneyville Road. In the spring the contractor will complete placing the gravel and then proceed with paving. In Fort Kent the contractor has completed the bottom lift on approximately half the project and the rest will be completed in the spring. The construction crew has completed the Hilda Lake landfill capping and is cleaning up road projects and equipment. The crew will be done for the season as of November 30. Council agreed to pay Northeast Municor a maximum of \$6,210 for three snow grooming maintenance passes in the 2012/13 winter. Each maintenance pass with the groomer on the 72 km of trail costs a total of \$1,035 per trip. Council approved road allowance variances for Enbridge, TransCanada Pipeline and for a ratepayer's natural gas pipeline.

□#5 Planning and Development Update – In the month of October, 45 development permits and 16 new residential building permits were issued in the M.D., with a year-to-date total of \$90,379,166.00. Year-to-date housing starts include 128 Single Family Dwellings and 20 Mobile Homes. Council passed Bylaw No. 1528 to close and lease a road allowance for Devon Canada at SE 13-63-8 W4M to control traffic through their lease site. Surrounding lease holders will have access to their land around the Devon site. Bylaw 1530, a Road Closure and Lease renewal at W of NW 13-61-5-W4M, was given final reading. First reading was given to Bylaw No. LU 515 to amend the Signature Estates Area Structure Plan at NW 9-61-5 W5M to add five residential lots and a religious assembly lot in lieu of one large high density lot. Council agreed to cost share 50/50 the Barreyre Lake Subdivision Highway 659 intersection improvements for a total cost of \$176,376.

□#6 Senior's Transportation Grant Approved – Council agreed to continue funding the Senior's Transportation Grant Program in 2013 with a budget of \$60,000. The program provides residents of the M.D., aged 65 or over, with financial assistance to assist with travel costs to medical appointments at a subsidized rate of .20 per km.

☐#7 **Funding Support** – Lessard Community Centre received its annual \$35,000 Operating Grant. Council approved a STARS Ambulance donation of \$5,400, which is equivalent to one air trip to and from Bonnyville. Council agreed to purchase two tables for the Bonnyville Health Centre Gala. Council purchased a \$200 table for the Fort Kent Senior’s Annual Christmas Party. Glendon School received a \$250 grant to attend Cross Country Provincials in Red Deer.

☐#8 **Briefs, Briefs, Briefs** –The M.D. has received a Tire Marshaling Grant of \$30,000 for construction of a collection pad at the La Corey landfill. Council agreed to provide half the estimated \$80,000 cost for an engineering and architectural study to put in additional washrooms on the east side of the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre field house with the stipulation that the Town of Bonnyville picks up the \$40,000 balance. Council did not support a 2013 five percent increase in funding for the regional Northern Lights Library System. The request must receive 2/3 approval from the NLLS members for the increase to be implemented.

For more information contact Diane Jenkinson, Marketing and Communications Manager at 780-826-3171. Our web site is a useful way to get the information you need. **Visit:** www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca.