

M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release July 31, 2013

M.D. amending Land Use Bylaw

The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council has given First Reading to Bylaw #LU 525 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to clarify that the installation and operation of municipal services, including road construction, solid waste management, utility installation, and maintenance, does not require a Development Permit as set out in Section 14 of the Bylaw.

Chief Administrative Officer Ryan Poole says the amendment to the Land Use Bylaw will allow the municipality to serve the public in a timely manner, rather than waiting for a lengthy period of time for a permit. “Without the amendment to the present Land Use Bylaw, the M.D. could possibly have to wait for two weeks to a month in order to do necessary infrastructure repairs. A permit would be required to stockpile gravel for a road repair, or to create a borrow pit to repair a water utility. The provincial court said that the way the present bylaw is worded the M.D. essentially has to get a permit for everything Public Works does, and that is not economically feasible.”

Poole emphasizes that the bylaw amendment will not impinge on residents’ land rights. “The amendment clarifies the wording of the present Land Use Bylaw. This same wording can be found in most municipal Land Use Bylaws across the province. Any major infrastructure change in the M.D., such as a landfill site or a building, would have to go through the public hearing process for input from residents.”

As always, residents with concerns about any development will still have the opportunity to bring those concerns forward to the municipality.

Poole acknowledges that the bylaw amendment is in response to a recent judgment handed down in provincial court. “The research done during the recent court case pointed out the need for clarification in the present bylaw. Administration realized that Public Works staff could be tied up for weeks in paperwork before necessary and immediate repairs could be done.”

The Public Hearing for Bylaw #LU 525 will take place on Wednesday, August 28 at 10:00 a.m.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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