

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS December 11, 2013

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

□#1 Council Passes 2014 Interim Budget – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved an \$83,235,766 interim balanced budget. M.D. Council will pass the final 2014 budget in the spring, once the provincial government releases its Education Requisition. For interim budget purposes, tax estimates are based on the 2013 assessment. The 2014 estimated expenditures are funded by \$51.87 million in Taxes, with a proposed one mill increase for Non-Residential; \$5.57 million in Provincial Grants; \$12.11 million from General Revenues such as fees and partnership dollars and \$13.69 million in transfers from surplus (reserve funds carried over from projects and funds remaining from previous years' budgets).

Road improvements and maintenance are still the highest priority for Council, but funds are also being allocated to improve the quality of life for residents. Council has made a commitment towards regional cooperation and has dedicated funds for neighbouring urban municipalities and organizations that provide services to M.D. residents. "During the budgeting process it is always a balancing act to meet the expectations of our M.D. residents. We know that roads are always the first on the list, as most of our residents travel them every day. But, during our town halls this year, residents asked for increased recreational opportunities and Council always has organizations approaching it throughout the year requesting funding for various initiatives," Reeve Ed Rondeau said.

Council has allocated \$20.8 million for Road Improvements/Construction, \$13.6 million for Gravel/Oil Road Maintenance and \$2.8 million for Public Works Equipment in the interim budget. The Second Phase of the Ardmore Street Improvements tallies up to \$2.5 million. The M.D. is stockpiling a large amount of gravel this year to lock in at lower prices. Rondeau said this affects this year's cash flow since "we have gravel instead of dollars, but it saves us money in the long term." For the first time, Council has budgeted \$100,000 to do a Municipal Census in 2014. "The M.D. has grown considerably since the last federal census in 2011," Rondeau said. "This population increase will provide additional funding from provincial and federal grants."

The 2014 budget includes a variety of projects that will improve services to our communities and build upon our recreational infrastructure, Rondeau said. Council will continue to fund the Senior's Transportation Grant for \$60,000. Annual Operating Grants to the 15 Community Halls will continue for a cost of \$700,000. A new La Corey Fire Hall and Public Works building has been budgeted for \$2.2 million. The Glendon Rapid Response Unit will be replaced for \$177,000. At Kinosoo Ridge, a Tube Park will be constructed for a proposed cost of \$400,000. The Fort Kent Skating Rink has been budgeted for \$1 million.

Regional projects such as Landfill Operations come in at \$2.2 million; Bonnyville Centennial Centre at \$1 million and the Regional Community Development Agreement Grant for the Town of Bonnyville and the Village of Glendon at \$862,987 and \$126,888 respectively to serve the needs of M.D. ratepayers. Council has also budgeted \$20,000 each for the Glendon, Bonnyville and Cold Lake Agricultural

Societies. The Glendon Agricultural Society will receive an additional \$158,000 for its arena renovations. The Cold Lake and Bonnyville Museums will each receive \$17,500.

Rondeau said the M.D. continues to be a good “regional citizen” by providing funding support for the Beaver River Regional Waste Management Commission, Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority, Bonnyville and District Family and Community Support Services and Cold Lake and District FCSS, as well as the libraries in Cold Lake and Bonnyville. “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 2014, once the year-end is complete and assessment figures are tallied.

□#2 Water Rate Increase – As a result of signing a new agreement with the City of Cold Lake, which increased the cost of water from \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$8.56 per 1,000 gallons, Council agreed to increase the Water and Sewer Rates for the first time since 2004. The Residential Service water and sewer rate for up to 20 cubic meters of water increases to \$84 minimum bi-monthly (up from \$48.60 minimum bi-monthly) and \$3.72/per cubic metre thereafter for more than 20 cubic metres of water. The Flat Water Rate addition to each billing will remain at \$5 per month/per account. The Bulk Water Rate at the Fort Kent and Ardmore bulk stations will increase to \$5 per cubic metre from \$3.50 per cubic metre.

□#3 Freon Charge To Be Removed – The \$20 per unit charge for Freon based appliances dropped off at M.D. landfills will be removed by Council as of January 1, 2014. In the past, the M.D. was charged per unit for the Freon removal, but the new scrap metal contractor does the removal for free. Council hopes the removal of the charge will reduce the number of refrigerators found in M.D. ditches and reduce the cost of paying staff to haul them to the landfills.

□#4 Waste Collection Sites To Be Allowed on MRs – In order to meet community needs and to serve the interests of the general public, Council passed a motion to allow Municipal Reserve land to be permanently used for the construction, installation or maintenance of a public utility for purposes which include the collection, temporary storage and transfer of residential garbage/refuse, recyclables or compost, and any roadway related to the public utility. The structure has to follow the permitting procedures set up by the M.D.

□#5 Transportation and Utilities Update – Council passed a motion to sign a five-year contract with the County of Two Hills to purchase gravel for \$10 a tonne. Council agreed to extend the Gravel Supply Contract completion dates to REDA Enterprises Ltd. and NE Bulk Transportation for January 31, 2014 and June, 2014 respectively. Council awarded the 2014 Winter Gravel Haul to Sagoo Transport (1223209 Alberta Ltd.) from Edmonton for \$13.01/tonne for 200,000 tonnes of aggregate for hauling, loading and stockpiling for a total price of \$2,602,000.

□#6 Planning and Development News – This year has been a banner building year in the M.D. of Bonnyville. In November, 43 Development Permits and 15 New Residential Building Permits were taken out for a year-to-date total of \$114,063,138. Year-to-date Housing Starts total 38 Mobile Home Units and 230 Single Family Dwellings, far surpassing the 2012 total of 135 Single Family Dwellings. Council agreed not to proceed with a Road Closure and Sale within Victor’s Industrial Park saying that access to the neighbouring quarter may be used in the future. Council passed eight other Road Closure and Lease Bylaws that are renewed on a three-year basis. Council also renewed eight Tax Recovery Property Leases for Municipal Lease Lands that are also renewed every three years.

□#7 Public Safety Review – Public Safety Industry Officers continue with their early morning patrols of the La Corey North Resource Road. Officers would like to emphasize to drivers on the road that you can only save six minutes when going 150 km/h, versus going the 100 km/h speed limit. Officers note that no driver could maintain the 150 km/h the whole time on the road because of the volume of traffic, so the time savings are significantly less. The point is – SLOW DOWN – and drive the speed limit because those few minutes are not worth causing an accident. The Grade 5 class at Glendon School presented a Right Choices banner to Council which will be hung in the Administration Building foyer. Council agreed to purchase a set of portable scales and leveling mats to a maximum cost of \$16,000 to equip the second Industry Patrol Vehicle. Council also agreed to purchase two replacement patrol vehicles and an additional patrol vehicle for the new Industry Patrol Officer for a maximum cost of \$120,000. After hearing about several fatal accidents and near misses, Council will be meeting with the Minister of Alberta Transportation regarding improvements to local highways. Industry Committee representatives will also be talking to local companies about speeding tanker trucks and incidents of local residents dealing with angry drivers. Now that Public Safety is fully staffed, Ward Beat Officers have been assigned. Wards 1 and 6 are patrolled by Officer Rowan, Wards 2 and 5 are assigned Officer McWillis and Wards 3 and 4 have Officer Goguen.

□#8 Funding Support – Lessard Community Centre received its \$35,000 2013 annual Operating Grant. Council agreed to donate \$10,000 to the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS). Since January 2013 STARS has flown 30 missions to the Bonnyville/Cold Lake area.

□#9 Brief, Briefs, Briefs – Muriel Lake cross country ski trails are now open. The road through Cold Lake M.D. Park has been cleared to allow for pedestrian traffic. Kinosoo Ridge Snow Resort is hosting its first night ski on Saturday, December 21. The Seed Cleaning Plant passed its licensing inspection with a rating of 82 percent. Council Meetings in January 2014 have been rescheduled to the 15th and 29th.

For more information, contact Diane Jenkinson, Marketing and Communications Manager at 780-826-3171. Our website is a useful way to get the information you need. Visit: www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @MDBville.