

M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release April 9, 2014

M.D. Council passes 2014 budget

\$44.2 million allocated to road maintenance and improvements

The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$98,185,432.00 budget on Wednesday.

Reeve Ed Rondeau says the 2014 budget reflects the aggressive approach Council is taking to improve and rebuild the road network in the municipality. "Council has balanced road priorities with other lifestyle improvements such as recreation, waste management, supporting Community Halls, upgrading our hamlets, cost sharing with neighbouring urban municipalities, and expanding our services to residents.

For the municipal portion of the tax bill, Council agreed to keep the Residential mill rate at 2.7663, the Farm mill rate increases by one mill to 5.0000 and the Non-Residential mill rate increases by 1.5 mills to 15.5000. Reeve Rondeau says "Council did not increase the mill rate on residential property; however residents may see an increase in their tax bill as it reflects the increase in market value of properties in the M.D. There are areas where market value has gone up greater than the average in the M.D."

Council's top priority for 2014 is again road maintenance and construction Rondeau emphasized. "Last year was a banner year in terms of road construction. All we need is for Mother Nature to continue cooperating and we will have another successful year."

A total of \$27.3 million has been put towards road improvements and construction for gravel, oiled, and paved roads and local bridge improvements. Another \$14.5 million has been allocated to gravel and oiled road maintenance. "By putting \$47 million into roads: \$15.0 million for gravel roads; \$9.9 million for oiled roads; \$2.3 million for paved roads; \$100,000 for bridge improvements; \$14.5 million for gravel/oil road maintenance, \$2.4 million for Ardmore Street Improvements and \$2.8 million for Public Works Equipment, Council is continuing to attack the M.D.'s road deficit," Rondeau said.

Other 2014 budget items include: Agricultural Services \$1.8 million, Landfill Operations \$2.2 million, Water/Sewer Line Construction to Moose Lake \$1.1 million, Rural High Speed Internet to improve internet access \$300,000, Kinsoo Ridge Tube Park completion \$400,000, La Corey Fire Hall/Grader Shop \$2.2 million, Glendon Rapid Response Unit \$200,000, Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre \$1 million, School Requisitions \$11.4 million and Lakeland Lodge & Housing requisition \$300,000. Community Halls receive a total of \$700,000, with each hall getting an annual \$35,000 Operating Grant. The Regional Community Development Agreement totals \$1 million, with \$860,538 distributed to the Town of Bonnyville and \$126,528 earmarked to the Village of Glendon. The agricultural societies in the three urban centres – Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Glendon – will receive \$20,000 each for a total of \$60,000.

Rondeau said now that the budget is passed the combined Tax and Assessment notices will be sent out May 30. He urged residents to review their tax notice carefully. If residents have any questions regarding their tax notice they are asked to contact the M.D. Tax Department at 780.826.3171. If residents have any questions specifically about their assessments, please contact the M.D. Assessment Department at 780.826.3171.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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