

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS April 8, 2015

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

**□#1 Council Passes Balanced 2015 Budget** - The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$109,886,246 budget on Wednesday.

Reeve Ed Rondeau says the 2015 budget demonstrates that Council manages the municipality's tax dollars in a frugal manner which provides the best bang for the buck. Council continues to aggressively improve and rebuild the municipality's road network. "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 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 at 5.0000 and the Non-Residential mill rate at 15.5000.

Reeve Rondeau says "Mill rates remain the same as last year, however residents will see an increase in their tax bill as it reflects the increase in market value of properties in the M.D. in 2014. There are areas where market value has gone up greater than the average in the M.D. Lower market values of properties in 2015 will show up in the 2016 tax year as our assessment is always one year behind."

Council's top priority for 2015 is again road maintenance and construction Rondeau said. "Last year was a good 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 \$34.6 million has been put towards road improvements and construction for gravel, oiled, and paved roads and local bridge improvements. Another \$14.7 million has been allocated to gravel and oiled road maintenance. "By putting \$49.3 million into roads: which includes \$15.1 million for gravel roads; \$8.8 million for oiled roads; \$6.6 million for paved roads; \$1 million for bridge improvements; \$14.7 million for gravel/oil road maintenance and \$3 million for Ardmore Street Improvements Phase III, Council is continuing to attack the M.D.'s road deficit," Rondeau said. "Major road projects also include Gurneyville Phase II at \$4.5 million (with \$350,000 coming from the M.D.'s Community Partnership Fund to upgrade the Town of Bonnyville's portion of the road), Range Road 485A base paving in a fifty/fifty partnership with Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) at a cost of \$3.3 million and Subdivision Improvements at \$1 million." The budget also includes \$3.7 million for Public Works Equipment.

Other 2015 budget items include: Agricultural Services \$1.9 million, Landfill Operations \$2.5 million, La Corey Fire Hall/Grader Shop \$2.2 million, proposed Public Safety building at \$2.2 million, Goodridge Rescue Truck and Cold Lake Tanker \$600,000, School Requisitions \$12.5 million and Lakeland Lodge & Housing requisition \$300,000. Community Halls receive a total of \$750,000, with each hall getting an annual \$35,000 Operating Grant.

The Regional Community Development Agreement totals \$1.1 million, with \$929,426 distributed to the Town of Bonnyville and \$136,657 earmarked to the Village of Glendon. Funding for the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre is \$1 million. The provincial grant for libraries increased this year, enabling the M.D. to give \$159,430.40 to the Bonnyville and District Library and \$74,912.80 to the Cold Lake Library, with a one-time extra grant of \$15,022.20 and \$7,058.60 respectively. The agricultural societies

in the three urban centres – Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Glendon – receive \$20,000 each for a total of \$60,000. The Cold Lake and Bonnyville museums receive \$17,500 each. The Seniors Transportation Grant continues to be funded with a grant of \$60,000. Rondeau says Council's priority is to deliver services to M.D. residents. As a member of our integrated community, the M.D. collaborates and partners with community organizations and neighbouring municipalities to enhance services for all residents throughout the region.

This year's revenues are to be funded by \$6.67 million in provincial grants, which includes a slight increase in MSI funding for a total of \$4.8 million in capital and \$167,000 in operating grants. Revenues also include \$73.63 million in taxes, \$12.48 million from M.D. general revenues and \$17.11 million in transfers from surplus. Rondeau said now that the budget is passed, the combined Tax and Assessment notices will be sent out May 29. 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.

**□#2 M.D. Receives Grants** – The Municipal District of Bonnyville received a \$350,000 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program grant to help fund the new Tube Park at Kinosoo Ridge. The Community Services Department also received a grant for \$20,000 from 2014 Community Champions Program. This grant will see the installation of 12 Hid-A-Bag waste/recycle bins, complete with concrete pads. The bins will be placed at the Cold Lake, Crane Lake and Muriel Lake M.D. Campgrounds.

**□#3 Public Safety Experiencing Busy Spring** – Director of Public Safety, Chris Garner, reported his department has had a busy start to spring. With the melting snow, unsightly property complaints came in a little earlier this year. Garner said despite a decrease in traffic on area roads, the number of incidents officers have dealt with have increased. This March, officers handed out 557 tickets compared to March 2014's 372 tickets.

The School Resource Officers are branching out this month, by adding two Francophone schools to their program schedule. Officer McWillis and Officer Skinner will now be offering the SRO program at Bonnyville's Ecole des Beaux-Lacs and Cold Lake's Ecole Voyageur.

**□#4 Ground Squirrel Control** – The M.D. of Bonnyville is selling 2% Strychnine for Ground Squirrel control. There is a shortage of Strychnine in the province. However, Agriculture and Waste Services Director Matt Janz says the M.D. should have enough to get local farmers through this year. Bottles cost \$7.50 and treat one gallon of grain. Farmers who wish to purchase the product must provide the M.D. with their name, size of farm and the legal land location where they are using the strychnine and agree to use the product as outlined in the conditions set out in the permit. For more information, or to purchase Strychnine, please contact Ag Services at 780-826-3951.

**□#5 Spring Means Beaver Dams and Flooding Problems** – Crews have been out in force to deal with pesky beavers throughout the M.D. Staff are currently dealing with

roads and buildings that are being affected by flooding caused by dams. If you have a flooding problem due to beaver dams, please call Ag Services at 780-826-3951.

**☐#6 Therien Sidewalk Project Extended** – Council agreed to have sidewalks on both sides of 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Therien installed. Originally Council had budgeted \$33,000 to have sidewalks placed on the north side of 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. Tenders for that project came in well below cost, so the south side of 50 Ave has been added to the project, which will still come in under budget at \$20,551.30.

**☐#7 Gurneyville Road Reconstruction Approved** – M.D. Council agreed to proceed with the reconstruction of the Gurneyville Road this year. Council accepted the tender bid from Martushev Logging Ltd., which came in at \$4,089,083.53 and approved the overall construction cost of \$4,481,000.

**☐#8 Planning and Development Update** – Council gave first readings to a number of Bylaws and Land Use Bylaws. First reading was given to Bylaw 1598 and LU 549 for the LaCorey Park Area Structure Plan and rezoning from Hamlet Urban Reserve/General to Rural Commercial ‘RC’, Rural Industrial ‘RI’ and Hamlet Single Family Residential at SW 18-63-5 W4M. Bylaw 1599 and LU 550 for the Country Road Estates Area Structure Plan at NW 9-63-2 W4M and rezoning from Agriculture ‘A’ to Country Residential ‘CR’ also received first reading.

First reading was also given to Bylaw 1600 and LU 551 for the Woodlands of Windemere Area Structure Plan, located at SW 6-63-1 W4M, and the rezoning of that land from Agriculture ‘A’ to Country Residential ‘CR’.

**☐#9 Briefly** – The M.D. has signed a five-year lease agreement with Alberta Parks for the Wolf Lake Campground. Kinsoo Ridge held a trail naming contest earlier this year and three names for new runs were chosen – Jack Fish, Aurora Alley and Sidewinder.

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](http://www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca) Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @MDBville.