

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS March 25, 2015

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

□#1 M.D. Receives Partnership Grant – The Municipal District of Bonnyville received a \$350,000 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Program grant to help fund Phase 1 of the three-year Moose Lake Trail project. The funds will help cover the cost of trail construction equipment, building eight kilometres of trail west of the Town of Bonnyville's rodeo grounds to Vezeau Beach and the engineering for an underpass beneath Highway 28. The Town of Bonnyville partnered on the grant application.

□#2 Calling All Charitable Groups – The Agriculture and Waste Services Department is looking for charitable groups who want to make a bit of cash. The Department is signing up groups who want to participate in the annual Roadside Clean-Up. The M.D. will pay groups from \$40 to \$100 per kilometre depending on the road that is being cleaned. Clean up efforts will start as soon as April, depending on the weather. Last year ten groups cleaned over 80 km of roads. Interested groups can call the Ag and Waste Department at 780-826-3951.

□#3 Clubroot Disease Producer Meeting – The M.D. of Bonnyville and the County of St. Paul are hosting a producer meeting on Clubroot Disease in canola on Wednesday, April 15 in the Flat Lake Community Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. The meeting has been scheduled because of a positive case of Clubroot found on a property in the County of St. Paul bordering the M.D. Clubroot is a serious soil-borne disease of canola and other crops in the cabbage family. Producers will be given best management practices for preventing Clubroot or spreading it further. Call to reserve your spot 780-826-3951.

□#4 Restricted Surplus Identified – Council agreed to transfer \$37.5 million from unrestricted surplus to a separate restricted surplus account in order to provide the M.D. funds from January 1 to September 1 for operating/capital expenditures until municipal tax funds are received in mid-September. The M.D. collects a vast majority of its cash for operations and capital purposes in September of each year, as the tax payment deadline is September 15. Every year, the M.D. needs money from the previous fiscal year to fund the operating/capital expenditures in the current year until the main cash injection occurs in September. Otherwise, the M.D. would have to borrow funds in order to operate, and pay interest on that amount. The net cost of the M.D. using its own funds, rather than borrowing, is approximately \$500,000. Making this budget change now, leaves a more accurate picture of the actual unrestricted funds that are available to provide services to the residents of the M.D.

□#5 Transportation and Utilities Update – With the warm weather arriving, two patch trucks have started filling pot holes and three steam trucks are unplugging culverts. Some spot gravelling is being conducted. Crews are working on flooding issues and will work on switching the plow trucks over after the Easter break. Over 200 applications were received for seasonal positions, with new hires starting work the middle of April if the

temperatures keep increasing. Council agreed to extend the 2015 Winter Gravel Haul for People's Trucking until November 30, 2015. The contractor was on schedule to complete the gravel haul two weeks prior to the March 31 deadline, but early road bans in the County of Two Hills and on Highway 41 brought the trucks to a halt. People's Trucking has hauled 177,000 of the 200,000 tonnes required this year, and will haul the remaining 23,000 tonnes in the fall.

□#6 Campground Upgrades Continue – Work is almost completed on the new Muriel Lake Campground shower house, with outhouse replacement scheduled before opening May 8. The design for expansion of the Cold Lake M.D. Campground will be presented to Council in mid-April. Registrations for extended campground stays (seven to 14 days) begin April 1. All other reservations begin May 1. Campground reservation numbers can be found at www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca.

□#7 Ground Squirrel Control – The M.D. of Bonnyville has started selling 2% Strychnine for Ground Squirrel control. The 250 ml bottle for \$7.50 treats one gallon of grain. Farmers who wish to purchase the product have to 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.

□#8 Funding Support – The Bonnyville and District Historical Society received its annual Operating Grant of \$17,500. Council agreed to donate a \$1,000 charitable sponsorship from WSP Canada Inc. to Haying In The 30s. The WSP charitable sponsorship was won at the recent Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) conference.

□#9 Partnership Support – M.D. Council agreed to provide a resolution of support to the Town of Bonnyville in their application for a Building Canada Small Communities Fund grant for the 51st Avenue Rehabilitation Underground Project. The M.D. has applied for two projects under the same federal/provincial grant: 1. Ardmore Water and Sewer line replacement and storm water management, 2. Paving Range Road 485.

□#10 Briefly – Council agreed to provide a letter of support to the Bonnyville and District Family and Community Support Services in their bid to host the Grey Matters Conference in the fall of 2016. This is a two-day conference for senior service providers and is attended by over 300 participants from across Alberta and western Canada.

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.