

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS December 9, 2015

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

□#1 Council Provides Funding Support For Neighbouring Urban Municipalities – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council agreed to annually contribute \$5 million to its three neighbouring urban municipalities – Town of Bonnyville, Village of Glendon and the City of Cold Lake – to help ensure their continued sustainability, and support services used by M.D. residents in each community.

Under the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program (IMCP) funding formula, in 2016 the Town of Bonnyville can access \$3.8 million, the Village of Glendon can access just over \$500,000 and the City of Cold Lake will receive \$645,800.

The Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program funding formula used to distribute the annual funding is developed to ensure a level playing field for all three urban neighbours. The formula is based on per capita equalized assessment. Currently Cold Lake has almost twice the assessment as Bonnyville and roughly three times the assessment of Glendon. Equalizing the assessment per capita ensures each municipality has a base level of funding to provide services.

The per capita population formula is based on the 2011 federal census. The next federal census will be done in 2016. Assessments are based on Alberta Municipal Affairs current year equalized assessments.

A portion of the funds, 30 percent, will have no strings attached and can be used by the municipalities to pay for the operation of any facilities or service, such as recreation. The remaining funds will be allocated to match capital funding dollars for designated projects – 40 percent must go to Roads, Water and Sewer projects and 30 percent is allocated for recreation and other projects. Allocating funds based on the service/project type ensures some of the funds go to hard infrastructure which promotes the long-term sustainability of the municipalities.

Matching project dollars are based on the M.D.'s population percentage in each service area. The Town of Bonnyville capital projects will receive 47.5 percent funding, the Village of Glendon capital projects receive 72.1 percent funding and the City of Cold Lake capital projects receive 18.9 percent funding.

Funding under the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program will be reduced by the funding provided under some existing programs, such as the Regional Community Development Agreement, the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre Part Nine Agreement and the Bonnyville Airport Agreement. This was done to equalize the funding provided to our three urban neighbours.

The minimum funding shall be no less than \$200 per capita for each municipality, based on the number of M.D. residents in its service area. If the minimum funding applies, the funds will be allocated as operating funds under the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program. The minimum funding amount was established to recognize that M.D. residents use infrastructure and services in our neighbouring municipalities.

Funds for each municipality stay in the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program for a maximum of three years. The M.D. may cancel or change the funding at any time based on budget restrictions.

Municipalities will have to apply in writing for capital funding on a project basis. The operating funds will be paid in installments – 50 percent by February 15 of each year and the balance by September 30 of each year.

□#2 Funds For The Cold Lake South Fire Hall – Council agreed to contribute a \$1.7 million lump sum capital contribution to the new Cold Lake South Fire Hall. The City of Cold Lake provides two bays to house equipment from the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority (BRFA). This agreement runs in tandem with the service agreement between the city and the BRFA, for which there is an additional annual fee covering fire services. Should the agreement be terminated, or not be renewed during the 17-year period, the city will refund \$100,000 of the capital investment to the M.D. for every year short of the 17-year period. The seven-year renewable service agreement, between the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority and the City of Cold Lake will go before the Authority's Board on December 17.

□#3 Finance and Administration Update – Council passed its annual Borrowing Bylaw to cover any operating cash shortfalls that may occur during the eight and half months of operation before the 2016 taxes are collected on September 15. This year, the amount was increased to \$10 million, from \$5 million, to account for larger projects within the budget. Council approved the 2016 Northern Lights Library System fee of \$67,091, which remains the same as the 2015 levy of \$5.07 per capita.

□#4 Transportation and Utilities News – With the recent snowfall and icy conditions the night shift for the La Corey North Resource Road was put in rotation for the first time. A light application of MG 30 was applied to Gurneyville Road in an effort to minimize the dust and deal with the rough surface conditions that cropped up because of the lack of snow. Bridge File #72755, Tucker Lake Bridge, was completed. The unseasonably warm weather has created the opportunity for additional brushing crews to be put on shift. The M.D. is utilizing a drone to measure the amount of gravel supply in storage for auditing purposes.

□#5 Public Safety Update – Council approved the purchase of two replacement patrol vehicles that have racked up too many miles. The vehicles are included in the 2016 budget. Industry Officers have done 11 truck inspections over the last two weeks. Generally, Officers continue to see good compliance with safety regulation and transportation of dangerous goods rules. School Resource Officers have completed the Grade 5 Right Choices Program at Ardmore, Glendon and Dr. Brosseau schools and the program is ongoing at St. Dominic School. Internet Safety has also been a program frequently requested by schools this year.

□#6 Agricultural and Waste Services News – Council is sending a letter to the Ministers of Agriculture and Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour to protest the lack of consultation on Bill 6 and the adverse effects it may have on the family farm. Council will have the opportunity to speak to provincial ministers at the ASB Provincial Conference in January. Council passed a motion to continue funding the Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Program in 2016. Council agreed to review the funding on an annual basis. Fencing at the Moose Lake Meadows Bin Site is complete and the

recycling and waste bins are now in place. Privacy slats on the fence will be installed in the spring. The site is large enough to accommodate an expanded recycling program. Over 200 coyotes and seven wolves have been turned in under the Reduction Program.

□#7 Planning and Development Statistics – The Planning and Development Department ended November with 22 Development Permits, including 15 New Residential Housing permits, one Commercial, five Industrial and one removal permit issued for a total value of \$5,454,532. This brings the year-end value up to \$42,100,565. Year-to-date housing starts are 52 Single Family Dwellings and 11 Mobile Home Units. While the totals are down from the boom years of 2012 and 2013, they are on par with the averages from 2009 to 2011.

□#8 Council Funds Winter Trail Grooming – Council agreed to provide funding to the Riverland Recreational Trail Society to groom the Iron Horse Trail for snowmobilers. Council will pay \$2,070 for each trail grooming pass, for a maximum of three passes per year. The maximum annual total will be \$6,210. The agreement is in place for three years until 2018.

□#9 Funding Support – Sandy Rapids Community Club and the Land of the Lakes Recreation Association (Iron River Hall) received their Annual Operating Grant of \$35,000. North Shore Heights/Shay Cho Bay Community Society received its annual \$5,000 Operating Grant and a \$5,000 Capital Grant for playground equipment. The Cold Lake Museum received its \$17,500 Annual Operating Grant. In 2016 Council will contribute \$10,000 to Hearts For Healthcare in Cold Lake and the same amount of money to the Doctor Recruitment Program in Bonnyville. Council agreed to purchase two tables at the Bonnyville Health Foundation Gala for a total of \$1,200. It also agreed to purchase one table at the Hearts for Healthcare Gala in Cold Lake. Council amended its Recognition and Donation Policy to increase funding to local sports teams. Local teams who travel to compete in provincial, national or international tournaments will receive a maximum of \$500. Local sports teams or organizations hosting a provincial, national or international competition will receive a maximum of \$750. Council denied the request from the Cold Lake Ambulance Society for \$40,000 in capital funding to pay for one third of the cost of an ambulance based on the fact this funding is a provincial responsibility. Council will continue to lobby the provincial government to find a funding solution as both the Cold Lake and Bonnyville Ambulance Societies are facing similar monetary hurdles.

□#10 Briefly – The December 23 Council Meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting of Council will occur on January 13, 2016, with a Committee Meeting on January 6. Council agreed to purchase 12 rolls of racing net for Kinosoo Ridge Snow Resort at a cost of \$5,712 to increase safety for recreational skiers/boarders and for hosting racing events.

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.