

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS April 27, 2016

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

□#1 Council Passes Final 2016 Budget – The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$111,810,280 budget for 2016, including the school requisition.

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. “Council had to make some difficult decisions this year when setting the mill rate,” Reeve Ed Rondeau said, “as the increase in the education tax requisition from the province took us by surprise.” In 2016 the M.D. is required to collect \$13.5 million in education taxes for the Alberta government.

“Council looked at a sample of 4,733 residential properties to see how maintaining the same municipal mill rate from 2015 would affect them. We found that 70 percent would have a zero to nine percent *decrease*. The remaining 30 percent would see a zero to 18 percent increase. For those residents seeing a higher tax increase, it is usually the result of some type of improvement, which increased their property assessment values,” Rondeau said.

Applying the 2016 provincial education tax requisition resulted in a 3.2 percent increase in the school tax from last year. “This increase in the school tax means a possible \$36 increase on a \$500,000 residential property. The 3.2 percent school tax increase represents \$1 million more in taxes that M.D. residents have to pay to the provincial government.”

Rondeau urges residents to look at their tax bill at the end of May as the education tax, along with the requisition from Lakeland Lodge and Housing, is separated out from the municipal tax allotment. “It’s important to understand that the province controls the mill rate for the school tax requisition. Municipalities have no say in how they are set. The municipality only collects and remits the school taxes.”

Rondeau says budget deliberations are always about getting the best bang for the buck. “Council does its best to balance all the demands with the reality of living within our means. The total municipal taxes that residential property owners pay the M.D. is \$6 million, farmland taxes total \$600,000, with the balance coming from Non-Residential taxes.”

In 2016, a total of \$26.2 million is being put towards road improvements and construction for gravel, oiled, and paved roads. Another \$14.6 million is allocated to gravel and oiled road maintenance. In addition \$3.5 million is allocated for the next phase of the Ardmore Street Improvements, \$7 million for Gurneyville Road construction in 2017 and \$2.5 million for the possible next phase of construction on Baywood Road in 2017 or 2018. The budget also includes \$600,000 for Public Works equipment.

“Roads are the priority for the majority of our residents, and Council is continuing to attack the M.D.’s road deficit,” Rondeau said. “While roads are at the top of everyone’s agenda, the M.D. also delivers quality of life services to our residents.”

Other budget priorities include: \$2.5 million for Landfill Operations, \$2 million for Agricultural Services, \$600,000 for the Goodridge Rescue Truck and Cold Lake Tanker, \$300,000 to complete the La Corey Fire Hall/Grader Shop, and \$2.1 million to complete the Public Safety Building. The 15 Community Halls and three Community

Societies will receive annual grants for a total of \$700,000. The Seniors Transportation Grant continues to be funded with a grant of \$60,000.

Rondeau says the M.D. collaborates and partners with community organizations and neighbouring municipalities to enhance services for all residents throughout the region.

Funding for the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Program (IMCP) is \$5 million to help neighbouring municipalities pay for services M.D. residents utilize. 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 receives \$645,800. The IMCP funding includes \$1 million for the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre. Library services funding is allocated to the Bonnyville and District Library at \$163,642, Cold Lake Library for \$75,875 and the Northern Lights Library System for \$134,182. Bonnyville and District Family and Community Support Services receives \$315,571 and Cold Lake FCSS gets \$146,319. 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.

This year's revenues are to be funded by \$7.71 million in provincial grants, \$12.48 million from M.D. general revenues, \$82.95 million in taxes, and \$8.67 million in transfers from surplus.

Rondeau says now that the budget is passed, the combined Tax and Assessment notices will be sent out May 27. He urges 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 Clean 2015 Audit Report – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved the 2015 Consolidated Financial Statements. Auditors Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP, gave the M.D. a “clean report” for the year ending 2015, stating the municipality has good, solid, financial assets to provide future government services for its residents.

☐#3 Bonnyville Toxic Round-Up Receives Funding – The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council agreed to contribute \$1,000 to the Bonnyville Toxic Round-Up on Saturday, June 25. The M.D. will also provide Six-Yard waste collection bins and cardboard recycling bins. Collection takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bonnyville Fire Station on the east end of town. Partners in the Round-Up include the Town of Bonnyville, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd (CNRL) and the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority.

☐#4 Campgrounds Open May 13 – M.D. Parks open for business on May 13. In the meantime, parks staff are getting ready for opening day. Two, 500 gallon precast concrete tanks will be delivered for the new fish stands at Crane Lake for public use. One will be in the turnaround circle on the west side and the other on the east side stays in the old location with a built-in tank. The campground caretaker will be selling firewood at Crane Lake and will have small wood yards on both sides. New outhouses are being placed in various campgrounds and staff are refurbishing picnic shelters.

□#5 Agricultural Rental Equipment Receives Thorough Cleaning – M.D. residents can rent over 30 pieces of agricultural equipment at four locations throughout the municipality. A full listing is at www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca. With Clubroot a growing concern in the region, staff are cleaning all the equipment prior to going to the next customer. Equipment used in field crops will get washed and sprayed with a special sanitizer to prevent the spread of Clubroot spores.

□#6 Transportation and Utilities News – The 90 percent Road Bans are still in effect across the M.D. unless otherwise posted. The contractor has started repairs on the washed out portion of Range Road 485A. Summer Crews will be officially on the job the first week of May. Three Patch Trucks are dealing with emerging issues, with a fourth being put into services as soon as repairs are complete. The trucks will be put into a Ward service rotation in May. The Lessard Bridge decking will be completed the first week of May.

□#7 Please Use Bins or Landfill Sites For Your Waste – The arrival of spring brings warm weather and an increase in illegal dumping on dead end roads, municipal reserves, ditches and in front of landfill gates or bin sites. Staff dedicate at least two days a week for these kinds of clean ups. Staff recently assisted a group of over 50 people with a large cleanup that took place north of Moose Lake on provincial land. The M.D. supplied Six-Yard bins for the loose garbage and a garbage truck to keep them empty during the cleanup. The public are urged to call the M.D. at 780-826-3951 when they come across an illegal dump site. Municipal staff do not clean up private property or on crown land, but will direct the concerned citizen to the proper authorities.

□#8 Public Safety Update – Officers responded to multiple dog complaints in Fort Kent, the Moose Lake subdivisions, Country Lane Estates and Cherry Grove areas. Unsightly Property complaints are under investigation in the hamlets of Ardmore and Cherry Grove. Officers are also responding to Off Highway Vehicle complaints in various areas of the M.D. Industry Officers responded to complaints regarding overweight gravel trucks on Dupre Road, compounded by the fact the loads were not tarped down. School Resource Officers presented the CSI Program at Dr. Brosseau and Ecole de Beaux-Lacs, a mock murder crime scene investigation at Notre Dame High School and the Right Choices Program at Nelson Heights and Cold Lake Middle Schools.

□#9 Planning and Development Update – A request by a landowner to hook up to the waterline between Fort Kent and Ardmore was denied because the residence was not adjacent to the line. The water would be of low quality as the property was a mile away from the connection. The resident would also be responsible for any breaks in his mile of waterline. Five new lots in Fort Kent were added to the Local Improvement Tax Bylaw as the lots receive a benefit from the existing local improvement.

□#10 Funding Support – The Bonnyville and District Agricultural Society received its \$20,000 Annual Operating Grant. Council agreed to provide the Bonnyville Golf and Country Club and the Northern Lights School Division with four truck-loads of gravel each. Council calculated the donated gravel cost equates to approximately \$3,500 each. The golf course is using the gravel on its parking lot. The school division is using the

gravel at its new Rig Training Facility in the Town of Bonnyville. Council is contributing \$2,000 to the Ronald McDonald House Charity Golf Classic for a Gold Sponsorship.

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.