

# MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS April 7, 2010

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**□#1 Council Passes 2010 Budget** – The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$70 million 2010 budget. Reeve Ed Rondeau said Council had to crunch some numbers after the loss of provincial funding, but road improvements remained the top priority. “There were long discussions as Council made cuts to the interim budget in order to put a major portion of our dollars into road improvements. The construction of the new administration building is being delayed so that we can complete several projects on high priority roads.”

Road construction, and maintenance on 2,600 kilometres of road, takes up the largest slice of the budget pie. Rondeau says the 2010 budget emphasizes services to residents as the first priority, but maintaining regional partnerships with neighbouring municipalities remains at the top of the list as well. “M.D. residents are concerned about road improvements, maintaining our current rural infrastructure, waste management and recreation. By putting \$20.3 million into roads; \$700,000 into completing lagoon and lift station upgrades; \$2.1 million into landfill operations; and \$7.2 million into recreation we are serving our residents. Regional partnerships and projects, such as the Beaver River Regional Waste Management Commission, Regional Fire Authority, Bonnyville and Cold Lake Family and Community Support Services, Kinosoo Ridge chalet, and the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre, service M.D. residents and residents from neighbouring municipalities.”

“Over the past couple of years, Council’s focus has been to keep the amount of residential taxes collected as low as possible,” Rondeau said. “Though Council has not changed the mill rate, some M.D. residents will see an increase in their property taxes in 2010 because of the increase in property assessment. Some of the increase is market creep, some of the increase is actual improvements to property.”

In 2010 the Farm mill rate is unchanged from 2009 at 3.7000. The Residential mill rate is also the same as 2009 at 2.8339. The Non-residential mill rate increases slightly in 2010 to 10.7971. The latter tax rate is based on an annual mill rate adjustment, calculated to provide grant payments to three neighbouring municipalities under the Regional Community Development Agreement. In 2010 the M.D. will pay out \$2.1 million to the Town of Bonnyville (\$815,025); Village of Glendon (\$126,082) and the City of Cold Lake’s grant of \$1,109,492 will be set aside in the hopes that they will sign the agreement.

Other items in the 2010 budget include the final allocation for the Transportation & Utilities/ASB office/Shop for \$3.5 million, Parks Maintenance Shop for \$500,000 (which is covered by insurance), public works equipment for \$1.8 million, School Requisitions of \$8.7 million and Lakeland Lodge requisition of \$220,000.

“The 2010 budget demonstrates the M.D. is committed to fixing our huge road deficit to meet our residents’ needs.” Rondeau says. “Council also supports cost-sharing agreements for fire, ambulance, libraries, FCSS, airport, Peace Officers and Part 9 Companies with our neighbouring urban municipalities.”

**□#2 Drought and Grasshopper Concerns** – Council is watching the weather, and is fully prepared to declare the M.D. a drought disaster if the rains don't fall. Precipitation is well below normal levels, and dugouts and sloughs are extremely low. The provincial/federal water program is still available through Alberta Agriculture, which cost shares one third of farm water projects. These include dugouts, wells, remote watering and water pipe lines. Projects have to be approved prior to starting construction. A water pumping program through Alberta Agriculture is also available. Pumps and pipes are available at a daily rate of \$500 per day. That includes two days of setup, take down and one day of pumping with one mile of six inch pipe. Warm weather, and little moisture, brings the potential for a high grasshopper infestation. The economic threshold for cereal crops ranges from eight to 12 grasshoppers per square metre. The M.D. asks producers spraying for grasshoppers on their property to spray the adjacent roadside ditch and they will be compensated for the control efforts.

**□#3 Predator Control** – In response to predator concerns brought up at several Town Hall meetings, Council will be instituting a Coyote Reduction Program in October. The M.D. had a similar program in place from 2002 to 2004, in which residents received \$10 per coyote, with a budget maximum of \$10,000. Councillors agreed that a similar program for wolves and cougars was not necessary.

**□#4 Funding support** – The Ardmore Community Society received its \$15,000 annual operating grant and the Ardmore Golf and Country Club received its \$5,000 annual operating grant. Council will provide \$500 to the Bonnyville Rodeo Queen Committee to help sponsor a Queen's saddle. For the third year, Council agreed to provide a \$350 youth sponsorship for the Northern Alberta Youth Entrepreneurship Camp on Moose Lake. A \$250 donation was approved for a M.D. employee team participating in the annual Bowl For Kids Sake Tournament supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters. The Kinosoo Performing Arts Association received a \$100 sponsorship. Council will also match the funds staff raise for National Denim Day in support of the CURE Foundation for Breast Cancer.

**□#5 Transportation and Utilities Update** – Road maintenance and construction tenders were awarded to E Construction for 2010 Cold Mix Supply at \$63.47 per tonne totaling \$3,820,200; E Construction for the 2010 Patching Cold Mix Supply at \$70.03 per tonne totaling \$840,360 and REDA Enterprises Ltd. for the 2010 Gravel Haul at \$0.214 per tonne/mile.

**□#6 Briefs, Briefs, Briefs** – Kinosoo Ridge Snow Resort is hosting a garage sale on Saturday, April 17, before the old chalet is demolished on April 20. Interior work is proceeding on the new chalet, along with work on the new parking lot. Council approved the Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre 2010 budget that maintained a total operating deficit of \$1.1 million, of which the M.D. must fund \$537,000.

For more information contact Diane Jenkinson, Communications Coordinator at 780-826-3171. Our web site is a useful way to get the information you need. **Visit:** [www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca](http://www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca)