

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS January 12, 2011

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

☐#1 Skiing Across the M.D. – Community Services Director Chris McKenna said the ski hill is having a great season, and there are great snow conditions right now. He also informed council Kinosoo had received a \$91,000 grant from the Winter Games Legacy Fund. The money will cover the costs of the new snow gun and the carpet lift installed at the ski hill last season.

McKenna also said the cross-country trails at Muriel Lake are in excellent condition, and he hopes more residents get out to use the free trails.

☐#2 Funding – Two community halls were granted their annual operating grants. The halls in Beaverdam and Fort Kent will each receive \$15,000 for the 2011 operating year. Beaverdam will also be receiving a refund on 2010 property taxes and will be exempt from paying 2011 property taxes on two pieces of property – a parking lot/baseball diamond and a campground. The group running the hall can request tax exemption for the two properties under the Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation.

☐#3 Public Safety To Get New Officer – Council agreed to hire another Peace Officer in 2011. Director Chris Garner said the new officer will focus on industry-related issues, which will free up the other officers to concentrate on issues with the ratepayers. Councillor Fred Bamber said the addition “is a really good move and will make for a more efficient force.”

☐#4 T&U Update – There will be 24 new street lights installed around the M.D. this year. LaCorey, Elk Haven West and Whispering Spruce will all be receiving one light. Crane Lake will be well lit, with 24 new light poles installed. Land acquisition for the planned roundabout at Hwy. 55 and SH 892 was approved, to a total of \$2,766.

☐#5 Ag Services – It was a good year for the M.D.’s VSI program. Director Matt Janz said 335 farmers used the program to the tune of \$50,826 in 2010. The ever-popular Shelter Belt program is back for another year. Landowners who own five acres or more are eligible to receive free trees (minus shipping costs). Applications are due before March 15, and are available from the M.D. Agriculture Office (780-826-3951) or by calling the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration at 1-866-766-2284. Last year residents received over 22,000 seedlings.

☐#6 Planning and Development Update – January saw a total of three development permits and one residential building permit being issued, for a total project cost of \$460,000. Director John Foy said the number is low compared to other years. He said the M.D.’s numbers are similar to other communities, and that development has dropped off across the province.

☐#7 **Briefs, Briefs, Briefs** – Council will write a letter supporting the Minnie Lake Conservation Society’s efforts in getting a grant. The money will be used to conduct a groundwater study around the lake.

The March 23 council meeting has been cancelled due to the spring AAMDC convention.

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.