

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS January 13, 2010

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

□#1 Doctor Incentive Funding Approved – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a request to fund a physician recruitment initiative to attract doctors to Bonnyville. Dr. Guy Lamoureux and Dr. Leonard de Freitas asked Council for \$63,000 to attract three new physicians. A portion of the funding, \$18,000, will be paid to a “head hunting” consultant who will find appropriate candidates. The consultant charges \$7,000 for the first doctor and \$5,500 for subsequent candidates. The consultant is not paid until the physician signs a contract. The other funds will be used for a signing incentive, \$15,000 for each physician, to help pay for travel costs, exam, professional and malpractice fees and some moving expenses. In return the doctors must make a commitment to stay two years. If they leave before that time, the money is paid back on a pro-rated basis. Dr. Lamoureux pointed out that the incentive money will not cover all the expenses new doctors encounter, but it helps in the competition to attract the medical professionals. He said some communities are providing cars and houses to attract doctors. While the doctors and Council acknowledged that health care was a provincial responsibility, Dr. Lamoureux said that Bonnyville was nearing a tipping point in terms of physician services. He said 2,000 to 3,000 people were without services because doctors had shut down their practices, then, when you add in all the newcomers who never had services in the first place, the number is too large for the hospital emergency department to handle. Physicians who are currently practicing are getting stressed out, especially with the extra burden of the H1N1 crisis. If more doctors make a decision to leave the area, many healthcare services will be lost forever Lamoureux said.

□#2 Partnerships Approved and Deferred – The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council agreed to partner with Cold Lake on a Municipal Sponsorship Grant to complete the Iron Horse Trail Staging Area in the City. But M.D. Council temporarily declined an offer to sit on the steering committee for Cold Lake’s new Event Centre, which contains new arenas. M.D. Council agreed to contribute \$6,023.50 towards the City’s application for a Municipal Sponsorship Grant to complete facilities at Cold Lake’s Iron Horse Trail staging area. Partnering on the grant enables the City to access an additional \$44,194.58 for the project as it can take advantage of bonus funding. The M.D. is also partnering with the Town of Bonnyville on two reciprocal Sponsorship Grants in order to purchase two new ambulances. M.D. Council agreed to hold off on joining the Event Centre Committee until the City of Cold Lake and the province receives George Cuff’s report on the state of the City. Council pointed out that the committee the M.D. is being asked to join is not a planning committee, but rather a steering committee. Council would like to have some input into the planning process, such as where the arena will be built, if the Cold Lake South arena should be sold, how big a possible new arena should be, and whether or not existing facilities could be renovated. The committee, as it stands now, would be made up of three City of Cold Lake councillors, two City of Cold Lake recreation staff and one member from M.D. Council. Council said it would like to see more members on the committee from the M.D. for a more balanced approach to the facility’s planning process.

□#3 VSI Program Expanded – The Veterinary Services Incorporated Program will be expanded to include services from the St. Paul Veterinary Clinic, even though the veterinarian has not formally signed on to the program. Council agreed to route the funding for the designated services through the M.D. Agricultural Services Department. Producers that use the St. Paul vet can send their bills to the M.D. to verify their residency and then be reimbursed. Livestock producers are provided a 60 per cent subsidy on difficult veterinary procedures such as caesarians, prolapsed uteruses and pregnancy testing. The VSI Program encourages farmers to use the services of local vets to help keep their livestock herd healthy.

□#4 Public Safety Update – The contract with the Town of Bonnyville for Peace Officer services was cancelled at the end of 2009 at the town's request. The town still has to collect its recovered/found property from the M.D. Public Safety storage facility. Those town patrol hours will now be allotted to residential areas of the M.D. The School Resource Officers are fully booked – conducting programs such as Snowmobile Safety and anti-bullying. Resource Officers are also participating in recess activities and are looking forward to training as instructors for the new Rope Challenge Course initiative being organized by the Northern Lights School Division.

□#5 Planning Bylaws Passed – Bylaw 1446 and Land Use Bylaws 474 and 475 to adopt an Area Structure Plan and rezone land from Agricultural to Country Residential for Lefebvre Country Estates two miles west of Riverhurst Hall on Highway 55 were given third reading. Land Use Bylaws 472 and 473 to rezone and amend the Highway 55 Area Structure Plan from Agricultural to Country Residential for Ansell Ridge were given third readings. Land Use Bylaws 476 and 477 to amend the Aurora Borealis Area Structure Plan from Country Residential to Rural Industrial were passed. Bylaw 1455 to lease the Government Road Allowance located West of NW 13-61-5-W4M was passed.

□#6 Funding Support – Sandy Rapids Community Club received a \$5,000 annual Operating Grant and a \$1,700 Special Operating Grant to replace broken tables and repair the hall cooler. Council purchased two tables for the Bonnyville Health Foundation Gala for \$800. A table of eight for \$800 was purchased for the Third Annual Cowboy Gala sponsored by the Bonnyville Pro Rodeo and Chuckwagon Association. Council agreed to waive the \$450 water fee for Extreme 2009, an event that is hosted outside of Ardmore every August. The Mallaig Minor Hockey Association received \$250 to assist with hosting the 2010 Midget “C” Provincial Hockey Championship.

□#7 Briefs, Briefs, Briefs – First reading was given to Land Use Bylaw 478 to rezone a quarter section of land south of the Grand Centre Golf Course from Agricultural to Country Residential. The M.D. will be purchasing the Cherry Grove Bin site location, 5.36 acres, from the province for one dollar.

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