

## **M.D. of Bonnyville Media Release December 9, 2009**

### **M.D. of Bonnyville passes 2010 interim budget**

#### ***\$19.9 million allocated to road improvements***

The Municipal District of Bonnyville is currently looking at an operating deficit of \$2,070,102 in 2010 following today's approval of its \$62,421,943 million interim budget.

Council will pass the final 2010 budget in April when the provincial government releases the Education Requisition. Based on current numbers the proposed Farm mill rate is unchanged from 2009 at 3.7. The proposed Residential mill rate is also the same as 2009 at 2.8339. The proposed Non-residential tax rate increases slightly in 2010 to 10.7281 from 10.6200 mills. The latter tax rate is based on an annual tax rate adjustment calculated to provide grant payments to three neighbouring municipalities under the nine-year Regional Community Development Agreement. In 2010 the M.D. will pay out \$155,212 to Glendon and \$744,761 to the Town of Bonnyville. If the City of Cold Lake changes its mind and agrees to sign the regional partnership agreement, they will receive \$1,013,842. Total costs for the Regional Community Development Agreement are \$1.87 million.

Reeve Ed Rondeau says the budget emphasizes what is important for M.D. residents. "Our citizens are concerned about road improvements and maintaining our current rural infrastructure. Council believes it will find the \$2 million shortfall through such things as Resource Road grants or increased assessment. Our cost sharing agreement offer is still on the table for the City of Cold Lake to sign, but if their Council continues to refuse the one million dollars we will put it towards the deficit."

Road construction and maintenance takes up the largest slice of the budget pie with \$9.0 million for road construction; \$8.1 million for paving; \$2.8 million for the annual gravel program and \$300,000 for bridge improvements. Landfill costs, which include the Beaver River Regional Waste Commission partnership, total \$2.6 million.

Building project construction costs tally up to \$3 million for the completion of the chalet at Kinosoo Ridge Snow Resort; \$3.5 million to complete the new public works shop and \$2.0 million for the start of the new Bonnyville Administration Office renovation and expansion. The new Parks Maintenance Shop, which replaces the building that recently burnt down in Fort Kent, will cost \$600,000, but that will be covered by insurance.

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“The 2010 Interim budget demonstrates the M.D. is an excellent regional citizen,” Rondeau says. “Council is committed to supporting the Regional Community Development Agreement as well as cost-sharing agreements for fire, ambulance, libraries, FCSS, airport, and Part 9 Companies.”

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