

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS April 23, 2014

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

☐#1 M.D. Receives Clean 2013 Audit Report – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved the 2013 Consolidated Financial Statements. Auditors Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP, gave the M.D. a “clean report” for the year ending 2013, stating the municipality has good, solid, financial assets to provide future government services for its residents. The 2013 Financial Statement can be viewed on our website www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca or picked up at the Main Administration Office.

☐#2 Cleaning Up La Corey – Public Safety Patrol Officers will be patrolling the streets and highway going north through La Corey for litterbugs, as well as enforcing the Unsightly Premises Bylaw in order to reduce the garbage blowing around the hamlet. The Bonnyville Centralized High School Grad Class picked up over 60 bags of garbage in the hamlet on Saturday, April 12, but by the middle of the next week the mess had returned. Two properties have been issued Clean Up Orders. If they do not comply, M.D. staff will clean up the properties and charge back the costs to property owners. Construction sites in and around the hamlet have been contacted to clean up their debris. Another clean-up crew will be sent in to pick up the garbage and the M.D. will continue to monitor compliance with existing bylaws.

☐#3 Agricultural News – Local groups can still apply to do roadside clean-up in the M.D. Non-profit groups can earn \$60/km for Urban Areas, \$100/km for Special Areas and \$40/km for Rural Roads. The M.D. continues to sell two percent Strychnine for Ground Squirrel Control. Farmers who wish to purchase the product have to provide the M.D. with their name, size of farm and the legal land location where they are using Strychnine. The Agriculture Service Board (ASB) provided an annual funding grant of \$4,000 to the Alberta Farm Safety Council to teach its safety program in local schools. Last year 3,644 students went through the program. The ASB provided a grant of \$2,400 to the Bonnyville District 4-H Council to fund six local clubs with over 150 members throughout the region.

☐#4 Trail Development Moves Forward – Council approved the \$550,000 purchase of trail development equipment. The Transportation and Utilities Department will purchase a D4 Dozer, one Track Skid Steer, a 5500 Crew Truck with Dump Box, two Packers with one Vibratory Pad Foot and one Vibratory Steel Drum and one Trailer and Fuel Tank. The trails will be constructed primarily on the backslope of the road right-of-way and will consist of a six to eight foot wide subgrade and have a four to six inch compacted gravel base and a three inch hot mix asphalt surfacing. Once items have been purchased and received, the four staff required for the trail crew will be hired.

☐#5 Public Safety Update – Industry Officers are pleased with the compliance they are receiving from truckers during the spring Road Ban season. So far Officers have laid only two charges. Patrol Officers conducted the first of five Joint Traffic Operations with the Cold Lake RCMP. The four-hour operation focused on Highway 897 north of Highway

55 and south of Highway 659 with 15 tickets issued – 14 for speeding and one for not having a driver's license. Officers will be patrolling Highway 892 through Ardmore to ensure traffic is not speeding up through the 30 km/hr zone.

□#6 Transportation and Utilities Update – Three Pot Hole Patching Crews are now working on emerging issues throughout the M.D. The Road Construction crew is on Range Road 481 completing the project that was started last year. The crew will then move to Range Road 485. The contractor will be starting on the two mile Murphy Road overlay on May 20. The Dust Suppression MG 30 Crew is assessing last year's applications to determine whether or not gravel needs to be laid down and then they will start the reapplication process. Road gravelling has started on last year's road construction projects and will continue with spot gravelling as conditions allow. Contracted gravel haulers will start the second week of May weather permitting. Council awarded the Water Haul Tender to Bruce & Kathy's Enterprises Ltd. for \$110 per hour with a 16 cube truck. The contractor will operate on an as needed, callout basis. Council agreed to increase the Public Works Yard Weigh Scale budget by \$28,166.00 to purchase software and inbound and outbound kiosks that will allow for unmanned operation of the scale for larger hauls. This automation update will save money in the long term by not having to hire additional staff to operate the scale.

□#7 Linear Assessment Error – There was an error made by provincial assessors in the assessment of one pipeline that runs through several local rural municipalities. This resulted in an \$806,947 loss of revenue to the M.D, \$142,634 of which is school tax payments to the province. The M.D. will work with neighbouring rural municipalities to request the province reduce the school tax requisitions to address the assessment error. Council will adjust the 2014 Budget to account for the remainder of the tax loss.

□#8 Funding Support – The Alexander Recreation Society received its annual \$35,000 Operating Grant. Dupre Community League and Franchere Social Community Centre received their annual \$5,000 Operating Grants. Council agreed to provide a donation of \$5,000 each to the Town of Bonnyville and the City of Cold Lake to help cover the costs of their Canada Day Celebrations. Council approved a \$300 Coffee Break Sponsorship for the annual Northern Lights Library System Conference. Council approved a \$100 Bronze Sponsorship to the Cold Lake Kinosoo Performing Arts Association. Council agreed to provide a \$100 donation to M.D. staff participating in the local MS Walk. Council agreed to donate promotional items to the Alberta Hunter Education Instructor's Association's Spring Fling Banquet to help raise funds for Conservation Education.

□#9 Brief, Briefs, Briefs – The M.D. of Bonnyville and Cold Lake Councils met for the first time to discuss the ground rules in regards to the annexation of lands surrounding the city. No negotiations have occurred. M.D. Council will meet twice during the summer months – Wednesday, July 2 and August 27.

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.