#1 Ambulance Service Funding – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council agreed not to contribute extra funds to the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority (BRFA) to operate the Emergency Medical Services Division, as operational funding is the responsibility of the province under Alberta Health Services (AHS). The BRFA Board will now reassess ambulance service delivery models for the M.D. and the Town of Bonnyville to work within the AHS funding envelope. The BFRA will continue to own the ambulance service, which will allow the M.D. and the Town to continue to have direct input into the local delivery of Emergency Medical Services.

#2 Transportation and Utilities News – The M.D., in partnership with the Town of Bonnyville, is applying for a $350,000 Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant to base pave approximately 3.2 km of Gurneyville Road (Range Road 460) from Highway 28 to Township Road 610, for an estimated contract cost of $2.3 million. Staff have moved into the new La Corey Grader Shop/Fire Hall and are operating three graders out of the new location. Two full time operators from the Construction Crew will start brushing on the Wolf Lake Road this week. All tenders for services, material supply and construction projects will be out this month. Upon review and evaluation of bids, a recommendation will be brought back to Council for approval.

#3 Public Safety Update – School Resource Officers are completing the Right Choices Programs in various schools and have started on the CSI Program with Grade 6 students. School Officers have been doing some sessions at the high schools regarding healthy relationships, internet safety and sexting. Ward Patrol Officers continue to patrol Township Road 630 east of Cold Lake during the early morning hours in response to complaints about traffic speed. Officers continue to respond to traffic complaints on various M.D. roads during the 4 to 6 p.m. peak period.

#4 Agricultural and Waste Services News – The M.D. will be hosting a Clubroot Information Session on Monday, February 1 at the Flat Lake Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Supper will be served. Please register by calling 780-826-3951. Council approved the 2016 Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Program budget for $103,000. Council supported a Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Resolution to be brought forward to the Zone 5 Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) spring meeting. The resolution is asking the provincial government to review its procedures when confirming wolf predation and also to look at other jurisdictions that have the same wolf predation problems as Alberta. For example, once farmers have a confirmed wolf predation on their livestock, that they may receive compensation on missing animals as well.

#5 Planning and Development Update – In December, 14 development permits, 11 new residential building permits, one Industrial and two Removal permits were issued, with a 2015 year-to-date total of $43,613,840. Year-to-date 2015 housing starts include
54 Single Family Dwellings and 16 Mobile Home Units. In 2015, 50 applications for Subdivisions were processed, compared to 95 applications in 2014. Council approved Bylaw 1621, a Road Closure and Lease located at the intersection of Range Road 451 and Township Road 613 West of NW 13-61-5 W4M.

#6 Community Services News – All 13 runs should be open at Kinosoo Ridge Snow Resort by the end of the week. Attendance at the ski hill over the holiday season was superb, with record crowds being served on January 2. The parking lot expansion worked as planned, limiting foot traffic on the road and customers having easier access to their vehicles. The replacement purchase of a new Snow Cat Groomer for Kinosoo Ridge was approved for a cost of $340,000, with a trade-in value of $125,000 on the old machine. Staff are waiting for 10 more inches of snow before they can set the cross country ski track at Muriel Lake. The M.D. has submitted its intent to Alberta Environment and Parks to take over the Bear Trap Lake lease.

#7 Funding Support – Council agreed to contribute $500 to Duclos School in Bonnyville for its 100th Anniversary Celebrations on July 30 to 31. A plaque will also be presented to commemorate the centennial.

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.