#1 Road Permitting Program Cancelled – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved the cancellation of the existing road permitting system. In a subsequent motion Council authorized the Public Safety Department to purchase portable road side scales to assist in the implementation of a new system to protect M.D. roads.

#2 Agriculture Update – The deadline to apply for trees under the Prairie Shelterbelt Program is March 15. Application forms are available at the M.D. Agricultural Office or by calling the PFRA at 1-866-766-2284. Shelterbelt trees are free of charge, with clients paying shipping costs. To qualify for the program in 2012 property owners are required to own five acres of land. In 2011 the M.D. handed out over 11,000 trees to area residents. The Coyote and Wolf Reduction Program will end on March 15. As of last week over 1,100 coyotes and 32 wolves have been brought in. At the beginning of February over 30 people from local urban municipalities, provincial transportation officials, SRD Officers and representatives from industrial companies met to discuss weed management plans in the area. The new Weed Control Act was introduced and what regulations have been put in place to control new weeds in the act. The group agreed to meet annually to discuss regional weed control. The contractor the M.D. has hired to collect recycled metal, Enviro Metal Works, will be in the area for the next couple of weeks picking up the piles of metal at our landfills. Residents who have a lot of metal in their yards can contact the M.D. to request a pick up. The M.D. will also be shipping all the tires deposited at the landfills to the recycler in Edmonton. The federal government has given permanent approval for the annual Strychnine Program.

#3 Transportation and Utilities News – E Construction was awarded the tenders for the annual Cold Mix Supply for 35,000 tonnes of 20mm ASBC for a total of $2,242,700.00. JMB/Kalinko was awarded the annual Gravel Supply tender for 150,000 tonnes of Modified Designation 4 Class 20 mm for $2,280,000.00. Council approved a budget increase of $45,624.00 in order for the T&U Department to proceed with the purchase of two new tractors. Plans are being finalized for the Bear Trap Road reconstruction with the tender to be released at the end of February.

#4 Planning and Development Approvals – Building and development permits in the amount of $1,090.00 were waived for the Ardmore Hall renovations. First reading was given to Bylaw LU 503 to rezone NW 27-61-1 W4M from Country Residential (CR2) to Agricultural (A); Bylaw LU 504 for NW 23-61-5 W4M to rezone from Agricultural (A) to Rural Industrial (RI); Bylaw LU 505 for SW 10-61-5 W4M to rezone from Agricultural (A) to Rural Industrial (RI) and Bylaw LU 506 for SE 1-61-6 W4M to rezone from Agricultural (A) to Rural Industrial (RI).

#5 Funding Support – Land of the Lakes Recreation Board and the Beaverdam Community Society received their annual $35,000.00 Operating Grant cheques. Sandy Rapids Community Club received a Matching Hall Grant of $24,200 to be used as
matching funds in its application for a $60,500.00 CFEP Grant to renovate the hall’s roof and floors. The Club will put $6,050.00 of its own funds into the grant application. Council agreed to purchase a $480 table of eight for the Hearts For Hospital Gala on May 5 in Cold Lake. Council agreed to field two teams for the Glendon Pyrogy Bonspiel.

#6 Briefs, Briefs, Briefs – Council is sending a letter of support to the Joint Review Panel in support of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project. The M.D. will be refining the process of erecting and removing bus stop signs along its roadways. An inventory will be done of all existing signs to verify that the placements are appropriate. A Joint Meeting with the Town of Bonnyville has been scheduled for March 6 and a Joint Meeting with the City of Cold Lake has been scheduled for April 12.

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.