#1 Transportation and Utilities Gearing Up For Spring Construction Season – At a March 15th Special Council Meeting Council agreed to proceed with tendering and purchasing equipment, not to exceed $4.25 million, for a new oiling/misting crew, a road repair crew and a rip and relay crew. Council awarded the tender for Beartrap Road Reconstruction to Site Energy Ltd. for $2,443,371.47 and approved a total project budget of $2,822,422.62, pending the financial commitment from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. After trials with various chemical based dust suppressant products such as Calcium Chloride, MG30 and Durablend, Council agreed that the approved product for dust suppression for the 2012 season should be at minimum a Magnesium based product. Unlike Calcium Chloride, Magnesium is not slick or greasy once it sets on the road and the cost difference between the two products is insignificant. Depending on the amount of road traffic, the Magnesium product requires one or two applications. Council approved the $547,000 Formula Contractors tender for Bridge File 13115 southwest of Ardmore on Range Road 443. Four crews are out in full force brushing M.D. roads until the construction season starts. Steamer crews have been addressing problem culverts as the need arises. The M.D. is working with Alberta Transportation to secure future gravel resources and the municipality has put in applications for gravel resources under M.D. roadways. The M.D. continues to work with industry partners to identify future projects and ongoing maintenance issues, with truck routes being reviewed and modified to identify primary truck routes. Contract paving for Fort Kent streets, Urlacher subdivision approach and the Public Works shop parking lot have been awarded to Blue Flame and are scheduled to be completed by the end of October. Council agreed to increase the T&U Equipment Budget by $55,000 in order to purchase a used water truck.

#2 Ground Squirrel Control – Now that the province granted permanent registration to allow for the use of two per cent liquid Strychnine for gopher control the M.D. has started selling 250ml bottles for $7.50. Strychnine will have full registration until April 11, 2015 and then will have to be reregistered. 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 the strychnine and agree to use the product as outlined in the conditions set out in the permit.

#3 Coyote and Wolf Reduction Program Complete – The final tally for the 2011 Coyote and Wolf Reduction Program was 1,485 coyotes and 32 wolves, an increase of 200 animals from last year’s program. Ninety eight people participated in the program. In the northeast region of the province three other municipalities offered similar programs with similar success rates.

#4 Waste Update – Regional municipal members of the Beaver River Regional Waste Management Commission (BRRWMC) are looking at alternative options for waste disposal after the Evergreen Waste Commission gave May 1 notice of a $5/tonne increase and sent a $38,771 invoice for the Commission’s portion of the 2011 budget deficit. The
BRRWMC is looking at the costs of hauling waste to the regional landfill run by Beaver County in Ryley, as well as the possibility of constructing a regional landfill in the M.D. Brad and John Szydlik were awarded the waste hauling contract for the BRRWMC. M.D. Director of Agricultural Services Matt Janz was appointed Interim Manager of the Commission as Manager Roy Doonanco has taken a leave of absence to run as a candidate for the Wildrose Party in the provincial election.

#5 Planning and Development Update – First Reading was given to Bylaw LU507 to rezone the designated Country Residential (CR) zoning within the NE 13-59-6 W4M, a 50-acre parcel located adjacent to the east boundary of Kehewin First Nation, under LU122 to Agricultural (A). First Reading was given to Bylaw1519 for a Road Closure on NW 15-64-3 W4M.

#6 Local Improvement Taxes Change in Ardmore and Fort Kent – With the consolidation of two lots in Fort Kent, Local Improvement Tax Bylaw 1261 was amended, revised, and given Third Reading so that each of the parcels of land within the hamlets of Ardmore and Fort Kent bears an appropriate share of the local improvement tax for the water system.

#7 Funding Support – The Goodridge Social and Agricultural Society; Ardmore Senior Citizens; and Fort Kent Senior Citizens received their $35,000 Annual Operating Grants. North Shore Heights Recreation Society received their annual $5,000 Operating Grant and a $5,000 Special Projects Grant to finish off their playground. The Cold Lake Agricultural Society received a $3,000 grant for the 44th Annual Cold Lake Stampede on June 8, 9 and 10. Council donated $1,500 to the St. Paul Golf Club Haying In The 30s fundraiser. Council agreed to purchase a $600 table of eight for the Bonnyville RCMP Royal Canadian Mounted Police Regimental Ball. The Glendon School Athletic Track and Field team received a $250 grant to assist the team to travel to Toronto for the Nike Grand Prix Track and Field Meet. Council purchased a $100 Bronze Sponsorship for the Cold Lake Kinosoo Performing Arts Association. Council agreed to match the funds raised by staff for the CURE Breast Cancer National Denim Day. The following groups received $250 to attend provincial championships: Glendon Basketball; Bonnyville Minor Hockey; Cold Lake Panthers Hockey and the Bonnyville Bandits Soccer teams.

#8 Briefs, Briefs, Briefs – Council agreed to provide additional budget dollars for the purchase of a new $43,800 server storage array which is used to store all of the M.D.’s virtual servers, Exchange (email) and SQL Data.

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.