

Council Highlights

Delegations

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council about a particular issue, or with whom Council requests to speak.

Beaver River Watershed Alliance

Representatives from the Beaver River Watershed Alliance met with Council to discuss their programs and initiatives.

The alliance is a Watershed Planning and Advisory Council (WPAC) of which there are 11 in the province. The independent, non-profit coalition assesses and reports on the state of our local watershed, coordinates watershed planning with regional stakeholders—industry, government and community groups.

Alliance representatives also introduced their plan to facilitate integrated watershed management in the region to ensure cross-jurisdictional participation. They requested County representation on a steering committee that will develop an integrated watershed management plan in future months.

The group also requested \$2,500 in funding to support their X-Stream Science program, which teaches local students about healthy watersheds.

Council will discuss support for the Beaver River Watershed Alliance at a future Council meeting.

New Business

Planning and Development Fee and Fine Schedule

Administration presented a draft bylaw for the implementation of a fee and fine schedule for the Planning and Development department.

The schedule outlines fines for contraventions to the County's Land Use Bylaw (i.e. developing property without obtaining appropriate permits from the County) and fees for Planning and Development services (i.e. the fees required for obtaining permits).

Council approved first reading of the draft bylaw. The bylaw will now be advertised and a public hearing held for residents to provide their input in the coming weeks. Once this is complete and any changes made, Council may choose to give second and third readings to the bylaw.

Tipping Fee Policy

The current Tipping Fees Policy needs revision in order to accurately reflect the new Waste and Resource Recovery Bylaw.

The new bylaw charges a tipping fee for waste and recyclables disposed of at the County's landfills by commercial customers (i.e. industrial, commercial, institutional and construction and demolition materials). The current policy does not reflect the new fees laid out in the bylaw for the disposal of recyclables by commercial customers.

Council discussed whether or not, during the current economic climate, charging tipping fees for recyclables was the direction the County wants to take.

Council directed Administration to bring forward the County's Tipping Fees Schedule for further discussion at a future Council meeting.



Street Lighting Request

Council approved funding for street lighting at the intersection of Highway 55 and Range Road 142 in response to a petition put forward by residents.

New Road Construction Request Policy Revisions

Council approved revisions to the County's New Road Construction Request Policy.

The policy allows residents to request the County to cost-share the construction of roads on undeveloped road allowances to provide access to properties that do not have physical access.

The previous policy stated that Council would only consider these projects during budget deliberations and that residents were required to apply no later than September 30 each year. This meant that applicants could have to wait up to a full year for a decision.

The revised policy states that residents may apply for road construction cost-sharing at any point during the budget year and a decision will be made by Council based on merit and available funding after the request is made.

Plamondon Grader Shop

Council awarded the construction of the Plamondon Grader Shop to Bold Construction Ltd. for an estimated cost of \$229,700.

Highway 881 and Beaver Hill Road Intersection Improvements

Council approved tendering the construction of a Type 4 intersection at Beaver Hill Road and Highway 881 as part of the Highway 881 and 91 Avenue improvement project as a deletable item.

The estimated cost of the additional construction would be roughly \$498,000.

Aquatic Services Business Case Amendments

County Council had previously approved a business case for the hiring of Aquatic Services staff in the 2016 budget year, however Portage Pool staff requested some amendments to the business case.

Administration requested that a group of three to four Casual staff members be hired to perform the role of Shallow Water Attendants, versus the hiring of one permanent staff member. This will allow high school students who have recently completed their Bronze Cross training to work at Portage Pool and train to be Junior Lifeguards.

Attendance at Political Functions Policy

The Attendance at Political Functions Policy was up for review and Council ratified the policy without revisions.

The policy provides clarity and direction for Councillors who attend political party events. To ensure transparency and fairness, the policy prohibits the County from paying for any Council expenses incurred through attendance at party functions. Councillors are responsible for incurring the cost of attending these functions at their own expense. (This policy does not apply to Councillors serving in their official capacity, i.e. meeting with MLAs or MPs on behalf of Lac La Biche County.)

Electronic Communications with Residents

Council rescinded the outdated Electronic Communications with Residents Policy. The policy was developed to provide direction for an on-line forum for residents to communicate with Council that has since become obsolete.