

# 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.*

## Northeast Alberta Information HUB

Bob Bezpalko, Executive Director of the Alberta HUB met with Council to discuss the non-profit organization's purpose and initiatives.

Alberta HUB is the Regional Economic Development Alliance for northeast Alberta. Its members include municipalities (like Lac La Biche County) industry, business and post-secondary institutions. The group provides economic development support to its members and works to attract local, national and international investment to the HUB region.

## Public Input Session

*The purpose of a Public Input Session is to provide Council with an opportunity to obtain public comment on matters relevant to the municipality. They are generally scheduled at 12:15 p.m. during Regular Council Meetings. It is not necessary to pre-register. Each speaker has up to 10 minutes to speak.*

Residents who wanted to speak on behalf of the Lac La Biche Regional Humane Society attended the Public Input Session. They spoke about the issue of feral cats in the County, the need for a humane cat bylaw and their desire for the County work with the Humane Society to address the issue of feral cats in the community.

## New Business

### Update on Lakeview Manor Fire

The County's Manager of Protective Services and Regional Fire Chief, John Kokotilo, gave Council an update on the fire

that displaced 42 people on March 12.

The fire was caused by a cigarette put out in a planter with a peat moss inlay. The cigarette smoldered for hours before starting the fire that caused \$1.25 million dollars in damage. The County's new ladder truck was instrumental in putting out the third-story fire and mitigating the overall impact of the fire on the building.

Twenty-six fire fighters responded from across the County's community fire halls. All residents were evacuated and none sustained injuries, thanks to the quick response.

### New Golf Shop Exterior Finishing

Council approved \$34,650 to construct an asphalt pad outside of the new golf shop at the Lac La Biche Golf and Country Club.

### 2016 Budget Adopted

Council approved the 2016 budget for Lac La Biche County. Operating expenditures were set at \$48,185,954 and capital expenditures at \$49,974,387.

Some of the highlights from this year's capital budget include:

- Paving Old Trail connecting Lac La Biche and Plamondon
- Paving Lakeview Estates subdivision
- Resurfacing six kilometres of road in the hamlets, part of a five-year program
- Base work and paving 91 Avenue and upgrading Highway 881 intersection
- Base work and paving Tower Road
- Paving two kilometres of the Holowachuk Estates subdivision internal roads
- Paving Nipewon Road
- Re-grading Township Road 684A
- Replacement of curb, gutter and sidewalks in the hamlets, part of a five-year program
- Paving 88 Avenue in the hamlet of Lac La Biche



### **Plamondon Main Street Upgrades**

After discussion, Council approved an additional \$1.4 million to the 2016 capital budget to complete storm water upgrades, curb, gutter, sidewalk and light replacement, in partnership with Alberta Transportation and Fortis, on Plamondon's Main Street.

### **Letter to the Editor, Development**

On March 8, 2016, a Letter to the Editor in the Lac La Biche Post stated that the County's previous Administration negatively impacted the development process concerning the establishment of a Tim Horton's franchise in Lac La Biche.

In order to assess and address the facts stated in the letter, Council directed Administration to compile a chronology of events with respect to this development file.

### **Equipment Operator Lead Hand**

Council approved the repurposing of a vacant Landfill Equipment Operator to incorporate a supervisory role.

In order to meet workload and staff development pressures, Environmental Services requires a senior position in the field to support landfill staff. The Lead Hand position will also perform the duties of an Equipment Operator.

### **Storm Water Retention Ponds**

Council awarded the tender of \$708,639 to a local company for the construction of storm water retention ponds at the Beaver Lake and Plamondon landfills.

### **Laser Tag**

Recreation staff are regularly looking for opportunities to expand recreational programming in the County.

The Canadian Forces Base in Edmonton has donated laser tag equipment to the County—18 vests and lasers as well as inflatable obstacles.

Council approved \$5,000 to activate the computer system and purchase batteries for the equipment.

### **Cat Control Bylaw**

In response to the concerns of residents, Council requested that Administration prepare options for dealing with the problem of feral cats in the community for their review and input.

Administration presented the options that are currently being used in Alberta's municipalities:

- No formal steps taken to address the issue
- Using in-house resources (i.e. Bylaw Officers) to capture, register and tag cats
- Asking residents to register their cats and providing traps to residents to capture feral felines.

The second and third options will require procedures, administration and a place to house felines once captured.

Council discussed the various options and will further address the issue at a future Council meeting.

### **104 Avenue Project**

Council approved a \$300,000 sanitary sewer replacement project for 104 Avenue, to occur in 2016.

### **Roles and Responsibilities Workshop**

Council approved the scheduling of a Council Roles and Responsibilities Workshop facilitated by Alberta Municipal Affairs in the near future.

The workshop will outline the various roles and responsibilities of Council members.

### **Council Code of Conduct Policy**

Council reviewed and approved recommended changes to the Council Code of Conduct Policy.

### **Procurement Policy Update**

Council approved a revised Procurement Policy for the County. The revised policy lowered the value thresholds of projects/goods and services that require the approval of Council to be purchased.