

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.

Telus

Representatives from Telus met with Council to discuss plans to expand and improve cell service in the area. They reported that Telus purchased spectrum in the 700Mhz frequency in 2014 and that existing towers are being retrofitted to use this frequency. Once these upgrades are complete, existing service areas should see an improvement in cell service.

It will be necessary for additional towers to be built to improve cell service in areas that are currently without it (i.e. Plamondon). There are a number of towers slated to be built near Plamondon, Lac La Biche and other outlying areas in the County over the next three years, however future Telus budgets will play a role in determining if and when these planned towers are actually approved for construction.

New Business

Land Use Bylaw Amended

County Council approved second and third reading of a bylaw that amends Section 46 of the County's Land Use Bylaw. The amendment allows the municipality to address contraventions of the Land Use Bylaw through fines and updates the fees charged for various services offered by the County's Planning and Development department.

New Fees and Fines Adopted for Planning and Development Department

Council approved second and third reading of a bylaw that establishes new fees for various Planning and Development services and fines for various contraventions of the Land

Use Bylaw, most notably, developing property without appropriate permits in place.

Terms of Reference for Visitor Information Centre

Council has discussed options for a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in the County on various occasions. Currently, the County's VIC is run by the Chamber of Commerce, however their contract is up in 2016. Council directed Administration to advertise for contractors interested in providing the VIC service in the County.

In preparation for this, Administration developed a Terms of Reference for prospective contractors, to delineate the various services Council would like to see offered by the County's VIC.

The County will be looking for a creative contractor to develop and run a VIC in Plamondon and Lac La Biche. Contractors can bid on running both sites or only one, depending on their business plan.

Council approved the Terms of Reference for the VIC. The contract will be advertised in the near future.

Army Cadets Jubilee Hall Lease Extended

Council approved the extension of the lease agreement with the 2995 Lac La Biche Army Cadets in the Jubilee Hall basement through May 1, 2017. The agreement allows that both the County or the Cadets may terminate the lease, should the facility's situation change, with notice.

2017 Budget Plan

The County's 2016 budget was passed just last month, however Administration is gearing up to prepare for the 2017 budget.

Council will be taking tours of County roads, facilities,



landfills and parks during the summer months, taking stock of current capacities and future needs. A budget planning day will be held in September 2016 to lay out priorities for next year's budget.

Offsite Levies Update

Council and Administration have been working to develop equitable offsite levies to support the development of much-needed infrastructure (roads and water/sewer systems) into the future. (Offsite levies are charged to property owners that benefit or will benefit from localized infrastructure.)

Council has identified that the County's current offsite levies system is flawed. The County's Planning and Development department is working on a new offsite levy system, however, in the meantime, Council directed Administration to bring forward an amendment to the current Offsite Levies Bylaw that will allow Council to lower, waive or alter the terms and timing of offsite levies in the County. This will allow Council to address inequitable offsite levy charges while the Offsite Levy Bylaw is being re-written.

Old Trail Construction Project Awarded

After holding an open tender at a previous Council meeting, Council awarded the Old Trail construction project to Martushev Logging Ltd. for a cost of just under \$14,000,000.

The project will see Old Trail, the 23 kilometre stretch connecting Lac La Biche and Plamondon, paved and graded. Construction will start this summer.

Hamlet Street Lighting

Council discussed updating Main Street lighting in the hamlets of Plamondon and Lac La Biche. Council directed Administration to consult with Fortis about partnering to explore street lighting options.