

Council Highlights

Delegations

Funding for 2017 Winter Festival of Speed

- Mr. Ken Staples, a representative of the Lakeland Classic Wheels Club, approached Council to ask for funding for the 2017 Winter Festival of Speed.
- The Winter Festival of Speed is an annual event featuring vehicles races and an aircraft fly-in, among other attractions, on the frozen surface of Lac La Biche Lake. The 2017 event is scheduled for February 25 and 26.
- Council voted to provide \$18,000 in funding, as well as in-kind support.

Unfinished Business

Triggers for Commercial or Industrial Area Structure Plans

- Council has been reviewing the triggers that make the creation of area structure plans (ASPs) necessary for commercial and industrial lots. ASPs are special land use documents created to guide development and subdivision in specific areas. The hamlet of Beaver Lake, for example, has an ASP.
- In October, Administration was directed to research the systems that neighbouring municipalities like Athabasca County are using to determine when commercial and industrial ASPs are needed.
- After reviewing Administration's findings, Council voted to amend a draft bylaw that, when passed, will alter the County's Municipal Development Plan. The amendments will make it so that subdividing or developing two or more commercial or industrial lots will require creating an ASP. Such a plan might also be needed for subdividing or developing a single lot, if certain

conditions are met.

- The draft bylaw, with those amendments included, will be presented to Council for first reading at a future meeting.

New Business

Update on Bill 21 and Municipal Affairs Consultations

- The provincial government is continuing consultations on Bill 21, the *Modernized Municipal Government Act* (MMGA), which has not been proclaimed yet.
- The MMGA includes a maximum ratio of 5:1 between a municipality's highest and lowest property tax rates. The ratio in Lac La Biche County is currently 7.35:1 (between the rural non-residential and residential rates) but the timeframe that this arrangement will be allowed for is uncertain.
- The County has applied for specialized municipality status, and is specifically asking to be made exempt from the 5:1 ratio requirement, among other requests.
- Council reviewed this information and voted to send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, outlining the County's position on this matter and other topics.

Revisions to Dust Abatement Policy

- Council discussed the County's dust abatement program, which uses calcium chloride to control dust on rural roads where residents have applied for the service.
- The existing policy requires a \$50 fee for an initial 200-metre application of calcium chloride. Council directed Administration to propose revisions to the policy so that all fees for initial



applications are abolished, as a pilot project to be reviewed in a year's time. The proposed revisions will be presented to Council for further review at an upcoming meeting.

Councillor Expense Claims

- Councillors reviewed their November 2016 expense claims and accepted the briefing that was presented as information.
- After discussing the timeframe for submitting expense claims, Council voted to direct the Policy Review Committee to review the current claims policy and make recommendations.

Provincial Electoral District Boundaries

- Council was informed that the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission has been assembled to review existing electoral districts (also known as constituencies or ridings) and recommend possible changes.
- Council discussed the possibility of forming a new riding containing the urban centres of Lac

La Biche County and neighbouring Athabasca, to reflect similar community and economic interests. Administration was directed to prepare a draft written submission reflecting these principles:

1. Placing the hamlet of Lac La Biche in the same riding as Athabasca.
 2. Keeping the western portions of Highway 55 and Northern Lights Public Schools in the same electoral district.
 3. Ensuring that Lac La Biche County's Aboriginal communities are placed in the same riding as the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
 4. Obtaining permission to form a riding with a population more than 25 per cent below the provincial average.
- A representative of Council will solicit the opinions of affected municipalities like the Town of Athabasca, the Village of Boyle and others, with a view to writing a joint submission.