

# Council Highlights

## Unfinished Business

### Draft Land Use Bylaw Review

- Council has been reviewing the County's Land Use Bylaw (LUB), a critical piece of legislation that determines what types of development are allowed on different properties in the County.
- Among other topics, councillors discussed work camp regulations and downtown parking requirements.

### Work Camps:

- Administration will amend the draft LUB so that work camps are not permitted within a 20-kilometre "buffer zone" around the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon. There will be some exceptions to this rule, though, like camps linked to government emergency services (e.g. the Alberta Forestry camp on Highway 663).
- All applications for work camps to be located more than 20 kilometres away from the hamlets will be reviewed by the Municipal Planning Commission.
- The draft LUB will also be amended so that temporary accommodations for festivals, concerts and other visiting entertainments are not considered work camps.

### Parking:

- The draft LUB includes a "historical commercial district" with different commercial parking requirements than other areas of the County.
- The draft bylaw will be amended so that, for almost all commercial establishments in the downtown areas of Lac La Biche and Plamondon, one parking space will be required for every 100 square metres of gross

floor space. Exceptions to this rule will be hotels and motels constructed in 2017 or later. They will require one parking space for each guest room.

### Next Steps:

- Council has passed a motion to have the amended draft LUB prepared for public consultation, including open houses and public hearings. The consultation process will start no later than the first week of March.

### First Reading of a Bylaw to Cancel Off-Site Levy Collection

- Council gave first reading to a bylaw that, if passed, will repeal two other bylaws that make it possible for the County to collect off-site levies.
- Off-site levies are fees the municipality collects when a landowner develops or subdivides property in designated areas. The rationale has been to use the dollars to help pay for water and sewer lines or roads in those areas, but Council's feeling is that the levies are an added barrier to development.
- Now that the bylaw has been given first reading, a public hearing will be held before second and third readings are given and the bylaw officially becomes legislation.

## New Business

### Cat Control

- After hearing feedback from multiple sources about stray and feral cat populations in the area, Administration followed up on a Council directive from 2016 and presented a draft bylaw for cat control in Lac La Biche County.
- After discussing the proposed bylaw, Council



voted not to give it first reading, but instead to have municipal employees consult with local agencies and determine best practices for animal control. Administration will then recommend possible courses of action at a future meeting.

- The hamlet of Lac La Biche has a population of 2,682 people and the hamlet of Plamondon has a population of 348 people.

- [Click here](#) to view the County's complete 2016 Census Report.

### Change to 2016 Operating Budget to Include Wood Buffalo Evacuation Costs

- The Fort McMurray wildfire and subsequent evacuations in May were unforeseeable events that significantly impacted Lac La Biche County's operating budget, as the Province directed the County to open a reception centre for evacuees.
- Council voted to increase the County's 2016 operating budget by \$1,450,000 to cover the unexpected expenses, with the exception of non-overtime salaries attributed to the evacuation activities.
- While the County is applying for financial assistance through the Disaster Recovery Program, Council passed a motion directing Administration to explore avenues to recoup all of the municipality's operating costs associated with the evacuations.

### 2016 Census Report

- Lac La Biche County completed a municipal census over a three-month period in 2016 and presented a preliminary report to Council last summer. A final report with official numbers has now been approved.

#### Census Summary:

- The County counted 8,544 permanent residents and 987 "shadow residents."

### Letter of Support for Alberta Order of Excellence Nomination

- David Hanson, MLA for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, asked Lac La Biche County to provide a letter of support for nominating Herman Poulin for the Alberta Order of Excellence.
- Mr. Poulin is a well known artist whose work includes the statue of David Thompson on Churchill Drive in the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
- Council voted to send a letter of support. The Alberta Order of Excellence is a high honour bestowed on citizens for remarkable contributions to the province and country.

### Meetings with Ministers at Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Convention

- Councillors typically request meetings with provincial ministers at conventions and other events. The next Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) convention will take place in late March.
- Administration has been directed to request meetings to discuss Highway 858, mental health resources in rural Alberta, fishing regulations and the province's Rural Development Strategy, among other subjects.