



# Council Highlights

## New Business

### Bylaw to Stop the Charging of Off-Site Levies

- Council gave third reading to Bylaw 17-001, which repeals two other bylaws and stops the charging of off-site levies in Lac La Biche County.
- Off-site levies are fees the County collects when landowners subdivide or develop properties in designated areas of the municipality. The rationale has been to use the dollars to help pay for water and sewer lines and roads in those areas, but the levy system has been criticized as inconsistent and restrictive.
- Councillors debated the matter after a public hearing, and Council's general feeling was that the off-site levy system is an added barrier to development in the County.
- Council and County Administration will consider alternative available options for recouping infrastructure costs.

### Draft Land Use Bylaw Review

- Council has been reviewing the Land Use Bylaw (LUB), an important piece of legislation that determines what types of development are allowed on different properties in the County.
- Administration updated Council on the draft LUB's progress. Councillors discussed draft regulations for a Hamlet Commercial Business District, which is designed to control land use on properties along Nipewon Road in the hamlet of Lac La Biche.
- Open houses for public input have been scheduled for March 8 in Plamondon and March 9 in the hamlet of Lac La Biche. Further details will be posted on the County's website and Facebook page.

- Feedback from the public will be reviewed before the draft LUB is presented to Council for first reading later this year.

## Library Business

- Council unanimously approved the 2017 budget for the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS). The library system controls library services in municipalities throughout northeastern Alberta, including Lac La Biche County.
- The annual NLLS budget must be approved by two-thirds of the system's member municipalities in order to become official.
- This means both the County and the local Library Board will be levied approximately \$60,000 to help pay for NLLS' operations and programs.
- Councillors also voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Lenora LeMay to the Lac La Biche County Library Board, for a three-year term ending in January of 2020.

## Wolf Incentive Pilot Program

- County Administration and the Agricultural Service Board have both noted increases in wolf-related complaints and livestock losses.
- Administration presented a Wolf Incentive Pilot Program, whereby the County can "register" local trappers and assign them to trap wolves when livestock producers are experiencing problems.
- The County will pay trappers who have been assigned for wolf carcasses. Administration consulted with the Alberta Trappers Association before presenting this pilot program.
- Council voted to allocate a total of \$10,000 for the program, which will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2018.



### Speed Limit Changes on Highway 858

- Alberta Transportation has proposed changes to the speed limit on Highway 858, which runs through the hamlet of Plamondon.
- The current speed limit on the highway goes from 100 km/h to 50 km/h as drivers approach the hamlet. The provincial authorities are recommending that the speed limit drop from 100 km/h to 80 km/h, before dropping further to 50 km/h.
- The current speed limit of 50 km/h in Plamondon itself will not change.
- Council voted to send a letter to Alberta Transportation officials in support of the proposed changes.

### Water and Sewer Connection Bylaw

- Councillors gave first reading to a draft bylaw that will make water and sewer line connections mandatory in areas where the underground utilities are available.
- The draft bylaw is intended to help the County start recovering the costs of building and maintaining infrastructure. If the legislation is approved, there will be penalties for property owners who fail to connect.