



Council Highlights

Urgent Matters

Support Letter for Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Society

- The Lakeland Out of the Elements Shelter Society, which operates an emergency shelter for homeless persons in the hamlet of Lac La Biche, requested a letter of support from Council for a grant application.
- Councillors discussed the matter and voted to send a letter of support. The grant application deadline was urgent, so the letter was immediately drafted, signed and forwarded to the Society.

New Business

Approval of the County's 2017 Budget

- Administration presented the County's 2017 draft budget for approval. Council began budget deliberations in January, after an interim budget was approved in late 2016 to maintain County programs and services in the meantime.
- Council voted to officially adopt the budget with operating expenditures of approximately \$51.9 million and around \$28 million in capital spending. The approved budget forecasts a year-end surplus of about \$1.42 million.
- Important capital projects include:
 1. Sidewalk replacement and hamlet road resurfacing programs
 2. A water and sewer rehabilitation program.
 3. Engineering and construction for new and improved utilities and roads in the County.
 4. A floating dock with boat slips, near the former location of the Big Dock.
 5. Various equipment purchases, including a new fire truck and inflatable rescue boats.

- The next step is for Council to discuss and set the municipality's property tax rates. Council is scheduled to receive information about property assessment in the County in mid-April.
- A detailed overview of the official budget will be posted on the County's website soon.

Approval of the CAO's Quarterly Report

- Chief Administrative Officer Shadia Amblie presented her quarterly report, which describes the progress made in each of the County's 15 departments in the first quarter of 2017.
- Council approved the report, and a summarized version of it will be posted on the County's website soon.
- Following a side discussion about Portage Pool, councillors voted to have Administration explore the possibility of opening the pool on Sundays. Administration will present its findings at Council's regular meeting on March 28, 2017.

Lac La Biche Watershed Management Plan

- Lac La Biche County's Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was developed in 2009. The plan is meant to encourage the protection and responsible management of water in the lands around Lac La Biche Lake. It includes recommendations for protecting sensitive wetlands and shorelines.
- Administration recommended thoroughly reviewing and updating the WMP. Council directed Administration to schedule a strategic session in order to review the plan.

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Update on the South Lac La Biche Major Area Structure Plan

- Gordon Shaw, Senior Manager of Planning and Development, provided Council with an update on the South Lac La Biche Major Area Structure Plan (ASP). An ASP is a special land use document created to guide subdivision and development in a specific area.
- The South Lac La Biche Major ASP pertains to lands in the hamlet of Lac La Biche's southern portion, including the highway bypass route, and lands along Highway 36.
- An open house for the draft ASP was held on January 27, 2017. A summary report, including feedback from attendees, was provided to Council for review.
- Councillors voted to have a draft bylaw brought forward for first reading at a future meeting. This bylaw would make the ASP official after it has been given three readings.

Availability of Residential Lots

- Councillors discussed the availability of residential lots in the County, and especially in the hamlet of Lac La Biche. It was suggested that the County develop municipally owned properties to increase the number of available and affordable lots.
- Council voted to hold a Special Council Meeting on March 30, 2017 to discuss land availability in the County.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Council Chambers, on the second floor of McArthur Place.

Complete Council meeting minutes can be viewed on the County's website, after they have been adopted by Council.