

Council Highlights

Delegations

Project update from Rich Lake Recreation & Agricultural Society

- Ms. Briget Vezeau and Ms. Ashley Smith, representing the Rich Lake Recreation & Agricultural Society, provided Council with an update on the construction of a new community centre and agriplex in Rich Lake.
- The Society is entering the third phase of building the combined facility. The group wants the agriplex portion to be finished in 2017 so that the facility can become a source of revenue.
- Lac La Biche County had previously granted funds to the Society. Council passed a motion to allow the remaining dollars to be used for completing layout drawings, so the Society can obtain accurate costs for finishing construction.

Public Input Session

Grant funding for Road To Hope Community Support Foundation

- Representatives of Road To Hope Community Support Foundation approached Council to explain their organization's activities. Road To Hope is a local volunteer group, operating in both Lac La Biche County and Athabasca, that provides free transportation to and from treatment appointments for cancer patients.
- The matter of funding for Road To Hope was on the agenda for Council to discuss later in the meeting. Road To Hope had applied for a grant through the Community Social Services program.
- Council voted to provide the requested \$2,500 to Road To Hope for its annual awareness campaign.

New Business

Highway tourism signage for Lac La Biche Farmers' Market

- The Lac La Biche Farmers' Market requested \$2,800 in funding from the County, to pay for Tourism-Oriented Directional Signage (TODS) on local highways. Once in place, the provincial government will maintain the TODS for five years.
- Council voted to increase the County's tourism budget by \$2,800 to accommodate this request.

Terri Clark concert at the Bold Center

- Karizma Concerts Inc. approached the County to host a concert featuring Canadian country music star Terri Clark at the Bold Center. Karizma and the County would work together to sell tickets.
- The Bold Center is designed to hold concerts and other public entertainment functions. If this event is successful, County Administration will consider hosting one or two concerts per year.
- Council voted to approve \$27,500 to host the concert on Thursday, July 13, 2017.

Public swimming times on Sundays at Portage Pool

- Council had previously requested information about the possibility of offering public swim times at Portage Pool on Sundays.
- Administration was asked to present a plan, and Aquatic Services Coordinator Tegan Chislett explained that opening the facility for five hours on Sundays would mean closing it for six and a half hours on Mondays.

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Regular Council Meeting April 11, 2017

- Staffing is an ongoing challenge at Portage Pool, and extensive training is required to become a certified lifeguard. Aquatic Services has been working with Human Resources to start resolving these issues.
- Council decided to leave the pool schedule unchanged for the time being but directed Administration to open the facility on Sundays as soon as it is practicable to do so. A budget increase of up to \$35,000 for recruitment and retention programs was approved.
- Councillors have also allocated up to \$30,000 for a pilot project to install surveillance cameras on Main Street in downtown Lac La Biche. The camera program will be revisited and assessed once it has been implemented, to determine if more cameras are needed.

Community policing and surveillance options and costs

- Council has been discussing the local Community Peace Officer program, the possibility of paying for additional RCMP officers in the community, and whether or not surveillance cameras should be placed in downtown Lac La Biche.
- The County has heard concerns from residents and business owners regarding the safety and appearance of the downtown area. Council is mindful of the need to aid with law enforcement in the community.
- Council voted to increase Enforcement Services' budget by \$16,400 so that two current Level Two Peace Officers can be advanced to Level One status. Level One officers have greater authority, including powers of arrest. Council will review the Community Peace Officer Policy to ensure the program continues to function in accordance with Council's priorities.
- Council also directed Administration to apply for two enhanced RCMP officer positions. If approved, this measure would effectively bring two more RCMP officers to the community, with the County covering their salaries.

Relocation of Owl River transfer station

- In order to permanently close the inactive Owl River landfill, the existing transfer station needs to be relocated.
- Administration had planned to survey residents of Owl River, as well as residents in Blais Resort, Big Bay, Golden Sands and other areas, to determine the preferred locations for a new transfer station.
- Council directed Administration to simply prepare options for the site's closure and relocation.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 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.