



Council Highlights

New Business

Review of Feedback from Land Use Bylaw Open Houses

- Lac La Biche County's Land Use Bylaw (LUB) has been undergoing a thorough review. The LUB determines the types of land uses that are allowed on different properties throughout the County, making it one of the municipality's most important pieces of legislation.
- Open houses were held in the month of March, to give the public an opportunity to view the draft bylaw and give feedback. County Administration presented a summary of the feedback, along with recommendations for addressing some of the issues raised, during Council's meeting on May 9.
- Councillors voted for Administration to prepare a revised LUB, incorporating the public's feedback, for first reading. The draft bylaw must be given three readings before it becomes official legislation.

Application for the Visitor Friendly Alberta program

- The Visitor Friendly Alberta program is a provincial initiative that assesses communities' visual appeal, visitor amenities and more. The County has a Tourism Action Plan that identifies the Visitor Friendly Alberta program as a possible strategy for determining areas of improvement.
- Council voted for the County to submit an application for the program, with the County supporting 25 per cent of the associated costs, up to \$10,000. The County's budget for economic development activities has been increased by this amount.

Local Sports Hall of Fame and Inspiration Wall

- Council had previously shown support for creating a Local Sports Hall of Fame and Inspiration Wall at the Bold Center, to showcase local amateur and professional athletes and sporting achievements.
- Administration presented draft nomination guidelines and induction criteria for the Hall of Fame, which Council approved. Council also allocated \$15,000 to support this project.
- The Hall of Fame and Inspiration Wall will have an annual nomination deadline of October 1 each year, with 10 inductees being accepted by October 31 annually.

Appointment of Chair of Homelessness Reduction Task Force

- The County has taken the lead in forming a Homelessness Reduction Task Force, comprised of County representatives and members of various community groups. The task force's terms of reference and other matters, including the appointment of the chair, are under Council's purview.
- The task force's members recommended appointing Heather Stromquist as chair. Council voted to accept this recommendation.
- The task force is now operating and liaising with different organizations like the Alberta Rural Development Network to begin meeting its goals. Finding ways to reduce homelessness in Lac La Biche County was identified as a high priority in Council's Tactical Plan for 2017.





Hamlet Entrance Signage

- The County's capital budget for 2017 included \$225,000 for ornamental signs at the entrances to major hamlets. Lac La Biche and Plamondon will have three signs each, and Beaver Lake, Hylton and Venice will each have one.
- Administration presented two concepts for signs. Council selected the first option, which featured taller and more colourful signage. Administration will now coordinate the project design and construction.

Elinor Lake Transfer Station Closure

- The former Elinor Lake landfill has been inactive for a number of years, and the County plans to formally close and cap the site for environmental protection in 2017.
- As a result of the closure and the construction work involved, it will no longer be feasible to continue operating the seasonal Elinor Lake transfer station. Council voted to close the transfer station as part of the official landfill closure. More information on closure timelines will be communicated to residents when details are confirmed.

Proposal to Name an Island in Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park

- All of the islands in Lac La Biche Lake are part of Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park, but one of them remains unnamed. A proposal to name the island in the lake's southeast arm after Tom Maccagno dates back several years.
- Tom Maccagno was involved in groups like the Lac La Biche Birding Society and the Lakeland Provincial Park Public Advisory Committee. He also lobbied the provincial government to ensure all of the islands in Lac La Biche Lake were included in Sir Winston Churchill Provincial Park.
- Council directed Administration to write a letter of support for naming the island after Mr. Maccagno. The letter will be sent to the Alberta

Historical Resources Foundation Board. If the provincial government agrees, it will be this group that makes the renaming decision.

Lakeland Interpretive Society Operational Funding

- The County received a request for funding from the Lakeland Interpretive Society, which operates the Lac La Biche Regional Museum & Discovery Centre on the lower floor of McArthur Place.
- The Society requested \$188,500 in funding and Council approved granting \$75,000 earlier in the year. The remainder of the request was discussed during the May 9 meeting.
- A motion to grant an additional \$113,500, thereby giving the Society the full requested amount, was defeated. Council then passed a motion to grant an additional \$75,000.

Sponsorship of Portage College Voyageurs

- Portage College had earlier approached the County regarding possible sponsorship of the Portage College Voyageurs men's hockey team. Council took the request into consideration and made decisions that would allow the college to save funds while having the team play and practice at the Bold Center.
- During the May 9 meeting, Council voted to accept the college's proposal and enter into a three-year sponsorship agreement, with \$100,000 in funding to be disbursed each year.
- It has since been reported that the college and the City of Cold Lake have reached a similar agreement. Lac La Biche County Council and Administration continue to address this matter.