

Council Highlights

New Business

Jubilee Hall Concept Plans

- Lac La Biche County is planning to move the Lac La Biche Regional Museum & Discovery Centre to Jubilee Hall. The museum is currently housed on the bottom floor of McArthur Place.
- The museum is run by the Lakeland Interpretive Society. The group cares for and displays the County's artifacts and archives, and has also been contracted to provide visitor information services on behalf of the County.
- County Administration presented concept plans for repurposing Jubilee Hall to accommodate the museum and a Visitor Information Centre. Councillors voted to accept these plans.
- The County is currently planning to finish renovations and move the museum by September of 2018.

McArthur Place Renovation

- Administration presented concept plans for expanding and enhancing the McArthur Room at McArthur Place, in order to increase the room's seating capacity.
- The concept plans outline how 1,100 square feet of new floor space could be added to the room itself, with a deck extension to match.
- After a discussion, Council decided to accept Administration's briefing as information but did not commit to taking further action at this time.

Auction of Surplus County Assets

- Administration has prepared a list of the County's equipment items that have become "surplus assets" for various reasons. Items on the list range from mowers and pressure washers to wheeled docks and corral panels.

- An auction to sell these surplus assets has been scheduled on September 16, 2017. Councillors agreed to approve the list of items for auction.

Awarding of Mission Beach Water and Sewer Project

- The County's budget for 2017 includes \$1.7 million for installing water and sewer services in Phase 1 of Mission Beach subdivision. A thorough administrative process was required before the contract could be awarded, though, including notifying property owners of a proposed local improvement levy.
- A local improvement levy is a special tax, applied to properties in a specific area, to help cover the costs of building infrastructure in that area. The County did not receive any valid petitions against the proposed levy in this case, so the project is now proceeding.
- Administration recommended awarding the contract to Razor Earthworks. The work will be completed for \$1,281,580 plus GST. A portion of the project costs will be recouped through the local improvement levy, and the completion date for the project has been extended to October of this year.

Plamondon Seniors Rendez-Vous Centre Capital Request

- The County had previously approved approximately \$26,000 in funding to help cover the costs of renovating the Plamondon Seniors Rendez-Vous Centre. During these renovations, it was discovered that bathroom fans had not been installed correctly and additional work was required to correct this.

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- The Centre approached the County, asking for assistance in covering the unforeseen costs. Council approved an additional \$2,722 in capital funding for this purpose, equalling 50 per cent of the additional costs.

Letter of Support for a Moratorium on Rural Post Office Closures

- The County had earlier received a request from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, asking Council to send a letter in support of a moratorium on post office closures in rural areas.
- Administration presented a draft letter for Council's approval. The letter expresses the County's support for maintaining rural post offices, like the ones in the hamlets of Lac La Biche and Plamondon.
- Council agreed to approve the letter, which will be sent to Minister of Public Services and Procurement Judy Foote.

Timelines for Adoption of the Land Use Bylaw

- The County's Land Use Bylaw (LUB) has been undergoing a thorough review process, which is nearing completion. The LUB determines zoning and permitted land uses for different properties throughout the County.

- Open houses to inform the public about the new draft bylaw and its contents were held in March. The draft bylaw requires three readings and a public hearing before it can be formally adopted.
- Council decided to schedule first reading on August 15, 2017. A public hearing will be held on September 7, 2017 at 5 p.m. Second and third readings will follow as appropriate.

Lac La Biche County 2017 Communications Plan

- Administration has reviewed and updated the County's official Communications Plan, which describes guiding principles, target audiences and tactics for reaching the County's communications goals.
- Council approved the draft 2017 Communications Plan. The Plan's tactics are addressed throughout the year, not only after it has been approved by Council, but the document serves to inform Council and the public about the County's communications initiatives and strategies.

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