

# Council Highlights

## Delegations

### Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation

- Representatives of the Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation presented an update on the group's activities to Council. Foundation chairman Zicki Eludin advised that approximately \$2 million has been raised in the two years the group has been operating.
- The Foundation was approved by Alberta's Health Minister in 2015, with a mandate to fundraise for enhanced medical care and equipment in the region. The Foundation representatives thanked the County for its support in the past two years, and Councillors thanked the Foundation members for their hard work and dedication.

## Public Hearings

### Area Structure Plan for the Hamlet of Plamondon and Area

- Council gave first reading to Bylaw 17-015, to adopt an Area Structure Plan (ASP) for the hamlet of Plamondon and the surrounding area, in early August. A public hearing was held on September 12, to hear feedback from stakeholders.
- An ASP is a special planning document, used to guide development and subdivision in a specific area of the County.
- During the public hearing, several concerns about rezoning were raised. Senior Manager of Planning and Development Gord Shaw advised that the County cannot arbitrarily rezone properties without the owners' permission, and the ASP only represents a long-range forecast for the area.
- After the public hearing, Council voted to defer further consideration of the matter to a meeting

later in the month. The draft bylaw requires two more readings before it becomes official.

## New Business

### Surplus County Assets

- The County is holding an auction on Saturday, September 16 to sell surplus vehicles and pieces of equipment. Council approved the list of items to be sold, except for two firefighting pumper units. Those will be offered to non-profit organizations or other local authorities for their use at no cost.

### Lakeland Archers Grant Support

- The Lakeland Archers club is preparing to host the 2019 World Archery Championships in Lac La Biche County, and is interested in building a new archery facility.
- Council voted to approve support for the Lakeland Archers in applying for a Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant.
- Councillors also agreed to allocate funds in support of the project, subject to CFEP grant approval. \$394,815 will be earmarked in 2017 capital reserves, and \$355,185 will be allocated from general revenue to 2017 capital reserves.

### Boat Launch Maintenance

- County Administration presented an update on maintenance of the County's boat launches. Due to lake ice and other factors, multiple launches needed to be repaired earlier this year.
- Council accepted Administration's report as information, and passed a motion to request public feedback on boat launches and docks. That information will be presented as part of 2018 budget deliberations.



### Recreational and Cultural Operating Program Policy

- Administration presented a new draft policy that would resolve certain issues regarding funding for local groups that operate community halls and other facilities. The existing policy was several years old and did not have an effective funding formula.
- The new policy specifies which organizations are eligible, establishes a clear funding formula, and introduces other changes to streamline the funding application process.
- After a discussion, Council voted to repeal the old policy and replace it with the new one. The Plamondon District Community Development Society (PDCDS) was specifically mentioned during the discussion, and councillors passed a motion to have the County enter into a funding agreement with PDCDS, to assist with a budget deficit for staffing and operational costs for 2018.

### Community Development Grant Program

- Administration presented a second draft policy, to replace the existing Community Social Service Grants Program. Council approved the new policy, which addresses some deficiencies and gaps in the program.
- Among the changes is the removal of event funding from the program's scope (applications for event funding will be addressed by the County's Event Sponsorship Policy). In addition, staffing and capital costs will now become eligible for funding.

### Letter of Support for County of Stettler

- With the downturn in the energy sector, the County of Stettler has been experiencing problems with provincial taxation. The Government of Alberta levies requisitions to fund schools and seniors' lodges, and part of every municipality's taxation process involves collecting these requisitions on behalf of the

Province. In cases where requisitions cannot be collected, municipalities are obligated to step in and fill the gap at their own cost.

- The County of Stettler is requesting other municipalities' support in lobbying for assistance. Councillors agreed to send a letter to Alberta Municipal Affairs in support of Stettler's position.

### Municipal Borrowing Bylaw for Line of Credit

- Administration presented a draft bylaw that would enable the County to borrow money through a line of credit. As Finance department staff members explained, there is no guarantee that the County will need to borrow money but situations can arise where short-term funding needs must be met.
- Council gave three readings to the draft bylaw, thereby making it official.

### Review of Land Use Bylaw Public Hearing Feedback

- A public hearing for the County's new draft Land Use Bylaw (LUB) was held on September 7. The LUB determines permitted and discretionary land uses on properties throughout the County.
- Community members attended the public hearing to provide feedback. Administration presented a summary of the public input, along with recommendations for moving forward, on September 14.
- Councillors and Administration discussed regulations for development near water bodies, RV storage, sea cans, and other topics.
- Administration will make amendments to the draft bylaw and present it to Council again on September 26.