



Council Highlights

Delegations

Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP

- The County's auditor, Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP, explained financial statements and the auditing process to Council.
- The County is required by law to undergo a financial audit every year. In 2018, the auditing firm will review all of the County's 2017 finances. The resulting financial statements will be made publicly available in the spring.

New Business

Local Sports Hall of Fame Inductions

- Council voted to induct Edgar Ladouceur and Jules Owchar into the new Local Sports Hall of Fame at the Bold Center.
- Earlier this year, Councillors agreed to induct nominees Barry Chwedoruk, Maurice Richard, Rene Schaub, Omer Moghrabi, Rene Bourque, Bonnie McDonald and Eugene Lebas. Mayor Omer Moghrabi recused himself from that discussion due to a conflict of interest.
- The Local Sports Hall of Fame is a new initiative to recognize athletes and individuals who make significant, positive contributions to sports in the community. Up to 10 nominees can be inducted each year, and all of the inductees are honoured with framed portraits and biographies at the Bold Center.

CN Train Whistle Cessation

- The County received a letter from the Lac La Biche and District Chamber of Commerce, asking the municipality to consider options for stopping the use of train whistles in the hamlet of Lac La Biche. Currently, every train passing through the hamlet whistles when approaching railway

crossings, in accordance with the Canadian Rail Operating Rules.

- The County's Administration contacted CN to discuss procedures, approximate costs and timelines for stopping train whistle use. The entire process could be a lengthy and expensive undertaking for the municipality.
- The County will consider available options and alternatives, and a letter will be sent to the Chamber of Commerce to advise the organization of this.

Waste Conversion Facility

- At its meeting on December 12, 2017, Council received information from a representative of Alberta Innovates about a Regional Waste Conversion Facility. The facility's purpose is to convert solid waste into compost, clean water, power and heat.
- Councillors voted to allocate \$2 million in the County's budget for 2018, for pursual of the project and to demonstrate a commitment to the first phase, subject to obtaining grant funding and securing project partners.

Termination of Animal Control Housing Contract

- The County has contracted Scratch 'n' Sniff Kennels to provide dog pound services for the past several years, but the contract is expiring and services will cease on June 30, 2018.
- The County's Peace Officers enforce the Animal Control Bylaw, which creates a need for a place to house lost, stray and surrendered dogs.
- The County will issue a Request For Proposals for animal control housing services.

Continued on page 2





Local Improvement Tax for Mission Beach Phase One

- In accordance with the County's Water and Sewer Connection Policy, two groups of landowners in Phase One of Mission Beach subdivision previously filed petitions to bring water and sewer servicing to the area, and to allow the County to levy a local improvement tax.
- A local improvement tax is a special fee charged to properties in a specific area, to help cover the costs of infrastructure that will directly benefit those properties. Bylaws are required for such levies to be charged.
- Council gave three readings to Bylaw 17-029, which allows the County to charge the local improvement tax to the affected landowners. The tax will be levied over a 15-year period starting in 2018, and it will apply only to property owners in Mission Beach.

Interim Budget for 2018

- The County is required to adopt an interim budget before the end of 2017, to ensure that municipal programs and services continue uninterrupted in the New Year.
- Councillors voted to approve an interim budget, equal to 50 per cent of the County's 2017 budget, to sustain municipal operations.
- Meetings specifically for 2018 budget deliberations are expected to start in late January. Any requests for new programs, staff members, or non-routine spending during the interim period will be presented to Council for review. The interim budget ceases to have any effect once the official budget for 2018 is adopted.