

Council Highlights

Delegations

Sun Gro Horticulture

- Ms. Carolyn Moore-Robin of CMR Consulting Inc. and representatives of Sun Gro Horticulture presented to Council on Sun Gro's operations and proposed peat moss harvesting project in Lac La Biche County's Avenir Area. The presenters covered their safety plans, noise mitigation, and restoration of the area after the harvesting project is complete.
- There are two upcoming engagement sessions. There will be a public open house at the Plamondon Festival Centre on May 23, 2018. On May 24, 2018, there will be a luncheon meeting by invitation for directly affected landowners at Birch Hall.
- Council thanked Sun Gro for their presentation.

Mr. Michael Epp, Metrix Group LLP and County Auditor

- Mr. Michael Epp from Metrix Group LLP Chartered Professional Accountants appeared as a delegation before Council.
- Metrix Group LLP conducted an audit of Lac La Biche County's consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2017.
- Council thanked Mr. Epp for his presentation, then proceeded with discussion in camera about the audit findings.
- After in camera discussions, Council accepted the audit findings letter as presented to Council in camera as information. They also accepted the comments on internal control as presented to Council in camera as information.

New Business

Land Use Bylaw (18-006) Amendment: Work Camps

- On April 3, 2018, Council gave an amended version of the Land Use Bylaw first reading. The amended bylaw shortened the boundaries that restricted work camp development to a 2 km radius (down from 20 km) around the hamlets of Lac La Biche, Plamondon, Hylo, Beaver Lake, and Venice.
- At that meeting, Council requested that Administration bring the bylaw back to follow parcel boundary lines, rather than the initial circular radius. The amendment ensures that property lines are followed.
- Before Council gives the amended bylaw second and third readings, the County will hold a public open house and public hearing.
- Council directed Administration to proceed with holding the public open house with the amended parcel boundary lines for work camps.

Draft Public Participation Policy

- The Alberta *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* requires all municipalities to adopt public participation policies by July 23, 2018.
- The policy will help residents affected by municipal decisions be informed and engaged. Under the County's Public Participation Policy, public participation will happen via tools like online surveys, town halls, workshops and task forces when the *MGA* requires it, or when Council authorizes it.
- Council approved the Public Participation Policy. The policy may be amended as Administration and Council work with the new policy.



Regular Council Meeting April 24, 2018

Municipal Lease: Humane Society

- In January, the Humane Society requested a land lease to operate their animal shelter.
- Council exempted the requirement to advertise and tender Lot 10, Block 2, Plan 782295 as identified in Section 11(i) of Policy PI-61-004 Land Lease Agreement.
- Council endorsed a 20-year term with the Lac La Biche Regional Human Society, and motioned to have the lease agreement brought back with the option of the County funding servicing of lot. They further motioned to waive the cost for the land lease agreement, subject to approval of the development permit application.

2018 Mill Rate Bylaw Discussion

- Council discussed 2018 taxation, and decided to bring forward the following mill rate scenario to the Regular Council Meeting on May 1, 2018 for first reading:
 - Farm and Residential: 3.0000 mills
 - Urban Non-Residential: 10.0000 mills
 - Rural Non-Residential: 18.5585 mills
- This scenario raises an additional \$613,530 of municipal taxes, with residential property taxes increasing between 5.7% to 8.3%.
- In this scenario, the County's tax rate ratio (found by comparing the highest mill rate to the lowest) falls from 7.35 to 6.19. This brings the County closer to the 5:1 ratio that the modernized *Municipal Government Act* requires.

Completion of the Elinor Lake Landfill Closure

- After suspending capital expenses and tendering related to the Elinor Lake Landfill closure, Council resumed capital expenditures and tendering to continue with the final capping of the Elinor Lake landfill site, as per regulatory requirements.
- Council also directed administration to pursue local employment and day labour options for the work where possible, within budgeted amounts.