

Council Highlights



Lac La Biche County
welcoming by nature.

Regular Council Meeting | June 12, 2018

Mutual Aid/Emergency Response Billing and Reimbursement

Administration provided information on billing, reimbursement, and mutual aid fees for emergency response with neighbouring municipalities, industry, and the Province. Lac La Biche County has mutual aid agreements with many of our neighbours, allowing our fire services crews to partner with one another and call in help on large-scale incidents at an agreed-upon cost. Council also discussed getting a mutual aid agreement in place with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

RCMP Use of County Logo on Promotional Items

The Lac La Biche RCMP detachment received permission to use the Lac La Biche County logo on promotional coins. The coins are given to residents, detachment staff when hired, community leaders, and other role models.

Appointment of Fire Guardians for the 2018 Fire Permit Season

Council appointed several emergency response staff as fire guardians for the 2018 permit season. Among other responsibilities, fire guardians can issue or revoke fire permits. Council granted this status to the Hylo District Platoon Chief, the Lac La Biche District Deputy Chief, the Lac La Biche District Platoon Chief, and the Regional Fire Services Coordinator.

Prescription to Get Active (RxTGA)

The Prescription to Get Active (RxTGA) program encourages doctors to prescribe physical activity to patients. Patients can then bring that prescription to participating recreation or fitness centres in exchange for free access to the facility. The County is considering participating in the program, and Council will review recommendations for RxTGA access to the Bold Center and Portage Pool at a future meeting.

Environmental Services Sprayer Purchase

To help with the County's roadside weed control program, Council approved purchasing two trailer-mounted sprayers. The sprayers will cost \$27,144, which will be covered by a variety of funding sources.

Appointment of Weed Inspectors and Agricultural Fieldman

Council appointed several County staff as weed inspectors, who will perform the duties set out in the Alberta Weed Control Act. Council further appointed the Agricultural Fieldman for Lac La Biche County, who will implement agricultural policies and programs, function as a weed inspector under the Weed Control Act, work as an agricultural pest inspector under the Agricultural Pests Act, and a soil conservation officer under the Soil Conservation Act.

Artificial Turf Field

The 2018 capital budget allocated \$2 million to build a game field, practice field, and track & field facilities outdoors at the Bold Center. However, to support both men's and women's soccer team, Portage College has also requested an artificial turf field. The estimated cost to build an artificial turf field is \$1 million, versus \$300,000 for a natural turf field. Artificial turf is about a third of the cost to maintain compared to natural turf, and allows for a longer playing season. Council approved the artificial turf field, increased the sports field budget from \$2 million to \$3 million, and moved \$1 million out of accumulated surplus to the 2018 capital budget to account for the increased cost. Administration will begin construction on the turf field by fall 2018.

Archery Building

In 2019, the Lakeland Archers Club will host the World Archery Championships in the County, attracting more than 2,000 people from around the world. The Lakeland Archers require a new archery building to support the event. The County and Lakeland Archers Club submitted an application to the Community Facility Enhancement Program, seeking \$900,000 in funding to build the \$1.9 million facility. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful, but the County and Lakeland Archers were encouraged to apply again in 2019. In the meantime, the project's scope changed, lowering the facility cost from \$1.9 million to \$1.3 million. Council approved \$1.3 million for the building and, in addition to the \$750,000 the County previously allocated to the project, moved \$550,000 out of accumulated surplus to the 2018 capital budget to cover the cost.

Martushev Subdivision Oiling: Piquette Road

Council directed administration to oil the Martushev Subdivision for \$250,000, re-allocating funding from surplus in the Deer Ridge re-oiling project. They also asked Administration to bring forward information on oiling the remaining road in Blais Resort at a future meeting.

County Tours

To get a better understanding of the County's capital projects and priorities, Council will tour the the Rich Lake Community Hall, the Lac La Biche Airport, and other roads and facilities sometime in the future.

Meeting Summary: Dumasfield Community

In response to resident concerns about the development of a storm water pond and the road extension of 91 Avenue in the Dumasfield subdivision, Administration met with 28 residents on June 6. Administration provided Council with a summary of the meeting.

Intermunicipal Development Plan Update

The County is working with its neighbours on a joint intermunicipal development plan (IDP) to guide development on municipal borders. To further this work, the organizers are recommending a special council meeting of all six MDs and Counties in November in St. Paul, AB. Council offered the organizers November 5 or 8, 2018 as potential meeting dates.

Athabasca Watershed Council

Council appointed Councillor Sterling Johnson to sit on the Lower Athabasca Watershed Council, with Councillor Colin Cote as the alternate.

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