



WHERE PEOPLE ARE THE KEY

Council Highlights

January 8, 2015

LONG RANGE PLANNING PROGRAM 2015 to 2017

Council was presented with the Long Range Planning Program for 2015 to 2017. The main focus of the program will be a comprehensive review of the Lacombe County's Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). The MDP was adopted in 2007 and the Plan indicates that a review should be undertaken every five years so this is an excellent time to initiate a review of the MDP and the LUB. Council adopted the Long Range Planning Program for 2015 to 2017, as presented.

BYLAW NO. 1188/14 – MIRROR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES IN THE HAMLET OF MIRROR

Council was presented Bylaw No. 1199/15, a bylaw of Lacombe County respecting water and wastewater services in the Hamlet of Mirror. The current rates charged to users of the Hamlet of Mirror water, wastewater and garbage collection services have been reviewed to determine whether the rates sufficiently fund 1) the cost of providing these services, and 2) reserves for future water and wastewater capital expenditures and annual operating deficits. A reserve account has not been established for garbage services as there are no capital expenditures associated with providing this service. The current water and wastewater rates will not sufficiently fund the 2015 operating expenditures or the contribution to reserves. An overview of the proposed new water and wastewater rates provided for in Bylaw No. 1199/15 was presented to Council.

Water and wastewater rates will increase by 7.5% and the garbage pick-up rate will increase by 4.5%. Council gave 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading, and so passed the bylaw. By resolution of Council the 2015 Mirror garbage monthly rate was set at \$ 17.34 per residence.

BYLAW NO. 1189/14 – WATER SERVICES LAKEVIEW ESTATES

Council was presented Bylaw No. 1200/15, a bylaw of Lacombe County respecting water services in Lakeview Estates. The current rates charged to users of the Lakeview Estates water services have been reviewed to determine whether the rates sufficiently fund 1) the cost of providing these services, and 2) reserves for future water capital expenditures. It has been determined that the current rates will not sufficiently fund the 2015 operating expenditures, including the contributions to reserves.

Council was advised that an increase in the consumption rate of 7.5% is proposed. Council gave 1st, 2nd and 3rd reading, and so passed the bylaw.

SERVICE CAPACITY REVIEW REPORT

Council reviewed the Service Capacity Review Report which was prepared following three service capacity review sessions with Council, Administration and staff. The report documents the methodology of the review, targets for further consideration, service adjustments and the next steps to enhance service capacity. The report was received for information.

PRE-AUDIT PROCESS

Alan Litster and Dan Luymes, representing BDO Canada LLP provided Council with an overview of the audit process and the audit plan for 2015. Mr. Litster and Mr. Luymes addressed questions of Council regarding the audit process.



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TAX LATE PAYMENT PENALTY CANCELLATION

A request from a Lacombe County ratepayer for the cancellation of the 2014 property tax late payment penalty levied on Tax Roll No. 4024211003 in the amount of \$ 308.59 did not receive the approval of Council.

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL – LAKE MANAGEMENT PROJECT TEAM

Council was informed that the Alberta Water Council (AWC) is establishing a Lake Management Project Team and the AAMDC is calling on members to submit nominees to represent the Association on this project team. The Team will develop recommendations toward effective lake management in Alberta, including roles and responsibilities. By resolution of Council Mrs. Knight was nominated as Lacombe County's nominee for the Lake Management Project Team.

SYLVAN LAKE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP) – LACOMBE COUNTY APPEAL

Council was advised that Lacombe County has submitted an appeal to the Municipal Government Board with regard the Town of Sylvan Lake's MDP. Issues such as the 30 metre setback from the lake for new developments, public open space and lake access were not incorporated into the new MDP which was passed by the Town in December 2014. The County's appeal falls within the 30 day appeal period.