

Highlights

January 12, 2016 Council Meeting

Property Tax Penalty – Just a reminder that on February 1, 2016, a 10% penalty will be applied to all outstanding property taxes.

Interim Budget – Council approved the following interim budget for 2016 in accordance with section 242(2) of the M.G.A. - \$39,261,794 – Operating & Capital Revenues; \$3,054,869 – Debenture & Funding from Restricted Surplus; \$24,717,770 – Operations Expenditures; \$1,638,310 – Debenture Repayment; \$15,932,600 – Capital Expenditures; \$27,983 – Surplus.

Borrowing Bylaws - Council approved Borrowing Bylaw No. 2015-27 in the amount of \$963,201, pursuant to Section 258 of the MGA to finance the project that brings water supply to the Hamlets of Ashmont and Lottie Lake. Total cost of the project is \$9,931,002 with the balance will be paid from provincial funding.

Council also approved Borrowing Bylaw No. 2015-28 for \$1,542,668 for the construction of a lagoon for the Hamlet of Ashmont and a wastewater transfer station. Total cost of the project is \$5,150,000 which will be funded through provincial and federal grants and by the County of Two Hills.

Planning and Development – Bylaw No. 2016-01, which is an amendment to Section 7.30 of the Land Use Bylaw, was given first reading. The proposed amendment removes the clause which states that holding tanks must be constructed of reinforced pre-case concrete on lakefront properties, therefore allowing holding tanks that meet applicable/relevant CAN/CSA standards on lake front properties.

Council also gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2016-02 to rezone 10 acres in NE 12-58-9-W4 from Agricultural to Industrial Commercial. As the proposed subdivision will be accessed from a major highway, Administration will be consulting with Alberta Transportation regarding access to the property.

Regional Collaboration – The County is partnering with the Town of St. Paul, Town of Elk Point and Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay to submit an application under the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant for an Enhanced Regional Radio Communications System and to establish a Regional Occupational Health & Safety Program. The County will also be partnering with the Town of Elk Point for an ACP grant application to build a salt shed facility at the Elk Point Transfer Station and to construct a bulk water truck fill station at the Elk Point Water Treatment Plant and Reservoir. And lastly, the County will partner with the Town of St. Paul to apply for an ACP grant for funding to resurface the running track at the Regional High School.

Administration is also working on a Regional Strategic Plan which encompasses the projects for ACP Grant applications and also identifies other regional priorities.

Land Right-of-Way Purchase Agreements – Effective January 1, 2016, ratepayers will see an increase from \$1,300 to \$2,000/acre when the County purchases land for road construction purposes. This new rate is based on an average price per acre of farmland sales throughout the municipality. Also, the \$50 signing bonus will be replaced with a minimum payment of \$250 when the County is purchasing land. This rate will be used mainly for bridge file/culvert installation where the land area required is small.

Strategic Plan is a document that outlines Council's direction for administration, moving the County of St. Paul forward to achieve the vision. The document provides quarterly updates on each action outlined in the document. The 4th quarter update to the 2015 Strategic Plan is now complete and can be viewed on the County's website. The 2016 Strategic Plan has also been adopted by Council and is also on the County's website.

Funding Support:

- \$480 – St. Paul & Dist. Hospital Foundation Fundraiser
- \$33,125 – Ashmont & District Ag Society
- \$8,000 – Elk Point Curling Club

We are requesting that when residents are clearing their driveway and push the snow across the road, that they do not leave ridges on the road as this is a safety issue.

Residents who require snow removal on their driveways can purchase flags from the County at the Administration Office, Public Works, or the Town of Elk Point Administration Office. Seniors can have their driveways plowed free of charge, however they must sign a Snow Plow Agreement and they require a flag which can be picked up from the County Administration Office or Public Works.

For more information contact
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