

## **Delegations**

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council to speak on a particular issue, or with whom Council has requested a meeting.

### Dr. Richard Birkill – Chief of Staff William J. Cadzow Health Centre

- Dr. Richard Birkill, Chief of Staff at the William J. Cadzow Health Centre in Lac La Biche, met with Council to discuss improving health services in the County.
- Dr. Birkill discussed the maintenance struggles experienced by the hospital in the last few years. A new bathtub for Acute Care has been awaiting installation by Alberta Health Services (AHS) since last year. New monitors have also been approved but because AHS cannot find contractors to install them, the upgrade is on hold. (AHS is the province's health authority, responsible for administrating and funding the province's health services.)
- After the departure of three physicians over the past few years, the local medical clinic and hospital have been short-staffed, resulting in increased wait times for patients. Four new doctors have since been recruited—two new doctors have recently started work in Lac La Biche and two more will be starting in the next month or so.
- Dr. Birkill spoke of plans to increase surgical services in Lac La Biche, and, ultimately, to make Lac La Biche a health service hub for the region. This goal would begin with the recruitment of a full-time general surgeon to Lac La Biche. Planning to take a business case for the full-time position to AHS, Dr. Birkill also stressed to Council the importance of acquiring diagnostic equipment in order to recruit and retain surgeons in Lac La Biche. Ultrasound and a CT scanner were the two diagnostic services at the top of the priority list.
- Towards this end, Dr. Birkill requested that Council consider helping to recruit an ultrasound technician to the hospital by funding various possible hiring incentives. The position has been open at the hospital for three years, but because of a shortage of ultrasound technicians in Alberta, the position has remained unfilled.
- Dr. Birkill also asked that Council consider contributing towards the purchase of a CT Scanner for the hospital.
- Council directed Administration to bring forward funding options for the recruitment of an ultrasound technician, and that funding considerations for a CT Scanner be brought forward to 2015 budget deliberations.

## **New Business**

### Oiler's Hockey Clinic Presented By Cenovus

- Cenovus is sponsoring an Oiler's Hockey Clinic at the Bold Center in Lac La Biche for youth ages 9 to 13. The event will run from May 1 to May 3, 2015. The weekend will start with a free BBQ for the entire community. There will be games, puck shooting competitions and Oiler's alumni will be on hand to sign autographs. A skills clinic will be offered on Saturday and Sunday for 100 local children. The clinic will offer on-ice skill development, dry-land training and team building. (The participants will be chosen randomly from those who register for the clinic on the Edmonton Oilers website.)
- Council passed a motion providing the use of the Bold Center free of charge for the event.

### Portage College Water Resources Program

- Council discussed the proposed partnership between the County and Portage College regarding the development of a water testing training program at the college.
- The program was initially discussed in 2010 and included a training and testing lab, which would have been a benefit to the County's water treatment operations. The County has already set \$400,000 aside for the construction and development of the lab, however because of recent changes to the proposed program—i.e. the training component being removed—the County has yet to enter into an agreement with the college.
- Portage College has requested that the County contribute between \$15,000 and \$25,000 towards the completion of a feasibility study for the program.
- Council discussed partnering to fund the feasibility program.
- Council approved a motion to defer allocating funding towards the feasibility study until a terms of reference for the study could be created by the College and reviewed by Council. (The terms of reference would define the parameters of the feasibility study.)