



Policy and Priorities Committee Meeting

February 3, 2015

The Policy and Priorities Committee is a standing Committee of Council responsible for reviewing policies, bylaws, plans, studies and other County activities that are in a draft or planning stages in order to provide Administration with direction. Recommendations may be made during Policy and Priorities (POP) meetings, but final decisions regarding bylaws and policies must be referred to future Regular Council Meetings.

Delegations

Delegations are individuals or groups who request permission to appear before Council to speak on a particular issue.

Northern Lights Library System

- A representative from the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) met with Council to discuss library service in the area, as well as where the County's per capita library levy is used.
- Plamondon Municipal Library serves over 500 patrons and the Stuart MacPherson Library serves over 2,000.
- In 2013, Plamondon received 224 new books and Stuart MacPherson received 1,273.
- Plamondon Library has 16,628 catalogued items and Stuart MacPherson has 29,156.
- Plamondon Library circulated 9,703 items in 2013 and Stuart MacPherson Library circulated 19,014.

New Business

Meetings with Local Organizations

- Council passed a motion to invite local Fish and Wildlife representatives to discuss wildlife management strategies in the area.
- Council passed a motion to schedule a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce executive to discuss areas of mutual interest.

Cash In Lieu of Parking Options

- Local business owners have expressed concerns about the fee being charged to new developments in the hamlets when the extra parking requirements laid out in the Land Use Bylaw are not met.
- The “cash in lieu” option allows developers to provide fewer on-site parking stalls in exchange for a fee that is set aside for the construction of shared, off-site parking facilities. The fees are generally based on land value and the cost of construction.
- Because of the concerns of local business owners, Council directed Administration to bring forward information on the cash in lieu option used in other Albertan municipalities.
- Administration found that the lowest fee charged per stall was \$1,000 in Barrhead, while the highest was \$40,000 per stall in Canmore. Some municipalities include the land value in the formula for the fee, while others do not, resulting in the wide discrepancy in fees charged.
- Council discussed the issues surrounding the cash in lieu option—i.e. pre-existing small lots with limited available parking space in the hamlets.
- Council directed Administration to bring back information that would address both the need for developers to provide adequate parking for commercial business locations and the need to charge a fair rate to local developers. Council identified the following areas for Administration to research:
 - Method for recognizing pre-existing small lot configuration for commercial developments in the hamlets.
 - An option for developers to lease parking facilities from a third-party.
 - Options for a time limit on parking along Main Street.
 - Options for payment of cash in lieu—i.e. payment plans.

Health Foundation Update

- Mayor Moghrabi, member of the Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation Board, provided an update on the foundation’s most recent activities.
- The board toured the local dialysis bus at William J. Cadzow Health Centre in January and discussed options to improve dialysis treatment in the area.
- The foundation’s proposed bylaws have been submitted to Alberta Health Services for review and approval.
- Members of the Health Foundation board, including Dr. Birkill, attended the Rural Health Services Review Committee, chaired by MLA Richard Starke, in St. Paul on February 5.

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Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) Lobbying Initiatives

- Council directed Administration to request meetings with the Ministers of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Seniors, Transportation and Tourism during the next AAMDC conference.

Public Input Session

The purpose of the Public Input Session is to provide Council with an opportunity to obtain public comment on matters relevant to Lac La Biche County. Usually held at 12:15 p.m. during Regular Council Meetings and Policy and Priority Committee Meetings, the session can run as long as 30 minutes, unless there is no one in the gallery who wishes to speak. Each presenter is limited to a ten minute presentation unless Council agrees to extend the allotted time.

- Members of the local business community who were in the gallery to attend the Cash in Lieu of Parking Options agenda item spoke about the impact of the cash in lieu fee on local business owners and expressed their opinion that it could be an impediment to development.
- Local business owners clarified some concerns about County snow clearing in the hamlets and the reception of the new draft Land Use Bylaw by residents and business owners from the perspective of the downtown business community.