

The Public Works Committee is a standing Committee of Council responsible for developing and evaluating matters of policy and providing oversight and recommendations for Transportation Services, Utilities and Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Management.

Rural Resident Water Hauling Costs

- Water conservation measures were put in place twice this summer, due to hot, dry temperatures, high turbidity and algae in the raw water taken from Lac La Biche Lake. Rural residents contacted councillors to express concern about one of the County's water conservation procedures which bars rural residents from purchasing more than 500 gallons per 48-hour period. Many rural residents have their water delivered by trucking companies, which charge the same amount for hauling 500 gallons as they would for a full load of water, costing them extra money.
- In response to this feedback from residents, council asked Administration to bring forward options to attempt to address these concerns.
- Some of the options presented to Council included:
 - Making use of the County's 2,200 gallon tank to deliver potable water to affected residents.
 - Subsidizing trucking costs.
 - Increasing the water purchase limit to 1,000 gallons per 48-hour period.
- Administration also pointed out that the County's Waterworks Bylaw states that "no person shall have any claim for compensation or damages as a result of the County shutting off or restricting water use without notice..." As such, subsidizing trucking costs would contravene this portion of the bylaw.
- Council directed Administration to tabulate the amount of water used by rural residents during the water conservation periods this year, to ascertain if increasing the amount of water eligible for purchase would be feasible.
- Administration will return with this information for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Public Works Committee Terms of Reference

- At the September 3, 2015 Strategic Session, Council requested changes to the terms of reference for the Public Works Committee.
- The Public Works Committee was first set up in January 2014 as a Committee of the Whole Council (made up of all members of Council) to provide direction and oversight to the County's Public Works departments.
- Council discussed trying a smaller committee of three members of Council, plus the Mayor as an ex officio member, to try to maximize efficiency. The role of the revised committee would be



Public Works Committee Meeting

September 15, 2015

advisory in nature and develop recommendations to Council relating to public works policy and program development. The committee would not be authorized to adopt bylaws, levy taxes hear appeals or expend money. All such items would come before Council as a whole.

- Administration brought forward a draft bylaw for the revised committee structure for Council's review.
- Council discussed the potential new configuration for the Public Works Committee and directed Administration to present the bylaw at a future Regular Council Meeting.