



Council Highlights

Proposed Bylaw of Fees and Fines for Planning and Development

At the Special Council Meeting on December 17, 2015, Council directed Administration to prepare an updated fee and fine schedule for Planning and Development services and infractions, to ensure orderly development in the County.

The County's Planning and Development department prepared a revised schedule of fees for P&D services and updated fines for violations of the County's Land Use Bylaw. Starting construction to renovations or new developments without acquiring the proper permits is the most common offense, and one the County would like to discourage. The permitting process is in place to ensure that structures in the County, whether residential or commercial, are built safely and in accordance with land use regulations. The proposed fines are intended to discourage construction without permits.

The proposed fines are based on the cost of the project—for projects less than \$49,999 the first violation would cost \$500; for projects costing over \$1 million, the first violation would cost the developer \$10,000.

Council discussed the proposed fees and fines and directed Administration to make some further revisions to the schedule as well as to include fines for improper land use not involving construction—i.e. the storage of large commercial trucks on residential property.

—Revised fees and fines for Planning and Development infractions will come forward for Council's review at a future Council meeting.

Golden Sands Subdivision Sign Replacement

The Golden Sands Landowner's Association has requested that the County fund the replacement of the Golden Sands sign at the entrance to the subdivision.

The sign is 30-years old and has been repainted by the

landowner's association over the years. The cost to replace the sign is \$3,900 and replacement will be facilitated by the association.

The County has a number of subdivisions with aging signs like the one at Golden Sands. Council discussed their desire to develop a consistent look for subdivision signs in the municipality and to create a policy regarding the replacement of these signs.

Council approved the funding of the replacement sign and directed Administration to develop a policy laying out the requirements for subdivision sign replacement in the County.

Agricultural Service Board Bylaw

The County's Agricultural Service Board consists of three local producers, two County Councillors and the County's Agricultural Fieldman. The ASB has been in existence since 1968 with Improvement District 18, working to promote and encourage sustainable farming and ranching in the County. Council approved first reading to an updated bylaw that outlines the board's roles and responsibilities. Most notably the meeting schedule was formalized in the new version of the bylaw—the board will meet at least seven times a year.

Event Permitting

Administration has been considering the implementation of event permitting within the County. The purpose would be to ensure that County resources (Enforcement and Transportation Services and Parks and Open Spaces) are able to accommodate multiple community events that may be happening in the region. In the past, there have been instances where a number of large events occurred on the same weekend, straining County resources.

Administration brought forward a draft Event Permitting Bylaw.



Regular Council Meeting
January 12, 2016

The proposed bylaw would require event organizers of public events with attendance over 400 to acquire an event permit. This would ensure that the necessary County departments are aware of events in the community ahead of time and are able to prepare resources accordingly. The bylaw is intended to capture large events like festivals, concerts, rodeos, parades and the like.

Council discussed the proposed bylaw, but were concerned about unduly burdening the organizers of local events, and requested more time to consider the possible ramifications of the draft bylaw.

Further discussion about the draft Event Permitting Bylaw will take place at a future Council meeting.

Council directed Administration to schedule a Strategic Session to discuss possible ways to improve homelessness in the area.

Public Input Session

A Public Input Session is held at every Regular Council Meeting at 12:15 p.m. to provide residents with an opportunity to speak to Council about County matters.

Young members of the gymnastics club in Athabasca met with Council to request Council's help to find a local facility for a gymnastics club in Lac La Biche.

Council directed Administration to meet with interested parties to assess the viability of hosting a gymnastics club at a facility in Lac La Biche.

Ice Road

Administration discussed plans to open the ice road earlier than usual by contracting lighter maintenance equipment to clear the road surface across the lake. (The County's heavy snow clearing equipment is not ideal for clearing ice surfaces and, because of its weight, requires an ice thickness of 18 inches.)

The ice road was officially declared open on Friday, January 15, 2016.

Addressing Homelessness

Deputy Mayor John Nowak brought forward the local issue of homelessness and his desire for the County to do more to provide options for local homeless men and women.