

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.

### **Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Update**

- General Manager of Operations, Jeff Lawrence, reported on the department's projects and activities.

### **Transportation Services Update**

- Transportation Services Manager, Brian Shapka, reported on the department's projects and activities.

### **Utility Services Update**

- Utility Services Manager, Gary Siebold, reported on the department's projects and activities.

### **New Business**

#### **Lac La Biche Airport Improvements**

- Members of County Administration met with airport stakeholders this summer to discuss undertaking various improvements to the Lac La Biche Airport.
- Staff from Transportation and Planning and Development will work with airport stakeholders to investigate potential improvements and bring information and options forward to Council.

#### **In-House Water and Sewer Repair Transitional Plan**

- At a previous Council meeting, Council directed Administration to investigate the costs and requirements necessary to build the municipality's capacity for doing water and sewer repairs in-house, versus contracting these repairs out.
- Administration estimated that the County has spent \$800,000 over the last five years in contracted services to repair water and sewer infrastructure in the municipality. It is estimated that purchasing the equipment, building the staff and obtaining the training necessary to complete the same projects in-house over the next five years could cost nearly \$3 million. While the initial

## Public Works Committee Meeting

October 21, 2014

investment would be substantial, most of the required equipment (i.e. back hoe, track hoe excavator) could be used across departments for various projects.

- Council recognized that while the work of the experienced contractor who currently completes water/sewer repairs for the County is highly satisfactory, a succession plan is necessary for the future.
- Council directed Administration to prepare a long-term transitional plan for increasing the County's capacity for completing utility repairs in-house.

### Water and Sewer Connection Policy

- The County is committed to providing water and sewer services within the municipality, in particular, to lands that are adjacent to Lac La Biche Lake and other environmentally sensitive areas. Towards this end, the County has invested considerable funds developing municipal water and sewer systems designed to improve the health of the natural environment and ensure the health of residents. Connection to municipal water and sewer systems also increases property value.
- Council discussed the options available to update the County's Water and Sewer Connection Policy to ensure that homes located near County infrastructure systems are hooked up to the municipal system.
- The Municipal Government Act gives municipalities the right to make water and sewer connection mandatory for eligible residents.
- Council discussed developing a communications strategy that will let eligible homeowners know when connection is mandatory. Council also discussed the possible implementation of fines for properties that remain non-compliant.
- In addition to bringing the revised Water and Sewer Connection Policy forward for adoption, Council directed Administration to develop a bylaw inclusive of penalties for non-compliance. The mandatory municipal water/sewer hook-up policy and compliance bylaw will be brought back to Council at a future Regular Council Meeting.

### Water Conservation Policy

- Administration brought forward an updated Water Conservation Policy, which outlines the water conservation measures followed by the municipality in the event that the water level drops past a certain point in the County's reservoir. (This can be caused by a serious water main break or other disruptions to water intake or outflow.)
- The only significant change to the policy is that when the County's reservoir has been at less than 40 per cent over a 24-hour period, County staff will monitor the Airport and Plamondon truck fills to ensure compliance with the restrictions placed on bulk haulers in the policy.



**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
October 21, 2014

Removal of Fluoride from County Water

- Council directed Administration to bring forward information about the requirements necessary to stop adding fluoride to the County's potable water.