

Policy and Priorities Committee Meeting

September 2, 2014

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.

Councillor Reports

- Councillors had their monthly round table, detailing their work with internal and external committees. They also reported on the success of local events, like the Plamondon Mud Bogs, the BNR Plant grand opening, and the Stuart MacPherson Public Library's move back to its original location in the Bold Center.

Lac La Biche County Health Foundation Update

- Administration contacted the Manager of Foundation Relations with Alberta Health Services (AHS). Administration sought advice on creating a board for the Health Foundation. AHS recommended a minimum of five board members, and administration recommended that at least two board members be Councillors.
- Administration will prepare another monthly update for the next Policy and Priorities Committee meeting.

Employee Transitional Housing Policy and Procedure: an Amendment

- In May 2014, Council requested changes to the Employee Transitional Housing Policy and Procedure. Council wanted to change rental fees and make the purpose of County-provided housing (more familiarly known as the airport house) clearer.
- The policy now mentions that County-provided housing is a recruitment tool. New employees from outside the community can use County-provided housing to get familiar with the area before finding a permanent home.
- The term under which employees use the airport house has decreased from six months to three months. Employees, however, can apply to stay in the residence for an extra three months.
- Rent has increased from \$1200 a month to \$1800 a month with a \$900 damage deposit. This is in line with market rental costs.
- Council talked briefly about developing the airport house's basement into a suite. Not only could this arrangement accommodate two employees at once, but it could also lower the rental cost for recruits with lower salaries. Administration will provide cost information at a future budget meeting.

Policy and Priorities Committee Meeting
September 2, 2014

Upcoming Lobbying Initiatives

- Administration created a list of issues that Council might want to bring to provincial ministers' attention, especially at events that connect local politicians with provincial ministers.
- The plan included lobbying provincial departments like Municipal Affairs, Transportation, Health, Environment and Sustainable Resources, and Justice.
- Council and administration identified their priorities, which includes lobbying for better maintenance along Highways 63 & 881, an update on the status of the air ambulance in our region, and attention to the state of the William J. Cadzow Health Centre.