

**Public Works Committee Meeting**  
June 17, 2014

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

- Resource Recovery, Environment and Agricultural Services Manager Barry Kolenosky reported on the department's projects and activities.
  - Environment Week activities were well-received and attended.
  - Community Organics Recycling Enhancement (CORE) home composting program has been finalized and approved. Community roll-out to follow.
  - Weed inspection program underway.
  - Roadside mowing program underway.
  - Large Item Curbside Pick Up complete, 129 tonnes of waste was collected.

Transportation Services Update

- Transportation Services Manager Brian Shapka reported on the department's projects and activities.
  - The final stages of the Beaver Hill Road improvement project are underway, though inclement weather is impacting timelines. The road is prepped for the second layer of asphalt, and sidewalk installation is underway, with landscaping upcoming.
  - Council will be taking a "road tour" of Lac La Biche County's roads with Transportation management on Friday, June 20 to assess the current state of County's roads and to identify problem areas for repair and maintenance.
  - Repairs are being made to roads washed out by culverts blocked by beaver activity.
  - Dust control application across the County is 50 per cent complete. Final spraying will commence upon the arrival of drier weather.
  - Transportation staff have been crack sealing, spray patching and re-oiling selected County roads.

Utility Department Update

- Utilities Manager Gary Siebold reported on the department's projects and activities.
  - The Biological Nutrient Removal waste water treatment plant is online and looking at expanding the septage receiving system.
  - A new gas main line and gas service lines are being installed in the back lane of 101 Avenue in the hamlet of Lac La Biche, prior to storm sewer construction. Inclement weather has impacted planned timelines.

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- An additional two-inch fill line will be installed at the Lac La Biche Airport Truck Fill Station, with construction to start June 23, 2014.
- Utility staff are performing maintenance on County fire hydrants.
- Residential and commercial natural gas services are being installed for new developments in the region.

Curbside Pick Up Program – Weekly Pick Up of Recyclables Discussed

- Council discussed the implementation of a weekly recycling pick-up as part of the Curbside Pick Up Program in the hamlets and subdivisions, in response to feedback from residents. Currently the Curbside Program provides pick-up for solid waste once a week and recycling bi-weekly, at a rate of \$15 a month.
- The proposed increase in service would see garbage and recycling pick-up occur weekly for residents involved in the Curbside Program. The cost would increase to \$18 per month.
- The proposed plan will come back to Council during the next Regular Council meeting on June 27, 2014 for a final decision.

Landfill and Transfer Station Days of Operation

- After looking at annual statistics compiled for landfill and transfer station use in the County, Council discussed revising the current days of operation to ensure that programs and services are sustained in a cost-effective and efficient manner.
- Council directed Administration to ensure that all landfill and transfer sites are open on Saturdays and that at least one of the main landfills at Beaver Lake and/or Plamondon are open per day in the summer months.
- Council directed Administration to schedule an additional mid-week date for all rural sites, as well as longer hours in the summer to accommodate most residents' 9-5 schedules.
- Council also discussed closing the rarely used Elinor Lake site during the winter, and keeping it open during the summer.
- The proposed plan with amendments will come back to Council during the next Regular Council meeting on June 27, 2014 for a final decision.

Road Protection Policy

- Council looked at revising the County's Road Protection policy to ensure that County roads are preserved when used for heavy hauling.
- The current Road Protection Policy requires that haulers of goods and services on County roads with loads exceeding 8,000 kilograms and 10 loads per day, must sign a Road Protection agreement with the County, and provide a security deposit. This deposit pays for repairs to County roads in the event that the heavy haul causes damage.

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- Some of the changes Administration recommended in order to protect County roads were:
  - requiring Road Protection agreements on six or more loads;
  - increasing the security deposit to reflect current prices for repairing gravel and oiled road surfaces;
  - requiring a Road Protection agreement for heavy loads not just in the spring and summer, but year-round.
- The proposed plan will come back to a future Council meeting for a final decision.

### Utility Fee Rate Changes Discussed

- Council discussed Administration's recommendation that water and sewer rates be raised to increase cost recovery of these services. At current rates, the County is subsidizing \$150,000 annually to provide water and sewer service to participating hamlet and subdivision residents. With the proposed increases, the necessary subsidy would decrease to \$70,000.
- While two Councillors were in favour of the increases in order to supplement cost recovery, the majority of Council voted for rates to stay the same, and for a bylaw to come back to Council reflecting only current rates.

### Water and Sewer Connection Policy

- Council discussed implementing a policy that would make it mandatory for residents living in subdivisions with County water and sewer service to hook up to the existing water and sewer lines.
- Residents would be responsible for the cost of hook up, and Council discussed the payment options of one lump sum payment, or applied as an improvement tax amortized over a handful of years.
- Council requested that Administration come back to a future Council meeting with policy options for mandatory water and sewer connection, including timelines and payment requirements, as well as a communications plan for informing affected residents.

### Deficiencies In McArthur Park

- Council discussed improvements they would like to see made to McArthur Park with Parks and Open Spaces management, including:
  - restricting truck traffic in the park;
  - increasing the number and quality of garbage cans, and adding recycling receptacles;
  - repairing and repainting or replacing benches;
  - trimming undergrowth along beach treeline;
  - improving lawn and flowerbed care.