

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BONNYVILLE NO. 87

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS April 24, 2013

Keeping you informed of the services, business and development that affect YOU!

□#1 Council Passes 2013 Budget – Municipal District of Bonnyville Council approved a balanced \$101,217,954 budget on Wednesday. Reeve Ed Rondeau said Council has maintained the same mill rates for the 2013 tax year. However, M.D. residents will see an average 6.33 per cent increase on their tax bills, due to an increase in property values and an increase to the provincial school tax rate. “The School Requisition from the province increased to \$11.2 million in 2013, from \$9.9 million last year,” he explained. Farm tax bills will see an average increase of 3.02 per cent, while non-residential tax bills will see an average increase of 3.96 per cent.

“Looking at the school portion of the tax bill,” Rondeau said, “the provincial school tax rates increased by 8.65 per cent for residential properties, while non-residential school taxes went up by 3.77 per cent. Council does not set the amount of the school tax requisition – it is set by the Province of Alberta.” For the municipal portion of the tax bill, Council agreed to keep the Residential mill rate at 2.7663, the Farm mill rate at 4.0000 and the Non-Residential mill rate at 14.0000. Rondeau pointed out that the tax increases will not be the same for residents across the M.D. “There are property market “hot spots” in the M.D. This year it’s on the west side of the M.D., going north to La Corey. Residents in that area, who didn’t see a market increase in previous years, will see it this year. In previous years, the “hot spots” were found around lakes and properties near Bonnyville and Cold Lake. Now the rural areas are catching up in their assessed values.”

Council’s top priority for 2013 is again road maintenance and construction Rondeau emphasized. “This year the Public Works Department will be fully staffed and we have all the required equipment in place for our construction and maintenance crews. All we need is good weather to arrive and the crews will be out on the roads.” A total of \$36.5 million has been put into road improvements and construction for gravel, oiled, and paved roads and bridge improvements. Another \$15.4 million has been put to gravel and oiled road maintenance. “By putting \$55.6 million into roads: \$7.2 million for gravel roads; \$7.1 million for oiled roads; \$22.1 million for paved roads; \$100,000 for bridge improvements; \$15.4 million for gravel/oil road maintenance and \$3.7 million for Public Works Equipment, Council is continuing to attack the M.D.’s road deficit,” Rondeau said.

Other 2013 budget items include \$1.8 million for landfill operations, Rural High Speed Internet \$500,000, the completion of the Administration Office renovation/expansion \$1.1 million, Kinosoo Ridge chair lift \$1.9 million, Regional Fire Training Centre Phase II \$200,000, Bonnyville and District Centennial Centre \$1 million, School Requisitions \$11.2 million and Lakeland Lodge requisition \$258,842. Community Halls receive a total of \$800,000, with each hall getting an annual \$35,000 operating grant. The Regional Community Development Agreement increased to one mill this year, with \$862,214 being distributed to the Town of Bonnyville and \$126,775 going to the Village of Glendon. For the first time the agricultural societies in the three urban centres – Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Glendon – will receive \$20,000 each for a total of \$60,000.

Rondeau said now that the budget is passed the combined Tax and Assessment notices will be sent out May 24. He urged residents to review their tax notice carefully. If residents have any questions regarding their tax notice they are asked to contact the M.D. Tax Department at 780.826.3171.

□#2 M.D. Contributes To New Cold Lake FCSS Facility – Council agreed to provide a \$1 million contribution towards construction of the new City of Cold Lake Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Community Use Facility. Reeve Ed Rondeau said the M.D. contributes its annual FCSS provincial funding to the City of Cold Lake and the Town of Bonnyville based on a per capita formula of resident usage – 2013 funding is \$80,696 and \$182,388 respectively. “Supporting the construction of a new FCSS facility in Cold Lake is an extension of our existing partnership. The new facility will give Cold Lake and District FCSS the ability to provide extensive programming to residents within Cold Lake and those M.D. residents living next to the urban municipality.” Rondeau said Council agreed to fund the new building construction because FCSS and Parent Link provide much needed programs to residents in the Cold Lake area. “The new facility will house FCSS, the Cold Lake Parent Link Program and community use space. The new facility is replacing one that is bursting at the seams because programs are so popular. The combined programs serve everyone from babies to seniors, making the facility a popular destination hub for every age group.”

□#3 Financial Statements Approved – Council approved the 2012 Consolidated Financial Statements audited by Hawkings Epp Dumont LLP. The Financial Statements can be viewed on the M.D. web site at www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca and hard copies can be picked up at the main administration office in Bonnyville. The M.D. was given a clean, clear, audit. The accountant stated that the M.D. was in a “solid financial position.”

□#4 Truck Scale Tender Approved – The tender for the scale and foundation construction of a 100 ft truck scale located at the Bonnyville Seed Cleaning Plant was awarded to Accurate Scale Industries Ltd. for \$122,665. Work will begin in mid-June, with completion slated for the end of July, so as not to interfere with the busy season at the seed cleaning plant.

□#5 Transportation and Utilities News – The Water Haul Tender was awarded to CD6 Contracting. Alberta Custom Fencing was awarded the Fencing tender. A revision to “Bylaw 1529 – Weight Restrictions For Vehicles” was approved to allow commercial vehicles being operated by the M.D for maintenance purposes to travel on the restricted roads. Steamers and pumps are out working on problem areas as they arise. Three patch trucks are up and running with one truck covering Wards 1 and 2, the second in Wards 3 and 4 and the third in Wards 5 and 6. This rotation will be used for the rest of the season. Spot gravelling is ongoing as conditions allow during spring break-up.

□#6 Planning and Development Update – Final reading was given to Bylaw No. LU 520 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to allow Secondary Suites to be built in the M.D. Council gave third reading to Bylaw No. LU 521, which saw SW-31-61-4 W4 rezoned from HUR (Hamlet Urban Reserve) to HR1 (Hamlet Residential) in Fort Kent. First

reading was given to Bylaw No. 1539 and Bylaw No. LU 523 to develop a policy regarding setback distance for developments and subdivisions in close proximity to oil and gas wells and facilities. The bylaw states that a 100 meter setback distance for active sites and a 30 meter set back distance for abandoned and reclaimed sites will be required. First reading was given to Bylaw No. 1540 and Bylaw No. LU 524 to amend the Area Structure Plan and rezone part of NW 10-61-6 W4M from Agricultural “A” to Country Residential “CR3” for Fortier Estates to develop 23 lots with a piped water system.

☐#7 Funding Support – Council approved a \$5,000 increase in funding to the Bonnyville Chamber of Commerce to provide visitor information services. The M.D.’s total annual contribution for the service is \$9,000, matching the amount paid by the Town of Bonnyville. Council agreed to provide a \$250 sponsorship to the Northern Lights Library System for its annual conference in September.

☐#8 Briefs, Briefs, Briefs – The M.D. renewed its metal recycling contract with K & K Recycling Services for another five years, with the municipality being paid \$25/tonne for the scrap metal to recover service costs.

For more information contact Diane Jenkinson, Marketing and Communications Manager at 780-826-3171. Our web site is a useful way to get the information you need. **Visit:** www.md.bonnyville.ab.ca Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @MDBville.