

FROM THE REEVE'S DESK...

The past few months have been a struggle for a lot of Municipal District of Bonnyville residents. Not only is our region being affected by the oil and gas industry downturn, the economic shut down in response to COVID-19 has really laid people low.

As we open up the economy and the schools, M.D. Council is hopeful for a return to normal — whatever that may look like — as we continue to deal with a pandemic. Luckily it has touched only a few people in our region. Council recognizes that we need to protect our most vulnerable residents, but we need to get on with life and open up the economy. As we move into fall and winter, there is a need to pinpoint that fine balance that will move us forward into economic recovery.

Moving into fall, it is looking good for harvesting crops, as long as the producer's land did not get flooded out earlier in the season. We can all hope for a long fall season that will allow the crops to come off before winter, rather than in the spring. A long fall will allow the M.D. to complete our road project priority list and get an early start on some projects slated for next year.

Everyone is focused on the future, with Council beginning 2021 budget deliberations this month. Council

wants to assure residents who have been following the provincial assessment review controversy that is outlined on the first page, that we have no intention of raising residential taxes by 286 percent. That number was used as an example of how much revenue could be lost due to the assessment scenarios being put forth by the provincial government.

M.D. Council is lobbying the provincial government to take a hard look at the proposed assessment models for oil wells, pipelines, and machinery and equipment, and investigate the details and justification for the proposed changes. It is Council's opinion that the only way to develop a proper assessment rate review is to hire a third party with a clear and concise mandate and agreed upon written terms of reference for the project.

Council is a proud supporter and partner of the oil and gas industry. We want to be a part of a solution that supports industry competitiveness, rather than be forced to absorb a concept of crippling changes that impacts municipal sustainability.

When the M.D. collects its taxes annually, they are put back into the regional community – through hiring local companies to do road and drainage projects, constructing and paving trails and building



REEVE

GREG SAWCHUK
gsawchuk@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.201.2501

structures such as new fire halls. The municipality hires staff to provide services to residents and funds neighbouring urban communities to provide services to M.D. residents.

If the province implements the newly proposed assessment rates, that reduction in tax dollars will simply go into the pockets of company shareholders. No jobs will be created in the community. In fact, jobs will be lost as the M.D. will have to reduce services, cutting contractor projects and staff.

While the province determines the new assessment model and Council starts to look at the 2021 budget, we are committing to maintaining basic services. Council will look at the costs in all budget areas, and if a new assessment model is implemented by the province, we will tighten up and focus on priorities such as roads and drainage projects.

M.D. Council recognizes that 2020 has brought a lot of hardship to our residents. We are determined to ease some of those burdens in 2021 through responsible capital and financial planning.



ASSESSMENT REVIEW LEAVES COUNCIL CONCERNED



Council is so concerned about changes to the assessment model for oil and gas pipelines and machinery & equipment (M&E), that councillors Mike Krywiak, Ed Duchesne and Dana Swigart, along with Reeve Greg Sawchuk, took their concerns to the steps of the Alberta Legislature in August. See the story below and the Reeve's Message on Page 4 for more information.

The Municipal District of Bonnyville Council is voicing its profound concern over the proposed Alberta Government changes to the assessment model for oil wells, pipelines, and machinery and equipment.

The Province is considering changing how oil and gas property is assessed, from the current model of asset replacement value to a new model of market value. Under the four possible scenarios being considered, the M.D. would lose hundreds of millions of dollars in assessed value in oil and gas properties.

If approved, the assessment model changes would impact all residents and businesses in the M.D., either by significantly higher municipal taxes, reductions in services, or a combination of both. For example, the poten-

tial tax impact on a \$500,000 assessed residential property would result in an additional \$2,550 - \$3,950 per year in property taxes should the residential assessment class cover the created deficit.

"If the M.D. was to shift this loss of tax revenue to our residential landowners, that would mean a 286 percent property tax increase for every residence in 2021," says Reeve Greg Sawchuk. "We are about to lose 14 to 22 percent of our total tax revenue."

Sawchuk says that while the M.D. can appreciate the province's support of the energy sector, changes to the assessment model represent a step too far. "We'll be forced to either cut important core services such as road building and maintenance, or pass on substantial tax increases to our land-

owners at a time when our residents are already feeling the pinch of a strained economy."

Council is contacting the Premier of Alberta and government ministers to express its concerns in advance of the final decision, expected in late August.

The M.D. is encouraging residents and business owners to share their views on this issue by contacting Premier Kenney and the following Ministers:

Premier of Alberta, Jason Kenney
premier@gov.ab.ca

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Tracy Allard

minister.municipalaffairs@gov.ab.ca

Minister of Energy, Sonya Savage
minister.energy@gov.ab.ca

MEET YOUR M.D. COUNCILLORS



WARD 1

MARC JUBINVILLE
mjubinville@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.826.0992



WARD 2

DARCY SKARSEN
dskarsen@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.201.3478



WARD 3

MIKE KRYWIAK
mkrywiak@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.573.6093



WARD 4

ED DUCHESNE
educhesne@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.201.5734



WARD 5

DANA SWIGART
dswigart@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.573.9095



WARD 6

BEN FADEYIW
bfadeyiw@md.bonnyville.ab.ca
780.826.1462

M.D. FACILITIES ENERGY ASSESSMENTS UNDERWAY

Joad Clement
Municipal Energy Officer

The energy efficiency initiative the M.D. launched in May has made some great strides.

We established a formal Energy Management Team with an associated team charter that is instrumental in guiding my work to identify opportunities for reducing energy use across our facilities and departments. These energy conservation opportunities are entered into a register that now lists 50 potential projects and counting.

Projects can touch equipment controls, operating schedules, building envelope upgrades, lighting systems, as

As the Municipal Energy Officer, I do further research on those opportunities to assess their cost-effectiveness and discuss and plan their implementation with contractors and facility managers based on the priority we assigned to them.

The benchmarking study of the M.D. facilities we performed over the last two months allows us to compare facilities with one another and their expected energy use based on Alberta averages for other similar facilities. It also helps us prioritize energy conservation projects.

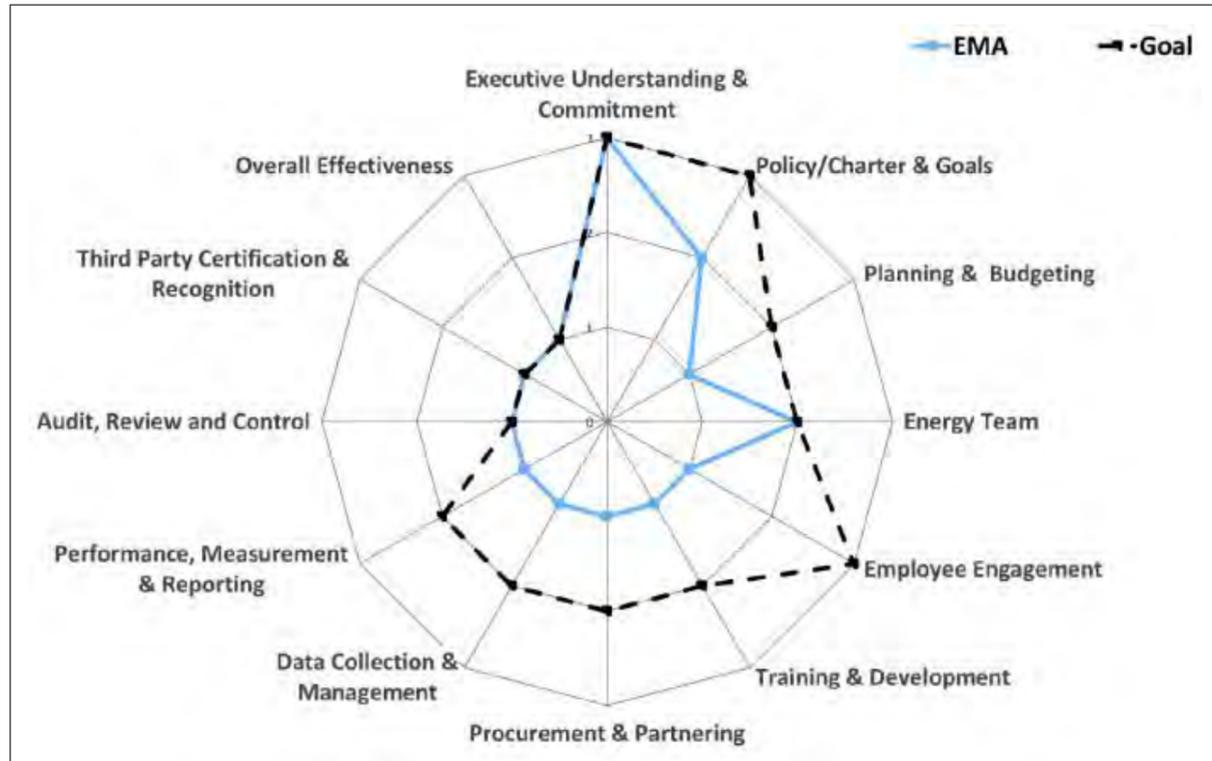
Our Energy Management Team also recently completed an Energy Management Assessment of the M.D. policies

and procedures as they relate to energy use and GHG emissions.

This assessment gave us a clear picture of where we are and where we want to be next year for various energy management categories such as executive commitment, planning, budgeting, employee engagement, data collection, and performance measurement.

The image below shows a snapshot of the M.D. Energy Management Assessment results, with the blue line showing our current situation and the dotted black line indicating our goals for next year.

Overall, our facility and organization energy assessments are well underway.



well as temperature setpoints. Our Energy Management Team met three times over the last two months to develop this opportunity register. Although not all the identified projects can or will be implemented, the measures become part of our overall Energy Management Plan.

PAYING YOUR TAXES

The deadline to pay M.D. property taxes has been extended this year.

Due to COVID-19, the usual September 15 tax

payment deadline has been pushed until October 15, 2020.

After that day, a 12 percent penalty will be ap-

plied to all outstanding property tax account.

If you didn't receive your notice or have questions, please call 780-826-3171.

Do you need a new address sign?

If you live in the Municipal District of Bonnyville and have a blue rural address sign, this message is for you.

Did you know that your address sign isn't just helpful for guiding guests to your door? Emergency services (police,

fire, and ambulance) use this sign to find you in the event of an emergency. Having a faded, unreadable sign could literally mean the difference between life and death.

Take a look at your blue address sign. Is it faded or dam-

aged? Do you need a new one? Take a look at the picture below. Does it look like the one on the left?

If it does, please call 780-826-3171 to order your free replacement sign today!



ADVENTURE IS ON THE HORIZON



While we all know Kinosoo Ridge is a place for snow-themed adventures, Council recently took steps to make it a year-round place for fun.

At its meeting in mid August, Council awarded the contract for

the Kinosoo Ridge Aerial Adventure Park to Rigging Specialties.

The \$1.5-million project will see a themed aerial park constructed at the base of the Ridge, on the shores of Cold Lake, giving visitors one of the best views in the Lakeland.

Initial construction is expected to start in the fall, with a break for the 2020-2021 ski season. The expected completion date is the end of May 2021.

Keep an eye on facebook.com/skikinsooridge for updates on this exciting project.

