



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS August 25, 2009

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#1 Brule Horse Holding leases – Yellowhead County Council heard a presentation from Ken Groat regarding horse holding leases within the Hamlet of Brule. Groat would like to take possession of a horse holding lease currently owned by another resident of Brule. However; Yellowhead County policy does not allow livestock within hamlets and while current leases are grandfathered, they are not allowed to be transferred. A petition was also submitted claiming that 95 per cent of the residents were not opposed to the leases. Council voted to return the issue to Committee of the Whole for more debate in light of the new information and the feedback from local residents.

#2 Potential Selection of New Councillor – Council decided not to hold a by-election following the resignation of Councillor Cheryl Bissell last month. The Municipal Government Act, under which the county abides, requires that a by-election be held only if the resignation is prior to 18 months before the next election (to be held October 2010) or if council consists of less than 6 councillors. The cost of the by-election was estimated to be approximately \$4,000, not inclusive of administrative time.

#3 Illegal Dumping – Council gave first reading to Bylaw 26.09, regarding the dumping of refuse in public places. Yellowhead County, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Town of Hinton have partnered together to attempt to reduce the amount of waste that is dumped on public property, especially throughout the rural Hinton area. This includes appliances and vehicles, as well as yard waste. Most materials are allowed into the landfills at no charge to residents of Yellowhead County, Hinton and Edson. The county, along with its partners, will be focusing on educating the public on the proper way to dispose of waste, as well as the damage to the environment when waste is disposed of improperly. This bylaw will increase the penalties to those who are caught illegally dumping on public land. Second and third reading will be given after advice from legal counsel regarding the severity of the fines.

#4 Ste. Anne Recreational Trail Use Request – At the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 17, 2009, Council heard a request from the Ste. Anne Recreational Trail User Committee. The Committee requested County endorsement to use approximately two miles of Yellowhead County road allowance in the northeast corner of the county, in order to connect a trail system running through Lac Ste. Anne County. The proposed road use would pass one resident, who has been contacted and did not object to the use. Council approved the request with the caveat that users must comply with the county's Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw, which requires a maximum speed of 50km per hour on county roadways, and that off-highway vehicles must remain on the extreme right of the road and travel single file at all times.

#5 Tender Accepted Edson Facility Roof – Council accepted a tender for a replacement roof on the Edson Maintenance and Storage facility. Acron Roofing System Ltd. submitted the lowest of five bids at \$174,477. The total cost will be \$201,924 with contingency and engineering fees. The funds will be taken from unallocated provincial MSI funds.

#6 Former Peers School Site Clean-up – Council voted to give Rurka Construction Ltd. an additional \$26,000 for unforeseen work required to clean-up the former school site during the demolition of the buildings. As this was anticipated due to lack of original drawings, this possibility was built into the contract between Rurka and the County. The concrete in the building had been approximately four times what the county had anticipated, in addition to rebar, beams and other materials. Even with the additional costs, the final price will still be \$83,000 less than the next lowest contractor that bid on the project.

#7 Bylaw 13.09 and 24.09 – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 13.09, amending the land use for a portion of SE-28-53-13-W5 from Rural District to Country Residential. The lot, located in the Carrot Creek area, would be divided into 4 parcels (in addition to the 5 already on the quarter section). Council also held a public hearing for Bylaw 24.09, allowing for the development of another manufactured home park in Niton. There were no written or oral objections to either application. Council gave both bylaws second and third (final) reading.

#8 Edson North Estates Area Structure Plan – Council held a public hearing for Bylaws 20.09 and 21.09, amending a portion of land north of Edson from Rural District to Country Residential. Also included was an Area Structure Plan, as the proposed amendment would divide the land into 9 parcels. The proposed designation fits in with the Edson Urban Fringe Plan previously approved by council. Both county administration and external agencies had concerns with access, a study for groundwater potential and fire protection. There were also four written and two oral objections to the application, mainly concerning access and water issues. Council postponed second reading until administration was able to address these concerns.

#9 Bench Creek Area Structure Plan – Council held a public hearing for Bylaws 22.09 and 23.09, amending a portion of land just northwest of Edson from Rural District to Country Residential District. A joint Area Structure Plan has been developed with the Town of Edson to allow for 10 country residential parcels (county) and four bareland condominium parcels (town). There were no written or oral objections to the application. Council gave the bylaws second and third (final) reading.

#10 Development Permit Request – Council heard a presentation from landowner Darcy Paul, requesting a development permit for his property. Under current policy, the permit is not allowed as there is no legal access from county roads, only from an LOC. The landowner wished to use the LOC as his access road, as the LOC is held dually by himself and Talisman. Council voted to uphold policy and deny the request.

#11 Property Tax Sale Dates and Public Auction – Council agreed to hold the public auction for properties on its tax arrears list on October 28 at 10 a.m. in council chambers. Properties up for auction were identified in March 2008, and will be sold for at least a reserve bid as adopted

by council. The reserve bid is set based on assessed market value. Any properties that have the outstanding taxes paid before the auction date will be removed from the property sale.

#12 Briefs – Council selected new representatives for various boards that had open seats due to Councillor Bissell's resignation. The new positions are as follows: Councillor Scherger on Edson Inter-Municipal Development Plan Committee and Ground Water Task Force Edson; Councillor Kwirant on Assessment Review Board – Industrial and Library Board – Regional and Yellowhead County; Councillor Velichko on Edson Inter-municipal Committee. Council rescinded policy 23.12 – Safety Incentives. The county has an updated health and safety policy in accordance with provincial OH&S regulations, making the previous policy redundant. The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

For more information contact Catherine Adair, Communications Coordinator toll free at 1-800-665-6030 or 780-723-4800.

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