



## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** December 8, 2009

**Keeping You Informed of the Business, Development and Services  
that Affect YOU!**

**#1 Interim Budget Approved** – Council approved the interim budget for the 2010 fiscal year. The interim budget total is \$83,703, 408; divided between capital expenditures of \$39,846,315, operating expenditure of \$24,645,486, and school and senior requisitions of \$19,211,607. The interim budget is based on the tax rate from 2009, when council was able to reduce the tax rate by 20 per cent for both residential and non-residential assessments. The 2010 interim budget is approximately 8 per cent less than the 2009 budget, but will continue to accomplish the goals of council. Many major projects are planned for 2010, including roadworks, utilities and buildings. The final budget will be approved by council in April 2010, after assessments, school and senior requisitions are completed and the appropriate adjustments are made. The school requisition is determined by the province, while the Evergreens Foundation determines the senior's requisition.

**#2 Mountain Pine Beetle Action** – Council heard a presentation from Alberta Sustainable Resource Development regarding the Municipal Sponsorship Grant to fight the infestation of the Mountain Pine Beetle in Yellowhead County. Forestry Program Manager Bill Tinge and Forest Health Officer Brooks Horne stated that the beetle had been found in Yellowhead County and had reached its peak infestation this summer. Yellowhead County Agricultural Services is currently in the process of applying for a provincial grant that would allow the county to increase public awareness of what they can do to stop the spread of the beetle on private land. This would include workshops, pamphlets and property visits. SRD stated that they have two local goals for the grant. The first is to control infestations and minimize the spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle north and south along the Eastern Slopes. The second goal is to prevent the spread of the beetle eastward into the boreal forests of pine.

**#3 New Wildwood Fire Station Unit** – Council approved the purchase of a new tank unit for the Wildwood fire station for approximately \$345,000. Four companies submitted quotes for the purchase, with two quotes deemed non-compliant. There was a \$20,000 cost difference between the second two quotes; however council decided to choose the higher bid due to the accompanying 10-year warranty. The lower bid only provided a five-year warranty, which administration did not think would be sufficient. Due to the low mileage usage of the trucks at the rural stations, problems often don't appear until after the five-year mark, necessitating the longer warranty. Administration also stated that the purchase had been approved by the station fire chiefs at their previous monthly meeting.

**#4 Municipal Sponsorship Application** – Council will be applying for the Municipal Sponsorship Grant, an annual provincial grant allotted based on priorities established by the

province. Administration identified the ortho-imagery of the hamlets, updated video data for the infrastructure and land, and the addition of further rural addressing all developed within the county's online mapping system as a project that fits within the priority criteria.

**#5 Planning and Development** – Council held a public hearing for Bylaw 30.09, a bylaw to redistrict a lot on Branch Corner from rural industrial district to rural district. The owner of the lot plans to subdivide a portion of the lot and consolidate the portion with the neighbouring parcel. There were no written or oral objections to the bylaw amendment. After the public hearing closed, council gave the bylaw second and third (final) reading. Council also gave first reading to Bylaw 31.09, being a bylaw to amend a parcel of land from public institutional to hamlet residential. The parcel was previously owned by the Niton United Church, and the new landowner plans to build a single detached dwelling on the location. There will be a public hearing held for Bylaw 31.09 on January 12, 2010.

**#6 Briefs** – Council appointed Judy Dodsworth to the Yellowhead Recreation Board as the representative for the Marlboro area for an approximately one-year term. The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 1 p.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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