



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS July 28, 2009

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#1 Councillor Cheryl Bissell Resigns – Yellowhead County Councillor Cheryl Bissell announced her resignation as councillor at the July 28 council meeting. She stated that she would be moving to the Edmonton area. This was Bissell’s second term on council, having first been elected to represent Division 5 - Wolf Creek/Pinedale area in 2004. As the resignation comes within 18 months of the next municipal election, it is up to the discretion of council whether or not to hold a by-election. That decision will be made at the next council meeting.

#2 Declaration of a Local State of Agricultural Disaster - Drought – Council declared a Local State of Agricultural Disaster – Drought in Yellowhead County. The declaration will raise awareness of the problems faced by the agriculture industry within our county. Especially in the east, many farmers have been hit by the colder weather this spring, drought, and a grasshopper infestation. Producers in the county do not currently meet the criteria for federal aid, as the problems are localized and scattered. “The micro-climates around the county are very different from one area to the next,” said Debbie Charest, Director of Community and Protective Services. Council stated that they hoped this declaration would encourage the federal and provincial government to take another look at the agricultural problems within the county. Neighbouring counties Brazeau and Woodlands have also made the declaration.

#3 Hinton Historical Tracks and Trails Society – Yellowhead County heard a presentation from Lorraine MacKay of the Hinton Historical Tracks and Trails Society. The Society is hoping to install roadside signage informing travellers of the routes that explorer David Thompson used through the area in the early 1800’s. The signs would be located near Overlander and Medicine Lake on Highway 16, and near Solomon Hill on the Brule Road. MacKay requested that Yellowhead County help to pay for the signage, as well as a roadside turnout at the Brule Road sign. The county’s share of the signage would be approximately \$6,000 and the turnout is estimated to be approximately \$75,000 - \$100,000. Council took the presentation as information and sent the item to a Committee of the Whole in order to learn more regarding costs and funding availabilities.

#4 Athabasca River Valley Community Landscape Visioning Process – Council heard a presentation from Connie Bresnahan, representing the Athabasca River Valley Community Landscape Visioning Process (CLVP). The community group organized in order to give voice to the development and changes that they wish to see in their area (encompassing Brule, Overlander, and Hinton). They are currently working on setting up open houses to solicit more involvement from local citizens. “This is a broad-based citizen’s initiative of people who care deeply about their community,” said Bresnahan. The group requested an ‘agreement in principle’

from the county in support of the CLVP. Council took the presentation for information and will make a decision at their next council meeting.

#5 Evansburg Royal Canadian Legion Use Request – Council heard a request from the Evansburg Legion for the county land and building located directly behind the Legion. Currently the land houses a wooden Quonset used for ASB cold storage. The building is quite old and rundown, with disconnected sewer services. The county has slated this building for removal once the new Wildwood building is in place. The removal also fits in with the Evansburg Streetscape Beautification Plan. Council decided to go forward with the removal of the building and allow the space to be used as public parking. This would allow the Legion to develop something on their own property, currently used as a parking area.

#6 Hinton Recreation Request – The Town of Hinton made a request to Yellowhead County for funding support for some new recreation projects. Hinton took advantage of the availability of Recreational Infrastructure Canada grants and was able to move forward future projects. The county agreed to support these projects under their recreation services agreement and the funding of \$57,517 and \$81,667 will be added to the 2010 and 2011 budgets, respectively.

#7 Bylaw 13.09, 24.09 and close road plan – Council gave first reading to Bylaw 13.09, amending the land use for a portion SE-28-53-13-W5 from Rural District to Country Residential. The lot, located southwest of Niton, would be divided into 4 parcels (in addition to the 5 already on the quarter section). Council also gave first reading to Bylaw 24.09, allowing for the development of another manufactured home park in Niton. Both bylaws were sent to public hearing for Aug. 25, 2009. Council also passed a resolution to close a road plan within SW 07-54-13-W5, NW 06-54-13-W5 and NE 06-54-13-W5. The road plan went diagonally through three properties and had never been developed.

#8 Edson North Estates Area Structure Plan – Council gave first reading to 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 11 parcels. The new proposed designation fits in with the Edson Urban Fringe Plan previously approved by council. Both bylaws were sent to public hearing on Aug. 25, 2009.

#9 Bench Creek Area Structure Plan – Council gave first reading to Bylaws 22.09 and 23.09, amending a portion of land just northwest of Edson. A joint Area Structure Plan is being developed with the Town of Edson to allow for 10 country residential parcels (county) and four bareland condominium parcels (town). The bylaws were sent to public hearing for Aug. 25, 2009.

#10 Briefs – Council selected Jay Lowe to act as SDAB Alternate Member as a replacement for Councillor Bissell. The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 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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