



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - January 25, 2018

TED Committee Membership

- The Tourism and Economic Development Committee will have three new appointees going forward in 2018.
- The Village of Boyle agreed to become TED's third municipal partner and will do so with a 5.7% per capita contribution towards the operating deficit of the committee. One councillor and one member-at-large will be appointed from Boyle and area.
- Also joining the TED Committee will be a representative from Athabasca University (AU). No fee will be assessed for AU's participation but it is anticipated they will be able to contribute in other tangible ways to the efforts of TED.

Telus Services

- Council received a letter from the Telus Regional Manager requesting the County's assistance in finding locations for additional towers to expand its services in the region.
- Members of Council agreed to communicate with Telus regarding a potential provision of land for locating towers.

Steering Committee

- A steering committee is being formed to help guide a process that will repurpose Athabasca's Old Brick School.
- The committee will start its work by conducting a usage study to determine potential uses for the facility. The second stage will see public meetings organized to look at various options.
- The composition of the committee will be two County Councillors, two Town Councillors and two members at large (one County, one Town). The TED officer and Athabasca Regional Multiplex Manager will also advise the committee.

Water & Sewer Rates

- Over the last number of years Athabasca County has been working towards cost-recovery for the provision of water and sewer in hamlets. With this goal in mind, County Council approved a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee for the following 2018 rates:

Cubic Metre Price	2018	Current
Colinton	\$3.37	\$3.27
Grassland/WR	\$4.71	\$4.32
Rural Subdivisions	\$4.71	\$4.71
Truck Fills - Res	\$4.71	\$4.40
Truck Fills - Non Res	\$9.00	\$9.00

- Colinton remains at a lower rate because residents pay a \$232 annual local improvement levy that was charged when the regional water system was brought to Colinton.

Based on the increases above the proposed sewer rates would be as follows:

	Current	Proposed
Colinton	\$16.19	\$16.68
Grassland	\$21.38	\$23.31
Wandering River	\$22.03	\$24.02

Assessment Year Modifiers

- The Government of Alberta sets Assessment Year Modifiers (AYMs) for linear assessments annually. The modifier affects the increase or decrease in assessment for linear property in a number of different categories.
- Even though an increase to well and pipeline assessments was recommended by government consultants, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, decided against increasing the AYMs by 18.39% and 10.22% respectively.
- Athabasca County would have realized an additional \$773,000 in tax revenue in 2018. A letter is being sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs expressing Council's concern over this decision.