



## **Council Highlights**



### **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - March 13, 2018**

#### **STARS Funding**

- Athabasca County Council heard an update from the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS) on demand changes to their service and growth they have had into Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
- The presentation came with a request for \$2 per capita in funding for STARS. Athabasca County has contributed \$7,000 annually to the society for the last six years. Council agreed to increase funding to \$8,000 in 2018.
- It was noted that not all municipalities in Alberta are making contributions to STARS and that 80% of the funding for STARS comes from donations, fundraising efforts and contributions from municipalities.
- A motion to send a letter to the Minister of Health voicing Council's concern over provincial funding levels for STARS was carried.

#### **Brick School Steering Committee**

- A steering committee is being formed to help help guide a public engagement process to gather input for possible uses of the Old Brick School in Athabasca.
- The committee is comprised of two Town and two County council members, two members at large, the Athabasca Regional Multiplex Manager, and the Tourism and Economic Development Officer.
- The steering committee will conduct its work with \$200,000 in funding from the Alberta Community Partnerships Inter-municipal Collaboration grant (CPIC).
- Athabasca County is seeking applications from individuals interested in filling the open Members At Large position.

#### **Letter of Support**

- Council will be providing Caslan School Council with a letter of support as they work towards improving a playground.
- The letter of support will assist the Council apply for grants to help fund the project.

#### **RCMP Crime Reduction Unit**

- Athabasca County Council met with RCMP Superintendent Mark Hancock, Assistant District Commander, Eastern Alberta District and heard about a new Crime Reduction Unit that will soon be working in Eastern Alberta.
- Formation of the specialized unit follows increased funding to combat rural crime in Alberta. It will be stationed in St. Paul and operate in all areas of Eastern Alberta.
- Key to the efforts of the unit will be the skills of a crime analyst to connect crimes of prolific offenders committed in a number of RCMP detachment areas.
- The hope is to equip prosecutors and the courts with more background on the offenders to enable stronger prosecution.

#### **Development Authority**

- Council has approved first reading of the amending bylaw that modifies the development officers' authority.
- Athabasca County's Planning Department will have greater leeway in making decisions to help streamline the process.
- Instead of Development Permits waiting until the monthly Municipal Planning Commission meeting, Development Officers would have the ability to grant permitted & discretionary uses and provide a maximum of 10% variance on applications.
- The option for development officers to bring any development application to MPC for a decision will remain.
- A Public Hearing allowing input about the amendment to the Land Use Bylaw has been scheduled for April 10, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the County Administration Office. A notice will be published online and in the newspaper.