



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - March 29, 2018

Highway 63 Road Rescue

- The Alberta Government has provided Athabasca County with a five-year funding commitment to continue the Highway 63 Road Rescue service based in Wandering River.
- Athabasca County had applied for funding through the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Strategic Initiative component and will receive \$300,000 in funding per year for the next five years.
- Highway 63 remains a busy corridor in northeastern Alberta and in 2017, there were a total of 87 responses made by the contractor who operates the Highway 63 Road Rescue. Prior to the contractor being in place, volunteer fire departments responded to emergency calls along Highway 63, which became unsustainable.

Airport Taxiway

- The Athabasca Regional Airport will see improvements made to its taxiway cold mix surface this summer following the approval of approximately \$42,500 for the job by County Council.
- The taxiway was first paved in 2005 by Alberta Central Airways using cold mix asphalt and now requires rehabilitation due to its age. The price estimate, provided by David Gray Enterprises, is based on 2017 oil prices at \$0.85 per litre and could change if oil prices fluctuate lower or higher.
- Though the work had been planned for a number of years, the recent addition of North Country Air Maintenance is bringing increased air traffic to the airport and added to the importance of fixing the taxiway.

Boyle Rodeo Support

- Athabasca County Council will be sponsoring the 2018 Annual Boyle Rodeo which takes place July 20 to 22.
- A sponsorship request was submitted by the Boyle and District Agriculture Society. Council chose a sponsorship amount of \$1,000.

LUB and MDP

- Athabasca County Council has set a goal of completing the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Municipal Development Plan (MDP) in its 2018 Strategic Plan.
- With this goal in mind, Councillors approved a contract with Municipal Planning Services to revise and facilitate completion of the two planning and development documents.
- Following the first round of public consultations Council agreed to put work on the statutory planning documents on hold until 2018, when the new council and staff members were in place.
- Municipal Planning Services will conduct work to complete the LUB and MDP as required, bringing amendments back in stages for the review of Council.
- Public Consultations will take place as the process of completing the LUB and MDP moves forward.

Provincial Park Concern

- Work to help protect the watershed surrounding Long and Narrow Lake has been misconstrued by the Department of Environment and Parks as wanting to create a provincial park.
- During a visit by MLA Colin Piquette, Council expressed its concern over news that the area could become a provincial park instead of a natural area, the latter being the solution desired by the Long and Narrow Lake Stewardship Society.
- The concern is that a change to Provincial park status would curtail many of the current uses for the area including hunting and access to public lands.
- MLA Piquette agreed to take the concern forward to Environment and Parks officials. Athabasca County, as part of its draft Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw, proposes increased protection for this area.