



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - April 27, 2018

Audited financial statements

- Athabasca County's auditors presented and reviewed the 2017 Audited Financial Statements with Council.
- The work of auditors is important to let the County know our processes are on track and where improvements can be made. No concerns were noted following the conclusion of the audit.
- Paper copies of the financial statements are available upon request from the County Admin Office. They can also be accessed by visiting athabascacounty.com and looking for the link on the homepage.

Tax Rate Bylaw

- Council adopted Bylaw 010-2018 which sets the Athabasca County tax rate for 2018.
- As part of its budget deliberations Council looked at the impacts of an increase for ratepayers before setting a 2% increase for the municipal portion of the overall tax bill.
- It is the first tax increase in two years and was necessary to complete projects put on hold in recent years due to inclement weather. Tax bills will be sent out in May and will include a breakdown of how taxes will be used.

Alberta Trailnet Society update

- Alberta Trailnet is a provincial organization that oversees the development of trails including Athabasca Landing Trail. They provided an update to Council about the trail including new bridges in Colinton and work to be conducted this year.
- Over the last 3 years the organization has worked with the Athabasca Recreational Trails Association to develop portions of the Trans Canada Trail within County boundaries.
- They did so by accessing just over \$4 million in Canada 150 funds to complete trails in Alberta.

Recreational vehicles

PUBLIC HEARING HELD, AMENDING BYLAW PASSES

- Council adopted Bylaw 008-2018, a bylaw amending the Land Use Bylaw 6-2002, which deals with recreational vehicle placement.
- The new bylaw provides clarity with regards to land parcel size, definitions and when permits would be required. It also removes a 14-day time limit for RVs, adds the use of recreational vehicles to a number of land districts, and removes a restriction on size of accessory buildings.
- The new bylaw will be evaluated over the 2018 camping season for effectiveness and will provide valuable information to help amend the draft Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan with regards to RVs.
- More information about Bylaw 008-2018 can be found on the County's website. Questions about it can be directed to the Planning & Development Department.

P&D Fee Bylaw adopted

- Planning and Development fees can now be found in one place following the adoption of Bylaw 007-2018.
- The new bylaw replaces four previous bylaws that included references to planning and development fees. Combining the fees into one fee schedule provides one reference point for administration and the public.
- The new bylaw and fee schedule can be found by looking for a link on the County website or asking for a copy at the County administration office.

Council Code of Conduct

- 1st Reading for a new Council Code of Conduct Bylaw was held at the meeting. The code is a requirement of the recently amended *Municipal Government Act* and will help govern the way Council conducts business. It must be in place before May 31, 2018.