



## **Council Highlights**



### **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - September 27, 2018**

#### **Northern Lakes College**

- Council invited Ann Everatt, president and CEO of Northern Lakes College, to Council chambers to provide an update on the work of the college.
- Everett outlined a new Memorandum of Understanding between Northern Lakes College, Athabasca University and Aspen View School Division that will see the three education providers work together to promote education from Kindergarten to a Masters Degree right in Athabasca.
- Northern Lakes College has also entered into an agreement to share space with Athabasca University at its Athabasca Campus. The change will allow for the eventual expansion of class offerings and the number of faculty to increase with it.
- Also outlined was the College's work to collaborate with Lakeland, Lethbridge, SAIT and Keyano colleges to bring a greater variety of programs to students in those communities, as well as Athabasca.

#### **2018 Strategic Planning**

- Council reviewed its 2018 Strategic Plan and progress made on work itemized in it since it was adopted late last year.
- The Strategic Plan helps Council and Administration determine what the priorities and puts in place a process to provide project updates periodically throughout the year.
- A new Strategic Plan for 2019 is now being planned and Council agreed to seek quotes from facilitators to run the session.
- The session will take place in late October or early November following Council's annual organizational meeting.

#### **Long and Narrow Lakes**

- The Long and Narrow Lake Stewardship Society (LNLSS) provided Council with an update on a recent meeting they had with Alberta Environment and Parks.
- Discussions have been underway between the Society, Athabasca County and Alberta Environment & Parks about a proposed designation change for the area surrounding Long and Narrow Lakes.
- Athabasca County supported an original proposal from the Society to have the region designated as a natural area to help protect the quality of the lakes in the long term.
- Alberta Parks has taken the original request in a new direction proposing to change the area to a Provincial Park. After their initial meeting, LNLSS says a revised proposal meets their original intention and they requested Council's support of it.
- Athabasca County Council requested the proposal be sent in writing so it can be reviewed more closely. Concerns about effects to existing facilities within the area were discussed as a reason to consider any proposed changes with caution.

#### **Spring Auction for Lands**

- Athabasca County will wait until spring to put several parcels of land up for sale.
- The land was recently listed for sale and bids were received for them. However, the proposals were well below their estimated values.
- Following a recommendation by administration, a decision to not accept any of the offers was made by Council. Instead, Council authorized Administration to hold a public auction for these lands administered by a licensed auctioneer in the spring.