



Council Highlights



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING - November 29, 2018

Strategic Plan Adopted

- County Council and Management Staff attended a Strategic Planning Session held November 6 -7 in Athabasca. Resulting from the session was the 2019 draft strategic plan document.
- A total of 8 key action items were identified as part of the Strategic Plan.
- The number 1 priority identified was the need to have an Infrastructure Study completed to evaluate the condition of all County roads.
- The study has an estimated cost of \$123,000 and will help identify the scope of the work.
- A full version of the Strategic Plan will be made available on the County website mid-December.

Northern Lights Library Levy

- Athabasca County contributes to a number of library boards that provide services within its boundaries, including the Northern Lights Library System (NLLS).
- NLLS recently approved its 2019 budget which includes measures to avoid having a deficit budget, or a reduction in services.
- In order to help the Board meet its goals, an \$0.08 per capita increase for member municipalities is proposed as part of the budget. In order for the increase to come into effect, two-thirds of the membership have to accept the increase.
- Council discussed the overall cost to the municipality and its ratepayers, as well as the implications of not agreeing to accept the increase, and decided to pass a motion accepting it.
- Instead of paying \$77,000 to the NLLS, Athabasca County will now pay \$80,000. The NLLS hasn't asked for any increases to the levy in 4 years.

Intermunicipal Agreements

- Athabasca County passed Bylaw 026-2018 to enter into an agreement with the Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17.
- The Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF), once approved by Municipal Affairs, will serve as a template and starting point for future agreements struck with other neighbouring municipalities.
- Alberta's new Municipal Government Act requires municipalities that share a common border to develop both ICFs and Intermunicipal Development Plans (IDP).
- However, when it comes to creating an IDP, Athabasca County will be applying for an exemption from the need to create one with the MD of Opportunity.
- A ministerial order from July 2018 allows municipalities to apply for an exemption if there is a high percentage of Crown land on the shared border between municipalities. It was noted that only 2% of the border between the two municipalities is private land, the remainder is Crown land.
- The MD of Opportunity has already passed a motion to apply for the exemption. Athabasca County Council adopted a similar motion that supports this direction. The request will be considered by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

TRAVIS Bylaw passes

- Council passed Bylaw 025-2018 establishing a fee system and process for a new oversized commercial vehicle permitting system in the County.
- As of January 2, 2019, permits will be issued using TRAVIS, an electronic permitting system used in many jurisdictions of Alberta. The system helps commercial hauling companies apply for permits in a one-stop-shop fashion across many jurisdictions.
- The Bylaw will become effective on January 2, 2019.