



**Mountain View**  
C O U N T Y

## Media Release

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March 19, 2009

### Highlights from the Regular Council Meeting of 18/03/2009

#### Environmentally Sensitive Areas report approved

Mountain View County will benefit from an updated inventory of Environmentally Significant Areas within its boundaries. On Wednesday, Council received the final Environmentally Significant Areas report, prepared for the County by Summit Environmental Consultants; and the Riparian Mapping Appendix, which was submitted by Nichols Environmental.

The final Environmentally Sensitive Areas Report, which includes the Riparian Mapping Appendix, may now be used as a reference in the implementation of Environmental Protection Guidelines; for the evaluation of Subdivision and Development Applications; and to help identify priority areas for Beneficial Riparian Management project funding.

Council subsequently directed Chief Administrative Officer Doug Plamping to create a policy and map based on the report, where all Environmental Significant Areas will be ranked equally for planning purposes. "The Environmentally Significant Areas report is very important for our municipality, and the direction given by Council to create a policy and map based on the report shows that there will be actions originating from these studies," added CAO Doug Plamping.

Council also received a report presented by County residents Mr. Harvey Dick and Mrs. Loretta Lund as information, and directed administration to include it as an additional reference document.

#### Increasing reserves highlight 2008 financial statements

Mountain View County's financial position remains strong heading into 2009. This was the message Council received Wednesday after reviewing the County's preliminary financial statements for 2008.

According to Director of Corporate Services Greg Wiens, the County's operating reserves at the end of 2008 are \$2.5 million higher than at the end of 2007, and \$3.3 million higher than budgeted. \$1.5 million of the increase in reserves can be attributed to projects that were budgeted in 2008, but which are carrying forward into 2009. The remaining increase in reserves is a combination of higher than expected revenues amid lower than expected expenditures. "As a result of our increasing reserves, Mountain View County is in a financial position to face the challenges which may result during this evolving economic climate," Wiens added.

Final audited financial statements will come back to Council on April 22. Look for more detailed results in May editions of the Mountain View Gazette.

#### County clears up '08 expenses

Mountain View County Council approved additional grant funding on Wednesday to cover outstanding expenses on various 2008 road construction projects. Council approved over \$1.1 million in Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP) funding to cover overages on the paving of Range Road 20; and the remaining balance on the contract re-chipping of four County roads

Funding of \$776,275.18 was required after issues arose during the construction and improvement of the side slopes along Range Road 20 in 2008. Culvert extensions were also added for increased safety, which was an increase from the original tender. "We had the room to go over budget on this project, as we had come in under budget on other projects throughout the year," said Doug Plamping, Chief Administrative Officer for Mountain View County.

An additional \$387,962.43 was also approved to fund additional work in 2008 involving contract re-chipping on the following roads:

- Township Road 320 from Range Road 40 to Secondary Highway 760;
- Range Road 281 from Hwy 27 to Township Road 340;
- Range Road 283 from Secondary Hwy 581 to Township Road 292 and;
- Range Road 285 from Hwy 27 to Township Road 322.

The County initially budgeted \$350,000.00 for contract re-chipping, to be funded by the AMIP grant; but with the final cost of the re-chipping totaling \$656,233.60, an additional allocation was required to cover the balance.

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