

Holiday Greetings Division 5 Residents, Businesses and Land Owners,

My plans for better communication over the next 4 years includes a quarterly letter to try and keep you all informed on what is going on in the County. Please feel free to forward this to anyone that you think might be interested. I encourage those that are not already on the distribution list to send me an e-mail and I will add you. For those of you who do not wish to get this information in future, let me know and I will remove you from the distribution list. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information.

Thank you to all that voted in the election. I am very honored to be the Councillor for Division 5 for the next 4 years and to serve as Deputy Reeve for the next year. Voter turn-out wasn't great in the last election and my hope is that more people will participate in the next election. I have heard some feedback on reasons why people are not interested in Municipal elections, however I would really appreciate your feedback on what the County, and myself, can do better to encourage more participation and better communication with businesses, residents and landowners.

During the first few months, the new Council has been busy with training and education courses for new Councillors as well as returning elected officials. Mountain View County has three new elected Officials in Division 1, 2 and 6. The new Council has come together well and I look forward to another 4 years of good solid work and progress.

Some of the larger events that have occurred since the election are the following;

- Although Mountain View County was successful in getting our resolution regarding lobbying the Province for a review of the Code of Practice for asphalt plants through the AAMDC District 2 zone meeting, we were not successful in getting the resolution supported at the fall AAMDC conference (Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties). In speaking with the elected officials at the conference, there was concern that reviewing the current legislation and proposing additional environmental regulations on asphalt plants would result in increased industry costs that would further exacerbate the issues with the slowdown of the construction industry. Municipalities were also concerned that if these supposed costs were transferred to project costs, it would increase the cost of projects to Municipalities. In the opinion of Mountain View County, Industry can already achieve better environmental standards, however, without the updated legislation to control industry, some are taking the cheaper way out by using old and outdated technology. We will continue to lobby through our own efforts for a review

of the outdated legislation around asphalt plants and continue to push for better emission standards.

- Council has directed administration to work on proposed land use bylaw amendments that will regulated commercial production and retail sales of cannabis in order to prepare for the legalization of Cannabis in 2018. This and other Land Use Bylaw amendments will be part of a public hearing process in 2018. Your feedback would be much appreciated once the process begins.
- Council has only had one Council meeting to deal with second and third readings of re-designations. Overall, this has resulted in the total re-designation of approximately 6.78 acres from Ag to Country Residential, 12.83 acres from Ag to Residential Farmstead, and 49.9 acres from Ag to Agriculture 2. None of these re-designations occurred in Division 5.
- Council has approved a capital budget and interim operating budget for 2018. The capital budget is always passed in December in order to achieve the best possible tender prices for Capital projects by going out early in the new year. This year the Capital Budget is a total of \$29,214,120, with \$26,145,920 of capital projects, \$2,226,200 of operating projects and \$842,000 of liability expense. The largest elements of the capital budget are;
  - \$2 M on Re-gravelling
  - \$1.7 M on re-chipping
  - \$3.025 M second lift of asphalt on the Acme road. This is required to protect the infrastructure resulting from road upgrade that Council approved in 2013.
  - \$2.75 M on protection of the Sundre Airport and section of RR55 and RR60. This is entirely funded by the 2013 Provincial Grant money from the Flood Recovery Erosion and Control program (FREC)
  - \$1.52M on upgrading RR55 from HWY 584 to the Sundre airport.
  - \$0.95M on a satellite grader shop east of HWY 2
  - \$1.324M on fire capital
  - \$0.8M on gravel pit reclamation

That is my summary for the months of October – December 2017. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and a safe and happy new year!!!

All my best,

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