



Chief Administrative Officer Report August 30, 2024

Aug 15 – Tour with Bylaw Enforcement for property issues; Performance Appraisal

The Merry Pioneers Community Hall new A/V system is planned for install on September 3.

We have a kick off meeting to start the Infrastructure Plan update project with MPE Engineering on September 3.

Water consumption has dropped off to regular levels at the truck fill.

I sent an email to ATCO gas about the \$1,631 fee they charge us for disconnecting the service at the property planned for demolition. I previously pointed out, and did so again that this is a tax sale property that we are forced to inherit and remove, and we would like ATCO to waive the fee or at least give some consideration. ATCO's disconnect used to be a free service some time ago. The cost should be the responsibility of the owner, but like in some other cases, the owner abandoned the property and now the residents have to pay to clean it up, including the extra bill from ATCO. Last time the request was considered and dismissed.

ATCO's response was that it is the owners responsibility to cover the costs associated with the disconnection of service and/or the requestor of the disconnect. Years ago, there was no charge for a disconnect which then would be passed onto our rate payers which is not fair to anyone. This is primarily why the change to bill for individual disconnects was put in place.

The FCSS Coordinator Julie Temple has submitted her resignation and the position is posted.

Although we were approved for the pre application level, Tree Canada has determined that since a planting plan is not yet developed for this project, it is unfortunately ineligible for this first round of funding. As a next step, we strongly recommend you connect with a Tree Canada coach for another session. They can support you in getting started on your plan and help you connect with a tree professional in your region who could develop/review your planting plan. Though we ask that the bulk of preparatory work be completed before applying, we will allow you to include up to \$5,000 in eligible costs in your budget to have this work done by a consultant at this stage, as it is likely they will need to do a site visit.

We do hope that you will submit a complete application (all required documents submitted, including the final planting plan) before October 15, as we would very much like to consider this application for the next round of funding. Alternatively, if

this is not feasible, Strategic Grants will be launching early in 2025, where applicants can receive significantly more funds to develop detailed tree planting plans. Council could consider a tree planting plan at the Strategic Planning Meeting.

Regional Water Project update: Saddle Hills County Council made a motion at their Council meeting to *enter into a contract with the lowest qualified proposal from Option Excavating Ltd. subject to Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors' approval for the 2.4 kms of waterline on the south bank of the Peace River for the Central Peace Regional Water Supply Project (Phase 1&2) at a cost of \$14,264,931.60 plus GST.*