

Highlights May 10, 2016 Council Meeting

2015 Property Tax Notices – were mailed out on May 13th. If you do not receive your notice, contact Carolyn at 645-3301, ext 215 to ensure that we have your correct mailing address on file. ***The County Office will be open during the lunch hour from May 24th to July 4th to accommodate ratepayers during property tax season.***

Assessment Open House - The County of St. Paul has now contracted its' Assessment services to Accurate Assessment Group and they will be holding an Open House on June 2 and 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the County administration office to discuss assessment inquiries. No appointments are necessary. To discuss your assessment at any other time, contact Bob Daudelin or Jesse Nelson with Accurate Assessment at 1-877-438-2305.

2016 Annual Operating and Capital Budget – County Council approved the 2016 Annual Operating and Capital Budget at a Special Council Meeting on April 21, 2016.

Operating & Capital Revenues	\$42,096,999
Debenture & Funding from Surplus	\$ 3,054,868
Operating Expenses	\$26,038,938
Debenture Repayment	\$ 2,076,093
Capital Expenditures	\$16,136,588
Surplus	\$ 900,248

Council has tried to keep mill rates stable for all taxpayers and have not increased mill rates for any assessment class of taxpayer. Due to the timing of when assessment is completed for any given year, there is significant unknown as to what to expense for assessment values of the future year. Industry is being hit hard by lower commodity prices and the downturn in the economy. There has been a reduction in market value of properties since the July 21, 2015 valuation date for assessment. With all of these factors and other unknown factors, Council has determined to set their budget showing \$900,248 Surplus. Residents can view the entire budget document on the County webpage at www.county.stpaul.ab.ca

Planning and Development – Council gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2016-12 to amend the Land Use Bylaw as it relates to rezoning 10 acres in the N ½ NW 7-58-8-W4 from Agricultural to Country Residential One (CR1). Council also gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2016-11 to rezone 73.7956 acres in NE 1-58-10-W4 from Ag to Country Residential One/Industrial Commercial. However, Council is also requesting that the applicant complete an Area Structure Plan as per the County's General Municipal Servicing Standards Bylaw prior to receiving second and third reading on the proposed rezoning bylaw.

Fundraising Opportunity for Non Profit Organizations – We are looking for a group to assist with clean up after the rodeo performances. The group will work with another group selected by the Town of St. Paul and will receive a \$1500 honorarium from the St. Paul Ag Society. The group who cleans after the rodeo performances this year will then work the rodeo supper in 2017 and receive **all** the proceeds from the supper (\$2700 to \$3300). If you are interested in this fundraiser or would like more information, contact Phyllis at 780-645-3301, ext. 203.

County of St. Paul efforts to assist Evacuees from Fort McMurray – County Council made a resolution to relax enforcement of the County's Land Use Bylaw (LUB) as it relates to the number of RVs allowed on a property for the people displaced by the wild fire situation in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo until December 1, 2016. Currently the County LUB only allows 2 – RVs on a property, this resolution would allow more than 2 for a specified period of time in order to provide housing alternatives to those who have brought their RVs with them, or are being housed in RVs.

Additionally, Council approved deferred payment of taxes for properties with addresses in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to November 30, 2016.

Activation of Reception Centre - The Region of St. Paul had just had a practice exercise of the Emergency Social Services Plan on April 27, 2016. This exercise was very timely as St. Paul was asked to activate their Reception Centre on May 4, 2016 to provide support to evacuees from Fort McMurray. As of May 10, 2016, 606 people were registered at the Reception Centre. County Council expressed their gratitude to the many people who have stepped up in not only the community of St. Paul but our neighbouring communities to volunteer, provide housing, donations, goods, etc. to assist our team to support evacuees arriving in St. Paul. Many County staff are involved in the operation of the Reception Centre, leaving a small number of staff at the Administration Office dealing with regular county operations. Council wanted to send a message of appreciation to County staff for their dedication to ensuring the emergency response is dealt with and that other County business carries on as required.

Water line from Spedden to Ashmont – County Council has awarded the tender for the construction of a water transmission line from Spedden to Ashmont at the April 21, 2016 Public Works Meeting. Directional Mining and Drilling will be the contractor on the project that is expected to commence after the May long weekend. It is estimated that the project will take approximately 8 weeks to be completed.

Ashmont Lagoon – The Ashmont Lagoon expansion has been tendered out to 21 pre-qualified bidders for the project on April 29, 2016 with tender opening on May 18, 2016. The County hopes to award the tender before the end of May.

Spring Cleanup – As a pilot project Council has determined to have curbside pickup of garbage for various locations in the County for a 2-week period to assist with spring clean-up and beautification of hamlets or subdivisions. Residents who will be affected by this pilot project have been notified via mail regarding dates and times of this service.

From May 16 – 27, 2016 residents from all areas of the County can delivery appliances to transfer stations within the County (except the St. Paul Transfer Station) at no charge.

Funding Support:

- \$2,500 – Elk Point Canada Day Fireworks
- \$3,561.82 – Cork Community Hall to replace sewer line and bathroom fixtures
- \$1,000 – Transportation Grant for Heritage Lodge Auxiliary
- \$500 – Regional High School for Provincial Badminton
- \$1,500 – Mallaig School – Provincial Badminton and Provincial Handball Boys and Girls Teams

For more information contact
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At 780-645-3301, ext 208