



RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE WATER VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
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# Division 2

## Mountain View County



## Spring 2014

## Division 2 News

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I encourage you to sign up for the newsletter on a regular basis from my page on the Mountain View County website [www.mountainviewcounty.com/division2](http://www.mountainviewcounty.com/division2)

It is an exciting time in our community. There are a number of things going on and I will do my best to provide updates in this edition.

The Water Valley Community Association came before council on April 2, 2014 with their proposed 5-year plan. The community association has struck a committee to work on this plan. The committee consists of members of the community association, the recreation group, the rodeo association and many other community members. They had an online survey to determine the needs and wants of the community. The 5-year plan indicates the top priorities for 2014 which are as follows:

- Acquire 40 acres within 1 km of 4-way stop to accommodate initial plan
- Complete site layout design of existing and new property
- Complete site preparation for new ball diamonds and parking area
- Finalize plan to upgrade/replace community hall
- Build permanent pad for Skating Rink

Council was appreciative of the presentation made to them and the support group that

showed up with the presenter. Council has agreed to work with a couple members of council and our administration to form a plan to move forward on a possible location for the expansion. We will be planning on meeting in April so that the community members can hopefully be presented with the updates at the BBQ they will be hosting May 8, 2014. I look forward to working with the community members on this project.

On March 31, 2014 Mountain View County Council met with Cremona Council for a joint meeting to discuss areas where we can work together. We discussed a potential mutual aid agreement on policing; a concern with the trailer dump was brought up; the viability review was discussed that when the report comes out it will show the items that need to be worked on. Overall everyone agreed that the Village and the County need to work together and build our relationship. It is a very positive thing for the village and the rural residents.

I have been put on the Cremona Library building committee to explore some of the possibilities in the village for a potential new location for the library. After meeting with the Village Council it was determined that there is no desire from council to have the existing space expanded. The council would like to see that space freed up for their use. There are some potential spaces in the village that are already constructed, as well there

are some available lots for a new building – so we will continue to explore the options.

The Cremona Ag Society has been working on fundraising to have funds available to explore options of expansion for their current facility. They have kept me informed on their plans and I look forward to hearing updates in the future.

Applications are available for Cremona Rec Board funding as of April 2, 2014. The applications will be accepted until May 2, 2014 and will then be reviewed and recommendations provided from the Board. Visit: <http://www.mountainviewcounty.com/recfundin> g for the application and the guidelines for the application.

Acme Road paving will begin this spring. The tenders were received and came in below budget. The project should commence in May depending on the weather.

On April 16, 2014 the county held an open house which was a chance to update programs, budget decision and Operation projects. Updates that were provided were:

### Road Bans

- How do they work? They are axle-weight limits placed on commercial vehicles to protect road infrastructure during spring thaw. They are put in place from March 12 to June 5 every year. Bans will vary

depending on the condition of the road and the road surface.

- How are they enforced? They are enforced by County Patrol officers and by County road monitors. Individuals caught over weight limit are charged and prosecuted.
- Ag producers can apply with the County for road ban exemptions. Agriculture is usually eligible for exemptions on all surfaces. Exemption information may be obtained from the County office.
- County is working with Industry, including oil and gas, to determine fair system with use of pre, post and ongoing inspections, securing bonds and other tools including set yearly ban dates.

#### **Snow Removal**

- County Operational Services has undertaken an improvement program for snow removal that includes the use of contract staff to augment County staff when deemed necessary. In 2013-14 this tactic was used in response to several large snow events.
- The 2013 budget for snow removal was \$2.1 million, a number determined by the average of "typical" snowfall years.
- This year saw about \$1.5 million in additional snow removal costs.
- The County utilizes a snow removal reserve that is drawn upon in years of additional costs. The County can also draw on other surplus areas in the budget to help offset the costs.
- In years where the snow removal expenses come in under budget, the remaining dollars are normally placed in the snow removal reserve for future use.

#### **Re-gravel Program**

- In 2013, the program did not accomplish what was set out due to weather and labor reasons. Of 600 km of planned re-gravelling, 413 km were completed, leaving \$435,000 of unused budget dollars.
- In 2014, Operational Services plans on re-gravelling one-third of its road inventory, plus the 2013 shortfall for a total of 880 km.
- An additional 295 km of gravel roads have been added to 2014 program because of shortfall in 2013.
- Service level for re-gravel program is based on an assumed spread of 220 tonnes per km with a road width of 8 metres.
- The approved funding for re-gravelling in 2014 is \$2.7 million.

#### **Re-chipping Program**

- The long-term plan is to re-chip the hard surfaced chip seal roads in the County inventory every 7 years.

- In 2014 the department plan is to re-chip 116 km.
- The cost of the re-chipping program for 2014 is \$2.45 million
- In 2013, there was \$160,000 in unused budget funding for the re-chipping program and a slight shortfall in proposed number of kilometers to be completed.

#### **Weed Control / Roadside Mowing**

- Weed Control program is a County-wide initiative to keep invasive and damaging weeds under control.
- Roadside mowing is a program to control roadside growth for safety and drainage reasons.
- Roadside mowing features two cuts on County collector routes and one cut on local (gravel) roads.

#### **Road Management Program**

- Significant work has been done to develop a long term plan which will include public input.
- Report was done with AMEC to help build a template for a road management strategy. It includes the science behind road planning and management.

#### **Road Projects**

- Aside from the aggressive re-gravel and re-chipping programs this year, the major project remains the completion of the Acme Road base and paving from Hwy 22 to RR 30, including bridge rehabilitation. (BF 2378). The total for the project is \$7.7 million.

#### **Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review**

- Recently approved major changes include: Dwelling Density, setting maximum dwelling units per quarter to four on properties outside of growth centers (identified in the MDP) and hamlets. Maximum number of dwelling units for parcels 70 acres or less is one.
- Highway Commercial District was deleted because of redundancy.
- Country Residents (2) District was deleted for simplicity.
- Shipping containers will now require a development permit on all Country Residential parcels and Ag parcels less than 5 acres.
- Medicinal Horticultural operations will now be required to locate within one of the existing industrial districts.

#### **Area Structure Plan (ASP) Reviews**

- The Highway 2 & 27 Area Structure Plan Review is slowly moving towards completion.

- The Bergen Area Structure Plan is just underway with first meetings.
- The Bearberry Red Deer River Corridor ASP committee has been struck and ready to start.
- The Wessex Area Structure Plan (near Carstairs) is in the process of striking the review committee.
- Each ASP is budgeted for \$7,000 and is charged with accommodating local development issues under the County-wide Municipal Development Plan

#### **Mountain View Seniors' Housing (MVSH)**

- Sundre build is moving forward in planning process. Site within the Town of Sundre is identified; land purchase agreement and financing are in place.
- Currently, the three-phase project has received \$3.8 million in provincial funding towards a total estimated cost of \$25 million. Additional provincial funding is being sought to reduce the proposed amount of financing that would be needed to complete all three phases of the project.

#### **2014 Budget Overview**

- Council approved a budget with a 1% tax rate increase across all five assessment categories.
- The 1% increase will generate additional revenue of \$380,000 from which approximately \$300,000 will be allocated to the bridge reserve.
- The overall Operating Budget is approximately \$47 million, including requisitions.
- The County will collect \$11.2 million in education taxes on behalf of the province.
- The County has requisitions of \$654,000 to Mountain View Seniors' Housing and \$174,000 to Mountain View Regional Waste.

#### **Flood Mitigation**

- Berm Project Funding has been approved for Southwest of Sundre along the Red Deer River. Provincial government grant of \$3.1 million has been approved. Joint application with the Town of Sundre. Purpose is to safeguard life, property and environment.
- Collaborative engagement with Clearwater County, Red Deer County and the Town of Sundre is ongoing with respect to long-term flood mitigation.
- Water Valley Erosion Mitigation funding has been received from the provincial government. A total of \$850,000 has been approved for erosion control along the Little Red Deer River for protection of County infrastructure including RR 52 and the Water Valley Campground from seasonal flooding.

If you have any comments or concerns that you would like to discuss with me please feel free to contact me either at 403-875-2969 or [patricia.mckean@mountainviewcounty.com](mailto:patricia.mckean@mountainviewcounty.com)

### Council meetings

-  Policies and Priorities held the first Wednesday of each month
-  Regular council held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month

There will be budget meetings held this month so watch the County section in the Mountain View Gazette for the upcoming dates.

ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WE ENCOURAGE ANYONE INTERESTED TO ATTEND AS WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEW AND IDEAS.

standing committee and Mountain View County Finance staff that hold the contract for the preparation of the commission’s finances. This workshop was to understand roles and responsibilities and to determine timelines that work for each party. We are trying to streamline the process for when the board changes over as well as for commission staff.

#### Cremona FCSS

- At our February meeting we reviewed and approved the grants and recommended approvals. At our March and April meeting we discussed the programs available to the community and the plans for upcoming programing.

## Committee Updates

I wanted to provide you with information and updates from the *committees I sit on with Mountain View County*:

#### Cremona Municipal Library Board

- As stated in my earlier report the library board is working on the proposed building options and will continue to explore these. The usage numbers at the library have been consistently increasing. The popular item that has been expanded is the DVD’s that have become more and more accessible.

#### Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission (MVRWMC)

- At the workshop we held there was a lot of great work accomplished and out of that we established 3 standing committees and they have brought forward a number of policies for the commission that the board has now adopted. This is a huge accomplishment because as this commission was set up a number of years ago, it never had policies for the commission and board to operate under. Now, having these policies provides consistency and accountability for commission staff and board members. We also held a workshop with the finance



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