Division 2

Mountain View County

Mountain View COUNTY

Summer 2014

ACME ROAD CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

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

It has been a busy summer at Mountain View County. I have had the opportunity to be involved in some of the community events which have happened within our division. The Water Valley Rodeo association put on an excellent rodeo and had warm weather for the event. I had a wonderful time at the July 1st parade, the volunteers who organized the day did a fabulous job. I was also able to enjoy the Out West Junior rodeo, Dog Pound Ranch Rodeo and the Annual Dog Pound Stampede all held at the Dog Pound Rodeo grounds. It was a very successful event and so many volunteers put so much time and effort to make it a huge success. Unfortunately there were events I was unable to attend due to other commitments. It is great to be part of such an amazing community.

The County reviewed the option to construct a berm along the Little Red Deer River directing the water under the current bridge with an engineered overflow to prevent flooding of private properties. This was deemed unsuitable because RR 52 will still be in danger of washing out. Direction was given to proceed with the review of constructing a new bridge on RR 52 and raising the grade of the roadway. This option also comes at a high cost as follows:

1. General Costs $123,000
2. Armored Cut-Off Channel $1,856,370
3. New Bridge $3,285,000
4. Increased Road Elevation $555,160
5. Gravel Scalping $50,000
6. Engineering & Contingency $387,680

TOTAL: $6,257,210

The County did receive $850,000 from the FREC Program to construct a berm. Administration is currently working with the engineer to determine other options that maybe available.

On Aug 25, 2014 members of council and our operations department met with the residents of Winchell Lake to discuss the concerns with the section of RR 52 (Lavek Lane) South of the 29.2 intersection. The concerns raised were the following:

- **Operations to provide cost estimate for Calcium for the Lavek Lane road** - Council provided the option to the residents to pay for dust suppression via application of calcium through the County program at lower (approx. 50%) cost. Residents requested a cost estimate for this.
- **Operations to provide cost estimate to hard surface the Lavek Lane road** - Council provided the option to residents to upgrade the current 2km of gravel road through a local improvement tax if they were not willing to wait on the County to hard surface the road. Council was clear with the residents that this road would only be considered in line with other priorities in the County and that currently it is not in the plan for upgrade to hard surface.
- **Review the possibility to reduce the speed limit on the Lavek road** - which would improve safety and also reduce the impact of dust.
- **Review the option of putting 3-Way stops at the subdivision intersections** - (2 of them are present) along the Lavek Lane. Residents feel that this would also reduce traffic speed and improve safety concerns.
- **Review the priority of snow removal on Lavek Lane road** - This will be an issue due to the inability of snow plow trucks to operate on gravel roads (a safety issue for County employees as snow plow trucks are not equipped to operate on gravel roads under winter conditions for the purpose of snow removal).
- **Residents were encouraged to contact the County office or their local Councillor if road conditions were considered unacceptable.**

Other information that was provided by Council/Operations department at the meeting:

- The County maintains 2,800 km of road, approximately 800 km of which are hard surface and 2,000 km which are gravel.
- The County has not in recent years upgraded any gravel roads to chip seal. The reason for this is the cost of maintenance (approximately $20K for chip seal per km every 5-7 years, versus $7K for gravel per km/3-5 years) as well as the added cost of preparing the road base prior to chip seal application which could run as much as $250-350K per km.
- 43% of the County Operations budget (total budget is approximately $23M) is spent on annual road maintenance.
- Traffic has significantly changed over the years and the issue for the road infrastructure is that the road base was never built for the current speed, traffic type and vehicle weights.
- The county currently operates 9 graders and 12 plow trucks County wide.
- Plow trucks do not do snow removal on gravel roads due to safety issues. Only graders operate on gravel roads for the purpose of snow removal.
- Snow removal is based on plow policy which sets a priority for roads. Collector and minor collector roads are priority 1. The collector and minor collector road network is determined by Council. Collector networks are purposed with creating the best access route for residents and industry to access numbered highways. The collector network is spaced accordingly to create access across the entire county.
- Chinook's Edge School Division bus drivers are responsible for alerting the County when issues regarding snow removal on bus routes arise.
- During snow removal operations, County staff work from 5am to 5pm (approximately). Due to Occupational Health requirements, additional hours of operation are not possible (as well as the County's obligation to provide a safe working environment for their staff). The County does not have the required staffing available to run 24hr operations as the Provincial Government does in some cases. The County tries to employ contract staff when required, however the County is in direct competition for contract staff with the Oil and Gas Industry. Therefore, hiring of contract staff / companies is sometimes a challenge.
- All gravel is crushed to specification of 420, which is set by Alberta Transportation. In order to ensure compliance, an independent company is hired to do sieve analysis after every 5K tonnes of crush, as well as an additional company which is hired to do spot checks on gravel specifications.
- The re-gravel program endeavors to achieve a 3-year rotation on re-graveling all roads in the County. To date the County has achieved approximately 100k tonnes of re-graveling or 60% of the 2014 program.

Council has set a budget planning timeline for the preparation of the 2015 Capital and Operating budget. The dates are as follows and we invite residents to join us so that council can hear your input into budget discussions:

• Monday, September 8, 2014 – Discuss Service Levels and Long Range Plans
• Tuesday September 23, 2014 – Discuss Service Levels, Long Range Plans and Budget Environmental Scan
• Monday October 6, 2014 - Discuss Service Levels and Long Range Plans (if necessary or as an alternative date to September 23)
• Wednesday October 15, 2014 – Discuss Service Levels and Long Range Plans
• Monday November 3, 2014 – Review Capital Budget
• Monday January 19, 2015 – Review Operating Budget

Operations projects:

Acme road is complete and looks great. I had a ratepayer tell me they felt like Lightning McQueen (from the CARS movie) driving on it. We really do appreciate all the patience that the community had with the trucking and construction delays. We understand that this is an inconvenience but very necessary to improve the condition of the roads in the county. The engineering for the repair and paving of the East end of Acme Road (RR 25-RR 13) is to take place by the end of 2014 and a project request will come forward from the Operations Department to Council for approval of funding for the capital project.

Re-gravel: About half the roads in Division 2 have been graveled. The re-gravel crew is our area now and won't be leaving until all the roads in the SW quadrant are complete.

Re- chipping - The only road not completed in our area is the Big Prairie Road. Most of this should be done September.

Culvert Repairs - All the roads damaged in the June / July rains have been repaired.

Other - The Cremona cemetery (bypass) road repairs are complete and so are the repairs to RR 53 to the Winchell pit.

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 pmckean@mvcounty.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.

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