

Division 5 residents, businesses and landowners,

I have a couple of things to share with you; some County Business, the Provincial Budget and impacts on the County, and a report out from at town hall meeting with Premier Kenny and Ric McIver (the Minister of Transportation as well as Municipal Affairs). As always, these are my notes and have not been vetted by Council. I apologise for any information that has not been recorded correctly or is out dated.

County Business

The County has recently gone through a Municipal Development Plan (MDP) review which was reported on in my last information update. When changes are made to the MDP, they also need to be reflected in the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) and Area Structure Plans (ASP) for consistency. All the bylaws below can be found on the County website (<https://www.mountainviewcounty.com/council-boards-services/bylaws>) As a result the following bylaws will be reviewed;

- Land Use Bylaw (LUB) review and update. We are planning on holding a public engagement session in the week of May 3-7th. This is the opportunity for all of County residents, businesses and land owners to give feedback on the bylaw and any changes or issues you would like addressed. I will send out reminders closer to the time.
- Bergen Area Structure plan. At the February 24th Council meeting, a public hearing for the ASP was set for April 14th. The background contained in the agenda package was the following:
 - After the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) was approved on December 9, 2020 Council approved (on January 27, 2021) motion RC21-058 that Administration bring forward Area Structure Plan (ASP) amendments to align with the Municipal Development Plan through the Public Hearing process and included the Bergen ASP. The policies and definitions to align with the Municipal Development Plan are listed under section 2.01 of Bylaw No. 10/21. Section 2.02 includes amendments to policies that will remove specific ASP policies dealing with development in Flood Hazard Areas and add policies that rely on the MDP policies and Land Use Bylaw Regulations to guide development in Flood Hazard Areas. These amendments are included as a result of motion RC21-037 directing Administration to bring forward proactive amendments to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to address Flood Hazard and motion RC21-046 “That Council direct Administration to include that new Aggregate Extraction/Processing be excluded from redesignation only policies and be excluded from development regulations in the Floodway; however, may be considered within the Flood Fringe with the proactive amendments to the MDP and the LUB in the Flood Hazard Area.” The MDP policies and LUB regulations will be presented to Council with public engagement before being considered for approval through the Public Hearing process. In 2020, a letter from landowners requested an amendment to the Bergen ASP, and included the removal of gravel extraction policies 7.1.1 and 7.1.2. On May 27, 2020 motion RC20-311 “That Council receive the Bergen ASP amendment request as information and direct Planning to include the request with the MDP Review”. The letter

is included as attachment 03. If Council supports the request to remove policies 7.1.1 and 7.1.2 and amend Figure 7, additional amendments to Bylaw No. 10/21 being presented today will be required.

- Bearberry – Red Deer River Corridor Area Structure plan. At the February 24th Council meeting, a public hearing for the ASP was set for April 14th. The background contained in the agenda package was the following:
 - After the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) was approved on December 9, 2020 Council approved (on January 27, 2021) motion RC21-058 that Administration bring forward Area Structure Plan (ASP) amendments to align with the MDP through the Public Hearing process and included the Bearberry – Red Deer River Corridor ASP. The policies and definitions to align with the MDP are listed under section 2.01 of Bylaw No. 11/21. Section 2.02 includes amendments to policies that will remove specific ASP policies dealing with development in Flood Hazard Areas and add policies that rely on the MDP policies and Land Use Bylaw Regulations to guide development in Flood Hazard Areas. These amendments are included as a result of motion RC21-037 directing Administration to bring forward proactive amendments to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to address Flood Hazard and motion RC21-046 “That Council direct Administration to include that new Aggregate Extraction/Processing be excluded from redesignation only policies and be excluded from development regulations in the Floodway; however, may be considered within the Flood Fringe with the proactive amendments to the MDP and the LUB in the Flood Hazard Area.” The MDP policies and LUB regulations will be presented to Council with public engagement before being considered for approval through the Public Hearing process.
- Southeast Sunde Area Structure plan. At the February 24th Council meeting, a public hearing for the ASP was set for April 14th. The background contained in the agenda package was the following:
 - After the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) was approved on December 9, 2020 Council approved (on January 27, 2021) motion RC21-058 that Administration bring forward Area Structure Plan (ASP) amendments to align with the MDP through the Public Hearing process and included the Southeast Sunde ASP. General statements to align with the MDP are listed under section 2.01 of Bylaw No. 12/21. Section 2.02 includes amendments to policies that will remove specific ASP policies dealing with development in Flood Hazard Areas and add policies that rely on the MDP policies and Land Use Bylaw Regulations to guide development in Flood Hazard Areas. These amendments are included as a result of motion RC21-037 directing Administration to bring forward proactive amendments to the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to address Flood Hazard and motion RC21-046 “That Council direct Administration to include that new Aggregate Extraction/Processing be excluded from redesignation only policies and be excluded from development regulations in the Floodway; however, may be considered within the Flood Fringe with the proactive amendments to the MDP and the LUB in the Flood Hazard Area.” The MDP policies and

LUB regulations will be presented to Council with public engagement before being considered for approval through the Public Hearing process.

Provincial Budget

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) held a webinar last Thursday to update members on the Provincial budget and how it may impact rural municipalities. Included in the webinar was a background document that I have attached as a separate document. Some significant impacts to the County are:

- Municipal Sustainability Initiative grant (MSI). This is a provincial grant transferred to Municipalities, with the majority of the grant being a capital grant. The grant money is meant to support municipalities to build and rehabilitate infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and waste water systems, recreation and sport facilities. There are guidelines on what the capital grant money can be spent on. The County has historically spent this grant money on roads and bridges. This is an important funding stream for the County as it has been our strategy to spend our revenues (predominantly taxes) on operating costs and grant money on road and bridge capital projects, such as the Bergen Road, Acme road, and the bridge construction project on RR5.2 by water valley. The County will received \$4.6M in capital MSI in 2021, which is good news and slightly higher than the previous year. However, the Province has significantly cut the funding in 2022 and 2023 by 60% which will most likely reduce the MSI grant to the County to less than 2M\$.
- The good news is that Libraries, family and community support services (FCSS) and the agriculture societies will maintain the same level of funding.

Town Hall February 26th 2021, Premier Kenny, Ric McIver

The town hall was only 1 hour, so after introductory remarks there was only 45 minutes for Q&A.

In the introductory remarks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ric McIver) stated the Province has reviewed and are making policy changes to the Disaster Recovery Programs [Disaster Recovery Programs | Alberta.ca](#). He stated that in future we (both municipal and provincial) need to be more responsible regarding where development can occur to reduce the impact or requirement for DRP as the costs are escalating (flood and fire).

Q and A

Town of Sexsmith (Q) Is there a cap for municipal funding requests for DRP? Is it 1 claim per municipality? Is it 1 claim per disaster event, flooding versus fire? (A) There is now a cap on claims for residential, 1 claim per address, but we need to also think if the rebuild will flood again. This will be a consideration in the claim. For municipalities there can be multiple requests, but only if the potential for the infrastructure to be damaged in subsequent disasters is considered acceptable.

Greenview (Q) Regarding the opening of libraries. Currently it is curbside service and re-opening is planned for stage 3, why not sooner? (A) I (Premier) have pointed out to Dr. Hinshaw to take a closer look at this and see if it can be moved up to stage 2. Dr. Hinshaw will address this on Monday. There is

currently an uptick in Covid cases in the North and we need to stay vigilant with our adherence to restrictions.

Sturgeon County (Q) Is there support for carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS)? (A) We see this as a major place for critical investment to change the carbon emission outlook for the oil sands. Cost of sequestration per tonne has come down to half. Cenovus, CNRL and Suncor are in collaboration with the Federal government on CCUS. We are working closely with the Feds to help them meet their carbon emissions targets. The story on CCUS is just starting so stay tuned. We are creating the regulatory and policy framework for the hydrogen sector.

Town of Penhold (Q) Is there consideration to change the way the province collects the education tax. (A) There are no plans to change this.

(Q) Currently there is 245M\$ owed to municipalities from insolvent oil and gas companies. What is the Province doing about this as Municipalities are at their breaking point with respect to lost revenue? (A) Tax payments are mandatory but you can't get blood from a stone. I (Minister McIver) have committed to RMA to see if we can come up with a solution. The Provincial Education Requisition Credit program (PERC [Provincial Education Requisition Credit | Alberta.ca](https://www.alberta.ca/provincial-education-requisition-credit-program)) subsidizes some of the losses in the short term, although not all. The long game is to keep the oil and gas industry healthy so they can pay taxes for the ongoing future. This is an outstanding issue that we do not have the answer to yet. We appreciate that it is no longer the case that shallow gas producers are on the brink of bankruptcy and this must be taken into account as well.

Northern sunrise county (Q) continual downloading from the Province to municipalities (Policing costs) and reduction in grants (MSI and STIP) in conjunction with Oil and Gas companies not paying taxes is really hurting municipalities. What if citizens stopped paying taxes as well? (A) The industry is getting back on its feet and we need to deal with this urgently. The real trick is to reduce the payout on disasters, like flooding. It will require a policy change that we all need to work together on.

Edson (Q) We need to open our gyms in rural Alberta, they are going bankrupt. (A) We have a cabinet Covid committee meeting Monday morning to get advice from Dr. Hinshaw. We needed at least 3 weeks to assess each phase. We will be looking at all the data over that last 3 weeks. We are well below the 450 hospitalization (right now at 269) but we need to look at if we are in significant growth in active cases and the spread of the new variant. For gyms we have opened an additional 10k\$ grant opportunity if they have seen a reduction of more than 60 percent in revenue.

(Q) Diversification. Multinational oil and gas companies are shifting from a carbon based economy. How are we diversifying the economy? (A) Let's not count out the Alberta energy sector. There is recognition from the markets that investment in oil and gas is needed, as seen in the current oil price. We need to meet the new environment, social and governance (ESG) metrics. We do need to put the pedal to the metal in diversification in addition to the energy industry in areas, like innovation and tech, rare minerals, gas strategy (hydrogen) supporting agriculture (800 m\$ in irrigation). We acknowledge we need to increase our focus on diversity. Good news story, we had greater population growth than

any other province. Global digital company announcement will be made next week that will add 500 new jobs.

(Q) Disaster assistance guidelines, when will they be updated? (A) Alberta Parks and Environment (AEP) is busy remapping the flood profiles, and the changes to the DRP to fall in line with other provinces are being made. We need to work with municipalities to reduce the potential for flood disaster impacts with current and new development. Our policy is intended to evolve and address the areas that are built in floodways and prone to fire. We still have work to do.

Sylvan Lake (Q) What will the approach be to business that are ignoring the restrictions? Municipalities are currently looking to revoke some development permits for businesses not in compliance and we don't want to do this. Peace officers are no longer allowed to invoke the health act. More people are not following the rules. (A) This does concern us because we are walking a tight rope as our numbers are no longer coming down and could be driven up due to the variants. Businesses that follow the health measure should not be penalized by those that are opening against the rules. I have instructed justice to solve the issue of delegation to enforce the restriction to peace officers again. We have tried to take a gradual approach to enforcement, but there have been establishments that have been shut down by enforcement for flagrantly ignoring the rules.