

INTERIM CAO's REPORT

March 27, 2018

1. Fire Station Open Houses, hosted by Clearwater County to facilitate Council's review of fire station needs and locations for the eastern portion of the County, are scheduled as follows:
 - ❖ April 4 7:00 pm – Leslieville Community Hall
 - ❖ April 5 7:00 pm – Condor School GymBoth open houses intend to provide an overview of the history, current issues and project options for Leslieville Fire Station 10 and Condor Fire Station 20 and obtain public input on the purpose, need and location for each fire station to help identify the best solution to better serve the community.
2. Clearwater Regional Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is celebrating National Volunteer Week, April 15 – 21, and has planned a Volunteer Appreciation Gala to honour and thank volunteers that contribute their time and energy to causes benefitting our community. The Reeve and Councillors are invited to the Gala taking place on Thursday, April 19 from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the Christenson Sports and Wellness Centre. A motion authorizing attendance of councillors not on the FCSS Committee is required, for remuneration, as per policy.
3. Rocky Support Services Society is hosting an Open House on March 28 for Council to view the new Timberview Accessible Housing for Rocky Mountain House and Area. A motion authorizing councillors' attendance is required, for remuneration, as per policy.
4. Rocky REA invites two members of Council to attend the Annual General Meeting on April 18 at 5:00 pm however, this date conflicts with the joint meeting scheduled for Wild Rose School Division, Town of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline and Clearwater County. Should one or two councillors wish to accept Rocky REA's invitation, a motion authorizing attendance is required, for remuneration, as per policy.
5. Clearwater County's 'Community and Regional Economic Support' (CARES) grant application was successful. Alberta Economic Development and Trade advised that Clearwater County will receive \$200,000.00 in provincial funding to support the development of a comprehensive broadband business case for the region that includes a broadband policy framework and strategic action plan. The business case will outline supportive actions to be taken for advancement of broadband internet development in the County; identify appropriate broadband network projects to foster business retention, expansion and growth across a variety of sectors; develop guidelines for the allocation of capital resources to encourage broadband in the region; and, define the projected returns on investment. Total costs for developing the business case is estimated at \$400,000.00. Administration intends to begin the tendering process immediately.
6. The Government of Alberta's Budget 2018 added \$800 million to the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Capital funding for the fiscal year 2017/18 by moving \$400 million from fiscal year 2018/19 and \$400 million from fiscal year 2019/20. Clearwater County's share will not change significantly over the three-year period, however receipt of funding (approximately \$4.4 million) is expected earlier than anticipated. As a result, Clearwater County's budget will allocate the early MSI payout to Deferred Revenues in 2018 for future budget planning. Please note that MSI Capital funding is subject to the Alberta Legislature approval of the provincial government's budget. Also of note is future provincial capital grants are expected to decrease slightly, with little impact to the County budget, and the current MSI program, set to expire in fiscal year 2021/22, will be replaced with a legislated revenue sharing model. No details regarding funding levels or formulas for the model have been released.

Upcoming Events

- April 19 – FCSS Volunteer Appreciation Gala
- May 1 – Council Workshop
- May 5 & 6 – Chamber of Commerce Rocky Mountain House Trade Show
- May 15 – Council Workshop