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REMEMBER to check out the COUNTY WEBSITE for MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, additional NEWS ITEMS and COMMUNITY EVENTS.

BULLETIN NO. 574

The following information is to provide a summary of County activities. Further explanations or details can be obtained by contacting the County Administration Office at 403.882.3211.

ASB Resolution – In response to the draft emergent resolution circulated to Council asking for the exemption certificate for grain drying for the 2016 harvest, Councillor D. Blumhagen suggested that there should always be an exemption for natural gas when used for drying grain. Discussion took place on other costs that will be incurred by farmers under the carbon fuel tax. D. Blumhagen moved a resolution for natural gas used to dry grain be exempt from the carbon tax be submitted as an emergent resolution to the ASB Provincial Convention.

Castor & District Museum Society – Phil Dietz and Doug Zimmerman met with Council on behalf of the Castor & District Museum Society. P. Dietz advised Council that the floor and wall has rotted out on the north side of the freight shed. They are looking at approximately \$279,000 to replace the freight shed. Their major fundraising is through casinos and to date there is no fundraising project planned. Memberships are currently sold at \$3.00 per person.

D. Zimmerman advised that no drawing has been completed. Therefore the \$279,000 is only an estimated cost until the requirements have been determined such as electrical needs, accessibility needs, etc. They are requesting Council's consideration to assist with the cost of replacement of the freight shed and thanked them for their support.

Coronation Memorial Library – Valerie Cornell (Chair), Marilyn Polege (Board Member) and Eunhye Cho (Library Manager) entered the meeting at 10:30 a.m. V. Cornell presented an overview of their recent activities. A movie night was held, a table at the craft show, and a successful sale of raffle tickets. Council was advised their cash flow is low and would like to request their funds earlier this year as they do not have a casino to work until 2018.

E. Cho then reviewed the Coronation Memorial Library Fall Report with Council. Highlighted was that, as of November 1, 2016, library card fees were eliminated, 2 laptops were set up as homework stations for students, a Food for Fines drive has been set up in lieu of payment of fines and there are now four reading programs offered throughout the year.

The library coordinates youth programs with the youth coordinator of Coronation & District FCSS whenever possible to combine events. An application will be submitted for a STEP student this year. The delegation thanked Council for their time and advised they were appreciative of the funds they received.

Greengate Power – Dan Tocher, Greengate and Greg Weike, WSP entered the meeting at 11:02 a.m. Robert McClellan Registered Professional Biologist, joined on the telephone. The delegation presented Council with an overview on their respective areas of the proposed Greengate Power project south of Halkirk. Greengate has partnered with Potentia and they are developing 3 wind projects (383MW) on approximately 85,000 acres of private land in Alberta.

There were 75 in attendance at the open house that was held on October 26, 2016 in Halkirk. They have executed options and lease agreements with multiple landowners for a utilization model on approximately 31,000 acres of private land.

The revised layout will have 46 turbines with one set to be dropped before the final layout for submission to AUC. The technology has been improved and will reduce the impact. They have been working to accommodate as many people as possible with placement of the turbines and reducing the visible impact of the turbines. The footprint still consists of the same project area of 20,000 acres. The project will produce electricity for 72,000 households. Applications are being prepared to apply to both Paintearth County and the AUC for development permits in the coming months.

Questions and concerns that were raised at the open house were addressed. A revised public circular will be mailed out on the proposed project in the near future. Dan Tocher at Greengate Power advised Council that queries are always welcome from them or the general public and they can be forwarded directly to him.

2017 Preliminary Budget – Chief Administrative Officer, T. Aaserud and Director of Corporate Services, L. Roth reviewed the 2017 Preliminary Budget which showed the 2016 Assessment Comparison showing a decrease in assessment of \$95,068,540, 2016, Tax Revenue Comparison showing a decrease in tax revenue of \$1,011,046, graphs depicting the municipal mill rates and mill rate comparisons, Capital Projects, 2017 Restricted Surplus, 2017 Budget Highlights, 2017 Planned Projects, Budgeted Cash Flow, Revenue by Function, and Expenditures by Function.

The 2017 Preliminary Budget was presented as a balanced interim budget. The mill rate used last year was used in preparing the budget. It was recommended the capital budget be only approved in principle until the final assessment declaration is received.

Councillor R. Dahmer expressed his concerns with giving the 2.4% COLA to non-union employees that union employees are receiving. He suggested a flat rate increase per person was another option otherwise the budget was a good conservative budget. Councillor D. Elliott queried how much dollars the 2.4% related to and was informed it works out to \$15,000 for every 1%. Councillor T. Hewitt thought the budget was very good and proposed the following motion. T. Hewitt moved that the Operating Budget, as attached and forming part of these minutes, be adopted with the 2.4% COLA for union and non-union staff as presented. R. Dahmer moved the 2017 Capital Budget, as attached and forming part of these minutes, be approved in principle until the final assessment declaration is received.

County Council Meetings – Council Meetings are scheduled for January 4, 2017 (Wednesday), January 17, 2017, February 7, 2017, February 22, 2017 (Wednesday), March 7, 2017, March 28, 2017, April 4, 2017, April 19, 2017 (Wednesday), May 2, 2017, May 16, 2017, June 6, 2017 and June 20, 2017 commencing at 9:00 a.m. and are open to the public. Delegations are always welcome. To request a time allotment, please call the office of the CAO. All requests must state the nature and subject you wish to discuss as per Section X of the County’s Procedural Bylaw 605-11.

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ...

Todd Pawsey, Development Officer

The County of Paintearth has a contractual arrangement with Palliser Regional Municipal Services to administer the Provincial Safety Code system. This includes receiving, reviewing, approving and inspecting (via contract with Superior Safety Codes) all safety codes’ disciplines such as Building Permits, as well as Electrical, Gas, Plumbing and Private Sewage. Effective January 1, 2017 they have a new fee schedule for all permits that must accompany relevant Development Permits issued by the County. This fee schedule is now posted on our County Website under the Planning and Development Section. Please be aware of these fees upon planning your project.

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) has set the dates for the first 2 meetings of the year depending upon applications and (if) any business received. January 17 and February 22 are the dates; any items submitted for those meetings must be in the County office the Friday before. For more information on the MPC or any County development requirements, please contact the Development Officer at the County Office by phone or by email.

PAINTEARTH REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT LTD.

Email: prwm@countypaintearth.ca

Michael Yakielashek, Supervisor

PAINT RECYCLING - All transfer stations accept paint and aerosol paints for recycling. A problem is occurring where people think the paint recycling bins is for other materials such as furniture stripper, various types of adhesives, WD40, stop leak spray products, grout, plastic wood and crack fillers. All these materials are not allowed in the paint recycling bins and some are considered hazardous materials and not allowed on site. Bring these types of materials to the Household Hazardous Waste Round Up which is scheduled to be held in May. Please, only place paint products and aerosol paints in the paint recycling bins.

BARBED WIRE - When you bring barbed wire into the sites, please make sure that all posts or wood have been removed. Before the wire can be baled and recycled any materials other than metal have to be removed.

FRIDGES, FREEZERS AND AIR CONDITIONERS - A lot of people cut the line which transfers the refrigerant for fridges, freezers and air conditioners before they bring the appliances to the sites. Do not cut these lines. We are required to check all the units prior to recycling. We hire people who capture the refrigerant for proper disposal, instead of allowing it to disperse in the atmosphere. There is no charge for bringing these items to the sites, so please do not cut the lines.

PAINTEARTH ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY

Carol Thomson, PEPS Economic Development Officer

Paintearth Economic Partnership Society is now doing a monthly Newsletter. Each month it features two businesses within the County of Paintearth. The purpose is to highlight and showcase local businesses and to promote shopping local.

There are many reasons why it is important to shop local and the benefits that come from it; strengthen your local economy by keeping dollars in your community, you know the people behind the product, greater customer service, create jobs and opportunities, promotes entrepreneurship, public benefits and costs, creates competition and diversity, and gives you a chance to give back to your community!

The Castor Recreation Office is offering a variety of fitness classes for all ages with Personal Training Specialist Leanne Loughheed. For the monthly schedule, class descriptions, cost and location, please visit <http://castor.ca/fitness-classes.html>.

Wishing one and all a New Year filled with health and happiness!