

December 9, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAC STE. ANNE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 9, 2016

Agricultural Services Board Structure to Change in 2017

Lac Ste. Anne County's Agricultural Services Board will be accepting applications for public members in the coming weeks. A long running discussion on the format of the Board came to a resolution at the December 9th Council meeting, where Council established the new structure for the board beginning in 2017.

The primary function of the Board is to act as an advisory body to Council on agricultural matters affecting residents, while promoting and developing agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality. The new Agricultural Service Board make-up was sought by Council to better involve local producers who are often better suited for the advisory capacity of the Board.

The restructured Board will include five members at large from a diverse cross-section of both enterprise diversity and geographical representation. The new Bylaw and all applicable Policies for the creation of the new Board structure will be presented at the next regular County Council meeting on January 6, 2017.

Details regarding the application process for the public positions on the Agricultural Services Board will be posted shortly on the website, social media and in the Bulletin.

Highway 43 & TWP RD 544 Intersection Improvements

Alberta Transportation has requested input from Lac Ste. Anne County regarding intersection improvements at Highway 43 and Township Road 544 that are being considered to address traffic flow and safety concerns at this intersection. Alberta Transportation is seeking Lac Ste. Anne County's support for the construction of a median-side acceleration lane that merges turning traffic onto Highway 43 left-hand lane (inside lane) along the median. A second option, for a shoulder-side acceleration lane that merges turning traffic onto Highway 43 right-hand lane (the outside lane) along the shoulder, is also being considered.

At the Council meeting of December 9th, 2016, County Council gave its support, in principle, of the decision by Alberta Transportation to improve the intersection at Highway 43 and Township Road 544 with no particular preference between the two options being considered. County Council did make the support conditional on the inclusion of the condition that Alberta Transportation pave the service road on the west side of Highway 43, from Township Road 545 to Township Road 544, as a result of the increased traffic these changes would bring to this County road.

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Divisional Boundaries Under Review

At its meeting of December 9th 2016, County Council requested that Administration bring forward a bylaw and proposed redistricting map of the municipal divisional boundaries in Lac Ste. Anne County leading up to the general election in 2017.

Changes to the divisional boundaries have been discussed by Council since the 2011 Federal Census information showed that population disparities between current divisions were significant.

Once the proposed bylaw and draft divisional maps are presented, Council will have the final decision if changes are made prior to the election. If Council elects to proceed, advertising of the proposed map will begin in January, to ensure all legislative processes are completed within the guidelines of municipal legislation.

Lac Ste. Anne Supports Parkland's "Future of Coal" Initiative

In an effort to reduce the impact of the Government of Alberta's Climate Leadership Plan, Parkland County has reached out to other municipalities including Lac Ste. Anne County to participate in a Future of Coal Study. The study will be conducted by a consultant to undertake a Study on the economic, fiscal and social impacts of the Phase Out of Coal-Powered Generation plan.

The study will include a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment of the closure of coal mining operations, end of coal-powered generation and various scenarios of ongoing generation operations, ranging from technology shifts to outright facility closures within our region, which includes all coal-fired generation west of Edmonton.

The socio-economic impact assessment will identify and outline the effect on Parkland County, Stony Plain and Spruce Grove, and areas west of Edmonton, but will be holistic enough that other municipalities can use the information to understand the impacts on their communities. The partners are hopeful that the study will commence prior to the end of 2016, and will be completed around March 2017, at which time the report will be ready to submit to the provincial government for their review and consideration.

Lac Ste. Anne County Council chose to contribute up to \$10,000.00 to the Future of Coal Study, an initiative led by Parkland County.

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2017 Calendar Photo Contest Winners

County At the December 9th, 2016 Council meeting, the winners of the 2017 Calendar Photo contest were awarded their prizes for their contribution to this program. The winners are as follows:

Cover:	Kaitlyn Pelley
January:	Mary Prokuda
February:	Rene Werenka
March:	Dyan Halford
April:	Colleen McDermid
May:	Sydney Ensminger
June:	Emily Szybunka
July:	April Szybunka
August:	Jodi Dombroski
September:	Bonnie Harapchuk
October:	Robin Travis
November:	Karen Pitre
December:	Louise Dalziel

Each year the County invites photographers from all walks of life to capture images of scenery, events or friends and family experiencing life within Lac Ste. Anne County to be utilized in our annual calendar.

Special mention goes to the youngest winner who won the most sought-after spot, the cover photo. Congratulations Kaitlyn! Thank you for your participation and we look forward to your entries next year!

Calendars are available for FREE, at the County Office and local libraries, while supplies last. A digital copy of the calendar can be downloaded from www.LSAC.ca.