

MountainViews

Issue 4 – July 2011



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Mountain View
COUNTY



Reeve Paddy Munro

Message From The Reeve

As the warmth of summer begins to take over, the colourful canopy of our County is on full display. It's a sure sign that the calendar continues to turn and that things must continue even when they change.

Since the turn of 2011, there have been plenty of changes around Mountain View County – more than just the colour of the fields.

Certainly, as has been well documented, there have been changes to our County staff at several levels. Staff changes are a normal part of any organization, and our Council has repeatedly thrown its support behind our Chief Administrative Officer while we go through this period of adjustment and re-organization.

As we move forward through the summer and into the autumn we hope to have positive news regarding our organization and staffing situation. It's our belief that an already community-focused administration will be re-energized by the new direction and the new people who join the organization to serve you, the ratepayers of Mountain View County.

And much like the ongoing turning of the calendar, the business of the County continues to progress. Recently, Council has been putting the finishing touches on the Strategic Priorities Chart. Needless to say this document, which provides Council and County staff with direction as we move forward, is very important to me and all the councillors.

At the time of writing, the chart had yet to be formally adopted by Council, but I can assure you that it is focused on the issues that will chart the County's future. While there are many issues facing Council, we've managed to narrow our scope on a select number of priorities that are wholly achievable.

We hope that will lead to results that can be easily demonstrated to the ratepayers of Mountain View County. I can tell you that items such as our operations and planning review, and the ongoing Municipal Development Plan review, remain high on our priority list with real completion timelines and dates attached to them.

If we're successful in achieving all our goals and priorities, Council believes our future as a County is as bright and vibrant as the summer fields.

As always, your comments and questions are welcomed. Thank you for the opportunity to be of continued service.

Paddy Munro, Reeve
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MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

By Doug Erdman, Economic Development Officer

This column will examine the purpose and composition of the business plan.

The business plan is a document that seeks to accomplish two goals:

1. To provide a guide-line pertaining to the start-up and first few years' operation of the business for the owner(s).
2. To demonstrate the economic viability of the projected enterprise to the extent that it will attract start - up and operating capital from financing institutions.

The business plan projects the operation of the enterprise in the five functional areas that all organizations exhibit. They are, with a very brief description:

Marketing - How is the revenue to be derived?

Operations - By what sequence of events is the product or service produced?

Personnel - What type of human resources are needed?

Management – How are organizational goals set and achieved and what type of financial and none financial controls are needed?

Finance - What is the expected profit, expected growth in owner equity, expected cash flow and financing arrangement?

Management is an “umbrella” functional area of a business organization. As such, the concept of management overlays all of the functions thus ensuring that directed activity takes place.

Therefore it is important that the nature of management is fully understood so that it can be specifically integrated into the business plan.

As you may expect, management is a process. It comprises the following elements:

PLANNING

Planning involves setting goals and deciding how the goals will be achieved. Developing the marketing plan and the production process are examples of planning.

ORGANIZING

Organizing involves combining the resources available to the business (money, management, labour, real estate, equipment and raw materials) into a system that most efficiently attains the goals developed. The design of the consolidated organization chart and the position descriptions are examples of organizing. This step should also feature an exposition on the legal framework of the organization, i.e., proprietorship, partnership or limited company.

LEADING AND DIRECTING

Effective leadership, direction and motivation will ensure that tasks delegated to others are carried out effectively and efficiently, thus ensuring that the overall goal of the organization is attained.

CONTROL

Management control is exercised by the application of feed-back devices that measure actual performance against expected or projected performance. Control devices may be financial or non-financial in nature.

The time line covered by the business plan generally (but not always) corresponds to the length of the term loan projected in the financing section. For example, if an equipment loan is envisaged to be repaid over three years, then business operations should be projected forward a minimum of three years.

The next Mountain Views column will examine the functional areas in detail starting with the marketing component.

Comments or suggestions?

Contact me at 403-335-3311 ext. 161, by email at doug.erdman@mountainviewcounty.com, or drop by for a visit at the County office.



Doug Erdman,
Mountain View County,
Economic Development Officer

Beginning in 2004 the Provincial government committed to increased grant funding that has helped Mountain View County improve our road infrastructure. This commitment resulted in the Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP) and the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI). As well, in 2005 the Federal government began to transfer federal gas tax funds to municipalities.

Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)

On September 14, 2007, Premier Ed Stelmach made a historic announcement when he declared that the Government of Alberta would provide \$11.3 billion over 10 years in infrastructure funding to municipalities through the creation of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).

Over the life of the MSI, Mountain View County receives approximately \$4 million in funding each year. This program will allow Mountain View County to make significant investments in our infrastructure assets and enhance our long-term sustainability.

In 2007, Mountain View County Council supported a plan, which directs how we intend to invest our MSI allocation. Mountain View County intends to:

- Dedicate 80% of our MSI allocation to the County Collector Network
- Dedicate 20% to non road infrastructure projects

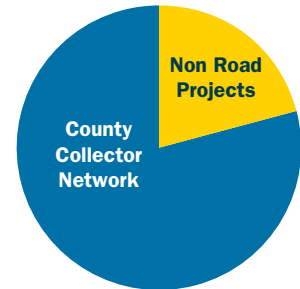
By distributing our MSI allocation in this way, Mountain View County is able to invest in infrastructure projects that will enhance the quality of life of our citizens by providing long term infrastructure improvements.

A major priority for Mountain View County is to maintain and improve the transportation infrastructure network.

Some of the major projects that have been funded through MSI are the following:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	YEAR COMPLETED
Sundre Shop Purchase	\$549,503	2008
Administrative Building Parking Lot Paving	\$573,449	2008
Didsbury Shop Office Trailer Purchase	\$265,560	2008
2010 Chip Seal Program	\$1,850,000	2010
Red Lodge Road (Range Road 23) Paving	\$5,357,653	2010

MSI ALLOCATION



Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP)

In 2004, the government of Alberta committed to provide \$3 billion to Alberta municipalities beginning in 2005 through its Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Program (AMIP). Per capita allocations, based on census data, result in Mountain View County receiving over \$12 million over five years.

Funding under this program is intended to support the development, enhancement and rehabilitation of core capital infrastructure projects, such as:

- Municipal roads, bridges, public transit vehicles and facilities
- Water and wastewater systems and facilities
- Storm drainage systems and facilities
- Emergency service vehicles and facilities
- Infrastructure management system software

2009 was the final year that Mountain View County received funding as part of this program.

Mountain View County used its AMIP funding for the following projects:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	YEAR COMPLETED
County Chip Seal Program	\$2,365,482	2009
Red Lodge Road (Range Road 23) Rebuild	\$3,094,492	2008
Range Road 20 Paving	\$3,386,995	2008
County Chip Seal Program	\$1,200,000	2007
Contract Chip Seal	\$873,521	2007
Range Road 52 Base work	\$793,110	2007

Gas Tax Fund

In 2005, the federal government announced its New Deal for Cities and Communities (NDCC), which included a commitment to share gasoline tax revenues, through the provinces, with communities across Canada.

Alberta was one of the first provinces to sign an agreement with the federal government for the transfer of federal dollars to municipalities under the Gas Tax Fund. The program is intended to enhance municipal sustainability in environmental, economic, social and cultural infrastructure.

In 2005, the federal government committed \$5 billion in gasoline tax funding over five years to be allocated to municipalities on a per capita basis. The federal government extended the program in 2010, and

committed a further \$8 billion in gasoline tax funding over four years to be allocated to municipalities on a per capita basis.

Mountain View County received over \$2 million through 2010, and expects to receive an additional \$2.8 million by 2014.

Mountain View County used the New Deal / Federal Gas Tax funding to complete the following projects:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	YEAR COMPLETED
Big Prairie Bridge	\$1,700,000 (budgeted)	2011 (expected completion)
Coal Camp Road Erosion Control	\$487,216	2009
Winchell Lake Rockslide	\$393,037	2009
Acme Road Hill Cut	\$223,364	2008
Rebuild Twp 230 between RR 280 and 283	\$826,380	2007

Bales Setback

Mountain View County is a strong supporter of all our agricultural operations.

However, when it comes to keeping County roads clear of snow and



ice, some agricultural practices can contribute to problems such as drifting snow.

One such practice that has been observed is the storage of hay or straw bales (for example) too close to the road.

Storage of any goods or materials related to an agricultural operation – such as equipment and hay stacks – must meet the minimum 15 metre setback from any property line.

The reason for these setbacks is to help reduce unnecessary snow drifts from forming on roads. The result of these snow drifts can be increased costs and staff time for snow clearing.

The bales act as a barrier to blowing snow and cause concentrated piling

reducing the ability to store snow in the right of ways.

In addition, regardless of the time of year, bales stored within a County right of way can be a potential visual hazard for motorists.

Normally, a polite request and education are often all that is required to remedy the situation. However, there can be significant consequences for those who fail to comply.

Under the Land Use By-law 10/10, Section 4.2 details the required setbacks and the details regarding potential fines are under section 7.5. See mountainviewcounty.com to review these sections of the bylaw or call the County office at 403-335-3311 for more information.

Roadside Mowing Program



By now you may have seen our Roadside mowing program in action. There are many reasons the County has this program. Besides aesthetics it is done for ease of roadside maintenance, weed control, to reduce snow trapping, drifting and to keep sightlines clear.

Annually, we mow 7,500 lane kilometers of grass. That's the same distance as driving from Calgary to Montreal and then back again.

Each road within the County receives at least one pass, while all collector and chip sealed roads are

cut twice. Our program starts on a rotational basis to ensure an equal level of service, so that the same areas are not always being completed last. The entire operation is done with three tractors and disc mowers with a nine-foot cut width, on the roads from June till mid-September, as weather permits.

Please be on the look out for our mowers, slow down and pass with caution. If you have noticed all the roads in the area have been mowed except yours please contact the Agricultural Services Department at 403-335-311 ext 184.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Rangeland Monitoring

Charlie Orchard

- July 26, 2011 – 1:30pm - 8:30pm
- Pasture located west of Bowden

Registration deadline, July 20, 2011

Supper will be provided

StalksTalk

Andy Sirski

- October 18, 2011
- Olds College

Watch for more information in the September

Mountain Views or check out the MVCCounty website at mountainviewcounty.com or the Foothills Forage and Grazing Association website at foothillsforage.com.

Succession Planning

Merle Good

- November 24, 2011
- MVC Council Chambers

Enjoy an evening with Merle Good; Provincial Tax Specialist as he discusses the twists and turns in family farm business succession.

Business Succession is not Estate Planning. Figuring out the difference is vital to the success of your family farm.

Livestock Behavior and Handling

Temple Grandin

- January 18, 2012
- Olds College

Watch for more information in Mountain Views and on our website at mountainviewcounty.com.



Day Trippin' in MVC

Getting out and seeing the great outdoors doesn't mean you have to invest in a long-term holiday. There are plenty of opportunities in Mountain View County to get out of the house for a day-trip that will have you getting that back-to-nature feeling.

Included is Mountain View County's latest day-use destination **William J. Bagnall Wilderness Park**. Located on the banks of Silver Creek just west of Water Valley, the Park received \$150,000 worth of upgrades and remediation thanks to inter-municipal co-operation between Mountain View County and the Governments of Canada and Alberta.

Included in the upgrades is a new entry and parking lot just off Hwy 579, two walking trails that form a 1.2 km loop, a historical sign detailing the history of the site as a coal-mining area, a small picnic area complete with amenities, and several staircases for steep-grade accessibility.

"We're thrilled to have another day-use area for residents and visitors alike to enjoy," explained Michelle Honeyman, Community and Parks Service Coordinator for Mountain View County. "And we ask that all visitors respect the environment and all park users by leaving the area in pristine condition by using provided garbage containers, following the rules for day-use area and respecting the boundaries of the park."

The park's remediation was pursued following the flood of 2005, which rendered the area inaccessible.

In addition to Bagnall Park, Mountain View County has other day-use areas.

Davidson Park is located along the meandering Fallentimber Creek in the community of Bergen. The Davidson Park Recreation Area is an ideal spot for fishing or just peaceful tranquility. Accessed off of Twp. Rd. 320 (the Bergen Road), six miles west of Hwy. 22.

Hillers Dam Recreation Area is a gem located in the Eastern portion of Mountain View County. A popular spot for recreational fishing, the area is stocked with 10,000 Rainbow Trout annually. Hillers Dam is located on Twp. Rd. 322, five kilometer west of the QE II Hwy.

Wayside Park N' Fish is an 8.44 municipal reserve located on Hwy. 580, west of Rge. Rd. 33. This day-use area has parking and access to Dogpound Creek.

As with all day-use areas and municipal reserves, patrons are asked to respect the rules, including no overnight camping, no littering, no hunting or firearms discharge, and no open liquor allowed.

Animal Control Bylaw Update

On July 7, 2010 Mountain View County passed the Animal Control Bylaw which regulates the number of livestock and dogs allowed on differently zoned parcels in the County. Permits are required for the keeping of livestock and dogs in excess of the numbers allowed (see table below for examples; a complete list is available at mountainviewcounty.com/bylaws).

A grace period was established to allow those that exceeded the allowable numbers to apply free of charge for a permit to keep the animals they have.

The application deadline for a free permit is December 31st, 2011.

Any person wishing to obtain a permit must complete the permit application form available online at mountainviewcounty.com or in person at the Mountain View County office.

A review committee, appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer, reviews all permits and either approves or denies applications. Approval is based not

only on numbers established through the bylaw, but also other areas such as the proximity to neighbours, the grazing management plan, length of time animals will be on site, manure management, facilities to be used, water sources and consultation with adjacent landowners.

In determining whether a permit for additional dogs (more than three but less than six) will be granted, the Review Committee may require the applicant to provide information on the proximity to neighbouring dwelling units, parcel size and isolation of the parcel, any required structures used to house the dogs, potential nuisance impacts and compatibility with surrounding areas and neighborhood. Consultation with neighbours may also be required.

Permits are issued on a site-specific basis and can not be transferred if you move. For any additional information please contact Jane Fulton, Manager of Agricultural Services at 403-335-3311 Ext. 184 for assistance.

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DESCRIPTION	LIVESTOCK		DOGS
	Low Density (1 animal unit/3.0 acres)	Concentrate D (1 animal unit/1.0 acres)	Maximum
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT			
Any size parcel, single parcel on quarter	Allowed	Allowed	3 (parcel under 10 acres) 5 (parcel over 10 acres)
Parcel less than 10 acres, multiple parcels on quarter	Allowed	Permit Required	3
Parcel greater than 10 acres, multiple parcels on quarter	Allowed	Allowed	3
R-CR COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (3 - 10 ACRES)			
Single parcel on quarter	Allowed	Allowed	3
Multiple parcels on quarter	Allowed	Permit Required	3
R-CR1 COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (1 - 2.99 ACRES)			
Single parcel on quarter	Allowed	Permit Required	3
Multiple parcels on quarter	Permit Required	Permit Required	3