

Coffee with Council – Division 4
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
6:00 pm
Summerview Hall (Heritage Acres)

Attendees:

Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillors Dave Cox, John MacGarva, and Jim Welsch, CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Audience:

Approximately 11 residents from the Division 4 area

Welcome from Councillor Jim Welsch

- Welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out
- Introduced Councillors and MD staff

The following topics were discussed with Council and the public:

Dust Control

- The Public Works Manager explained the application process of MG30
- Operators gravel roads prior to dust control
- Residents can apply online and deadline is May 1

Residents asked Councillor Welsch how he is enjoying being a Councillor

- It has been a positive experience
- Will be one year since By-election in May

Bylaw Officer (Community Peace Officer):

- Vehicle has been ordered and is being outfitted
- CPO starts in July
- CPO will be able to enforce Provincial statutes/animal control as well as MD Bylaws
- An open house will be planned once the person is on staff to talk to the public about what the program will include
- Residents questioned the number of sheriffs in the area
- Rumours of the Sheriff's being based out of Burmis weigh scales station
- An increase in the Sheriff's presence has assisted with speeding and crime in the community

Rural Crime:

- Crime statistics are low
- MD hosted an open house with the RCMP for people with concerns, not a single resident attended
- Rural crime watch hasn't been very active
- Each division needs a representative to spearhead rural crime watch
- More volunteers are needed for the success of the program

Water Concerns:

- MD now has dedicated staff for water concerns

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- New vertical intakes have been installed at the dam
- Water restrictions may still happen, but not to the severity of last year
- Discussion on how water licenses work
- Councillors met with Ministers to speed the permitting process up
- No funding was approved to cover the cost of water hauling, MD has appealed the denial

Federal Funding:

- Resident questioned if the MD has had issues accessing Federal funding – the MD has not

Beaver Mines water/wastewater and Castle water are all operational

Utility Rates:

- MD needs to increase utility rates to cover future repairs on infrastructure
- MD is still very low in fees

Population:

- MD has seen a slight population increase
- Lots of houses have been built – mostly secondary homes, it doesn't affect population numbers

Business Licensing:

- MD will begin business licensing to find out what businesses we even have in the MD
- Mostly for planning and emergency reasons – MD has no idea the number of beds in the area

Weed Concerns:

- A lot of blue weed along the roadside
- Blue weed coming from the Crowsnest Pass
- Staff poorly trained – in the eyes of residents
- Large educational component for residents

New Residents in the Area:

- Comment was made to have a “welcome package” for new residents to include items such as “Code of the West” and the weed booklets
- Possible update to Development Permits to include this information

Snow removal. Residents pushing snow onto roads cause safety issues.

- MD is aware and has a policy
- More education to the public
- CPO will be able to assist with offences

ATV's on Municipal Roads:

- MD was looking at a Bylaw to allow ATV's on Municipal roads

Airport:

- History of the MD Airport was discussed
- Would like development to happen, but needs sewer and water for that to happen
- Pre-COVID there was a Regional Airport Committee, but it stalled out
- The Town was a part, then backed away from the table

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- MD received \$1 million in grants to upgrade lights and the runway
- In discussion with the Town on how to get water and sewer to the airport

Pincher Station Development:

- Only dirt work is happening, Davis Group owns the land, and they are storing equipment

Highway 3 Twinning:

- Will still be many years before it's happening in our area

Palmer Plant:

- The history of the companies was discussed
- Application is at AESO, and they are looking at the room for power in that system
- No application has been made to the MD to date

Eco Centre:

- One person commented they would like it open 7 days a week
- Survey results were discussed, which showed, that most people are happy with the centre and certainly with the main attendant, Steve
- It's very clean and organized

Deadstock Bin Program:

- A bin will be delivered to Division 4, which had to be moved as it was being misused
- More education is needed for users
- Requested more signage on the bin

Landfill:

- The history of the incinerator was discussed
- It would have used ag plastics and wood, and could have been used for deadstock
- Cardston County had a compost facility for cattle and it was successful
- Largest cost of the program is trucking the animals to Lethbridge for disposal

Hometown Awards:

- Council discussed the Hometown Award
- \$1000 to one student from each of the three high schools in the community

Bright Lights at Castle:

- Resident had concerns of lights seen near Castle Mountain
- Possibly lights from cat on mountain doing construction work for the new lift

Update on Firehall Renovations:

- Shared cost with the Town
- Still at tender price – so total cost is unknown at this time
- Renovating a building was still ½ the cost of building new

Gravel Sales:

- MD is looking at possibly moving away from selling gravel to residents
- MD needs the resource for our projects, and there are many private gravel sales available

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- No culverts will be sold to residents, as they can source them elsewhere

Roads:

- Residents see lots of gravel in the ditches
- Road maintenance and changes to vehicles were discussed
- MD does have a younger crew who are still training

Meeting concluded at 8:05 pm