

Coffee with Council – Division 3
Tuesday, June 17, 2025
6:00 pm
Coalfields School

Attendees:

Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillor Dave Cox, CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Audience:

Approximately 12 residents from the Division 3 area

Welcome from Councillor Dave Cox

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

The following topics were discussed with Council and the public:

Generator at Pump House:

- A resident noticed that the wastewater system pump house generator was making noise. Although short-lived, they inquired if it was routine.
 - MD confirmed that the generator will be turned on once a month during the day to ensure it works.

Water Concerns:

- MD now has dedicated staff for water concerns.
- Updates weekly from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.
- New vertical intakes have been installed at the dam.
- Water restrictions may still happen, but not to the severity of last year.
- New intakes will be visible by July or August but shouldn't mean trucking water.
- MD is aware we are at drought levels not seen since the 1930's.

Castle Mountain Resort New Lift:

- Member advised that construction on the hill for the new lift is underway.
- Already seeing an increase in traffic.
- Huckleberry Fest will not be on Haig this year; they can use the Blue Chair.
 - MD offered to share any construction information on social media.
- Currently surveying for tower bases, towers should be flown in possibly late July.
- Hoping to be open for Christmas.

Fire Smarting Program:

- Approximately 30 volunteers assisted with the Fire Smart program at Castle Resort the previous weekend.
- 22 large loads of tree debris were removed from around buildings.

Pride Flag:

- Resident questioned why the MD office doesn't have a pride flag.

- This would be on the direction of the Council.
- The administration explained the rules for flying flags that aren't Canada or Alberta; it would mean removing the MD flag to fly any other flag.

Bylaw Officer (Community Peace Officer):

- CPO starts in July.
- CPO will be able to enforce Provincial statutes/animal control and 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.
- A resident questioned what could be done about Blue Bridge. Trying to get equipment across the bridge is a safety issue when people are parked all over and walking on the bridge.

Rural Crime:

- Rural crime watch hasn't been very active.
- MD asking people to assist with the program as we are hearing people are unhappy with how its being administered.
- More volunteers are needed for the success of the program.
- RCMP suggested that once the CPO is working, they can spearhead the program.

Eco Centre:

- Residents are happy with the centre and certainly with the main attendant.
- It's very clean and organized.
- Questions if there was a market for glass, there is not.
- Castle Mountain is struggling with tourists dropping garbage into any bin they can find.
 - MD struggles with tourists going to Provincial Parks, as the garbage ends up being on the MD expense to clean up.
 - Many discussions have taken place with Alberta Tourism and Alberta Parks regarding this situation.

Grass Cutting:

- Questioned when it will start.
 - Re-gravelling and dust control program takes precedence, then grass cutting.
 - To avoid unnecessary additional cost, grass cutting is done early in the morning to mitigate fire hazard.

Road Maintenance Along Highway ~~773~~ 774:

- East side hasn't been dealt with and will become a fire hazard.
 - Highway ~~773~~ 774 is in the jurisdiction of Department of Highways, not the MD.

MD Maps:

- When are new maps being printed?
 - GIS Tech is working on it, possibly reprint for this fall.
- Can MD make a map book like other areas?
 - Yes, just need to ask front desk staff.

Cutting Brush in Ditches:

- MD is working on select locations, but needs to be aware that other road work takes precedence.

Coffee with Council – Division 3

Tuesday June 17, 2025

- MD does have a mulcher for a skid steer now. Past practices of hiring Summer staff to hand slash are no longer acceptable.
- Caragana brush in a particular area are encroaching and posing a hazard.
 - Request was made they call MD and get it on the call log to be actioned.

911 Rural Addressing:

- Resident stated 911 rural addressing is still an issue.
 - MD has done a lot of work to standardize the process.
 - New system has GPS locations for each location.
 - System still has hard time processing anything with a dash, example, Range Road 22-2 needs to be read as Range Road 222.

Coalfields School:

- A new board of directors is in charge of the school and is looking for grants to upgrade the building.
 - MD suggested the Community Grant Writer and the Joint Council Grant program.

Meeting concluded at 7:03 pm.