

CAO's REPORT

June 25, 2019

1. Sept 4th to 6th is the 19th Annual Alberta CARE Conference. The recommended attendees are Municipal Elected Officials, Waste Management Employees, Landfill Operators, and Recycle Operators. Depending on who may wish to attend, a Council motion may be required.
2. The 2019 Association of Summer Villages of Alberta Annual Conference & AGM is being held on October 17th & 18th to meet the new Ministers of Environment & Parks as well as Municipal Affairs. The cost to register is \$240 per person. Should any Councillors wish to attend a motion would be required.
3. As per Council's motion during its special meeting held on June 17th, Administration has sent notice to our municipal partners advising them of Council's desire to draft a new partnership regarding Regional Fire that would see added efficiencies for all our citizens. (drafted letter attached). Clearwater County served notice to the Village of Caroline and the Town of Rocky in regard to terminating the current intermunicipal regional fire agreement. Clearwater County recognized all three partnering municipalities have found the agreement could be improved and terminating the existing agreement was the first step in creating a new agreement that addressed the deficiencies of the previous one. It is Clearwater County Council's objective to create a new agreement that better addresses the governance issues that exist and not affect the operations. The public will not have its emergency services interrupted as a new agreement is being worked on.
4. Clearwater Regional Fire Services received a \$20,000 donation from TransCanada to go towards our recent purchase of a rescue boat.
5. Economic Development Update: The process of creating a Comprehensive Community Profile has begun with the assistance of CAEP and McSweeney & Associates. This is an in-depth report on Clearwater County with information that site selectors look for as they consider locations for investment. It will also be of value to local businesses looking at expanding or diversifying.

The Central Alberta Tourism Alliance has taken an inventory of trails across the CATA membership and held a stakeholder meeting to review the tourism readiness of trails in Central Alberta. The consultant is meeting with Alberta Environment and Parks to discuss what and how trails on Crown Land can be promoted.

The Regional Tourism Working Group, consisting of administration with the Village of Caroline, Town of Rocky Mountain House, Clearwater County, and the Rocky & District Chamber of Commerce, have started the process of updating the Regional Tourism Strategy. The Chambers of Commerce for Caroline and Nordegg have also been invited to participate and will be kept up to date with the ongoing work.

Upcoming Events

July 1 – Canada Day (Office Closed for Stat Holiday)
September 4 to 6 – 19th Annual Alberta CARE Conference
October 17 & 18 – ASVA Conference and AGM
October 24 to 26 – AB Parks & Rec. Annual Conference
November 12 to 15 – Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA)



June 18, 2019

Town of Rocky Mountain House
c/o Dean Krause, Chief Administrative Officer
5116 50 Ave, Box
Rocky Mountain House, AB
T4T 1E5

Village of Caroline
c/o Melissa Beebe, Chief Administrative Officer
PO Box 148
Caroline, AB
T0M 0M0

RE: Intermunicipal Regional Fire Rescue Services Agreement

On behalf of Clearwater County and its Council, the County hereby provides termination notice, effective December 31, 2019, as per Article 16 in the Intermunicipal Regional Fire Rescue Services Agreement (signed June 28, 2017).

At a June 17, 2019 Special Council Meeting, Council provided the following motions:

That Council directs administration to draft a letter to the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Village of the Caroline to serve notice of restructuring intermunicipal regional fire rescue services agreement, as per article 16 of the agreement.

That Council directs administration to initiate administrative discussions with the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Village of Caroline related to regional fire service provision, with the intent not to alter fire rescue service levels in the region, but rather to provide consistent service levels with the best cost efficiencies and administrative management structure(s).

This decision to request the current agreement be restructured follows lengthy intermunicipal discussions related to regional fire over the past year, including Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee (ICC) meetings in April and June, the two-day facilitated regional strategic planning session in April and the subsequent meetings with the municipalities' administrations to draft a new fire services agreement framework.

As mutually agreed by the municipalities, both at the regional strategic planning and ICC meetings, the intermunicipal regional fire rescue service agreement in its current state is not effective. As per the discussions amongst Councils related to efficiencies, the County feels that a change in direction for this intermunicipal agreement will mean less administrative burden, with no requirement for CAO team or governance advisory committee meetings and would see the elimination of the need for three administrative and council level approval processes, where previous conflicts have stalled operating and capital program activities and management.



Again, it is not the County's intent to change fire rescue service levels in the region, but rather to ensure we can all continue to provide consistent fire rescue service levels for our taxpayers and visitors, with the most efficient and effective management structure(s).

Understanding that moving into municipal agreement negotiation means potential change to the governance structure and how dollars flow behind the scenes, we don't want to unduly worry any of the dedicated and appreciated paid on call and full time fire services employees as there are not any anticipated changes to current staffing at this point in time. The County will endeavor to keep its employees up to date as the intermunicipal agreement negotiation process unfolds in the coming months.

As per the existing agreement, Clearwater County is the managing partner of the regional fire service and felt that taking the lead on the regional fire rescue services agreement restructuring request was necessary, as the County is the largest contributor and stakeholder in the intermunicipal partnership. The bulk of equipment assets that provide fire services for the region are wholly owned by the County, and each of the municipalities own a fire station or stations.

The County's intent would be to retain the Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services brand, and new agreement(s) between the municipalities will need to be drafted in the next few months with many options for governance re-alignment (i.e. mutual aid, automatic aid and/or lease agreements). There will be asset transfer agreements required as well, likely over a period of time to ensure that there are no service provision impacts for the region.

The County values all of our existing regional partnerships, including those with both municipalities – such as solid waste, emergency management, FCSS and others with individual municipalities such as recreation, revenue sharing, museums, libraries and visitor information centres. Although this restructuring notice does mean change for the fire services overarching governance structure, we trust that our long-standing municipal partnerships will endure and that this change will hopefully simplify fire service provision for our partnering municipalities.

We hope to continue our spirit of partnership in the best interest of the respective municipalities and the region as a whole, and we certainly look forward to our future discussion on fire services.

Sincerely,

Jim Duncan, Reeve
Clearwater County

cc: Clearwater County Council



SAVE-THE-DATE

OCTOBER 17TH – 18TH, 2019
Thursday – Friday

**2019 ASVA ANNUAL
 CONFERENCE & AGM**

- Meet the new Ministers of AEP and Municipal Affairs (tbc)
- MSI – an update on the future of MSI from Municipal Affairs
- Lake Management Plans: Successes and Challenges – Pigeon Lake and Sylvan Lake
- Social Media
- Fishing Workbook Discussion
- Lac Ste Anne Regional Emergency Management Approach
- Panel Discussion on the Focus of ASVA Services vs Budget
- Indigenous Peoples
- SV Project Panel on Wastewater
- WPAC lake planning with summer villages
- And more

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Venue

Executive Royal Hotel

8450 Sparrow Dr,

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