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The Beaver County

Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Volume 17, Issue 17

Ryalta Industries Ltd.



Hubert & Margaret Graham
Parts, Sales & Service
Bus: 780-663-3759
Res: 780-662-2384
Fax: 780-663-3799
ryalta@digitalweb.net
5108 - 50th St. Ryley, AB., T0B 4A0



Municipal mill rate increased by 1.5 per cent for 2024

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County passed its 2024 operating and capital budgets, and mill rate bylaw, at council’s April 17 regular meeting. An interim budget was passed in December, but was not finalized until the county received all of its necessary information.

The early prediction was that the total mill rate would have to increase by 2 per cent this year. However, with an increase in the assessment base the municipal mill rate increase is now set at 1.5 per cent.

The overall assessment for 2023 tax year was \$1,351,793,800. The taxable assessment for this year increased by \$36 million across all categories to \$1,387,860,310. Of this increase, \$12.4 million is taxable growth and the other \$23.7 million is due to inflation.

Leading in growth was the acreage residential category at \$9.6 million, and leading in reduction of assessment was designated industrial property (DIP) at \$3.5 mill and machinery and equipment at \$6.1 mill.

And inflation increased in all categories with acreage residential up \$14 million and farm residential up by \$9.6 million.

At the April 3 Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meeting the second draft of this year’s operating budget was reviewed.

Ryan Arndt, general manager of corporate services,

explained that \$50,000 of additional savings found in the budget went towards the tax levy so it would only have to be increased by 1.5 per cent.

Total budgetary expenses of \$35,846,869 were offset by revenues of \$19,717,226, leaving \$16,129,643 to be collected as taxes.

The 1.5 per cent municipal mill rate increase “is in response to inflationary costs, budget alignment to council’s strategic priorities, and an anticipated decline in the assessment base once the provincial government adjusts how non-residential properties are assessed,” stated Arndt, in his report.

“Administration recommends being pro-active with the mill rate increases in order to mitigate the need for large increases once this assessment change comes into effect.”

He added: “A portion of the funds raised by the gradual mill rate increases will be placed in reserve to offset the revenue needed to balance the budget in 2026 when we expect the assessment model review to be complete.”

Arndt stated that, with the increase in the assessment base, the impact on the mill rate has been mitigated so an increase of only 1.5 per cent is needed this year.

“However, once all mill rates are included, the following tax increases can be expected,” he said, although this is subject to change based on individual assessments.

They are: Residential properties - 1.4 per cent increase,

Farmland properties - 1.48 per cent increase, Non-residential properties - 1.4 per cent increase, and Small business properties - 1.37 per cent increase.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec made the motion to approve the 2024 operating budget, which passed.

Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) earlier stated that the county needs to find a way to convey to ratepayers “that requisitions are not revenue for the county but are collected for different agencies,” citing requisitions for Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF), the Beaver Foundation Seniors Fund and Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC). These funds are sent to the organizations and the county gets nothing for doing the collecting on their behalf.

“We have to try to explain this to our ratepayers,” said Hrabec.

Councillor Dale Pederson (Division 5) expressed his approval of taking five years to gradually increase the tax rate in the county, and expressed appreciation “for all the work administration did to pacify us.”

And Hrabec stated that, with inflation rates of today, “1.5 per cent (mill rate increase) is a lot more palatable than what other municipalities have had to contend with.”

Council then passed all three readings to set the mill rate bylaw for the 2024 tax year. Tax notices sent out to ratepayers are the next step in the process.

Facility surveillance policy put in place to match recent security upgrades

Patricia Harcourt

A Facility Surveillance Policy was passed to align with Beaver County’s upgraded security measures at the April 17 regular meeting.

“Once security upgrades were completed at all Beaver County facilities, the need for a new policy to address facility surveillance was identified,” stated Peggy Ewert, infrastructure project coordinator.

“The proposed policy has been created to ensure that the security systems are used in a lawful and justified manner while protecting the personal information of those affected by the systems,” she explained.

These security and upgrade issues were considered sensitive and were also dealt with at Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) meetings in February and April.

GPC members, composed of county councillors, reviewed the policy Feb. 7.

“At that time, the committee expressed some concerns regarding the publishing of camera locations,” stated the report.

Legal advice was sought and resulted in changes to the document which was reviewed in April’s GPC and recommended to county council for approval.

“With the new security system a new policy was needed,” said Ewert.

A motion to that effect was made by Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) and passed by council. Hrabec remarked that the RCMP have made reports and had discussions with council recently from both Tofield and Viking detachments.

He noted that the new camera system installed for security purposes will be “helpful to them.”

The policy states that surveillance equipment will not be placed internally or externally in such a way as to monitor areas outside county buildings or to monitor other buildings, unless necessary to protect

county assets or to ensure personal safety. The systems will not be directed to capture images through the windows of adjacent buildings.

Also images won’t be captured “where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy,” such as bathrooms and change rooms.

Where these surveillance systems are installed is the decision of the county CAO or general manager of infrastructure.

The presence of these systems will be clearly marked in signs for the public and prominently displayed. They will provide “ultimate warning” to the public by being placed in entrances or access areas.

The policy states under the title “Camera Locations and Operational Period,” that surveillance equipment will be placed at the Agricultural Shop, Black Nugget Lake Concession, Bruce Bus Garage, Bruce Grader Shed, Bruce Lift Station,

Continued on BCC4



Claystone

Waste Ltd

Spring

LARGE ITEM PICK UP PROGRAM IS BACK!

Monday, April 29 to Thursday, May 2 – Hamlet of Bruce
No curbside collection.
Bring your items to the large bins located at:
• Community Hall (2 bins)
• Lift Station (1 bin)

Monday, May 6 to Thursday, May 9 – Village of Ryley
No curbside collection.
Bring your items to the large bins located at:
• Old carwash beside Village Office – 50 St & 50 Ave
• Truck stop area close to cardboard bin – 51 St & 50 Ave
• Trailer park close to the 4 yd bins – 53 ST & 52 Ave
• Grassy area north end of Village on 57 Ave between 49 & 50 St

Friday, May 10 to Thursday May 16 – Town of Tofield
No curbside collection.
Bring your items to the large bins located at:
• West side of the Truck Parking – 51 St & southside of 51 Ave (5 bins)

Monday, May 20 to Thursday, May 23 – Village of Holden
No curbside collection.
Bring your items to the large bins located at:
• Empty lot at 5024 – 50 St
• Gazebo Park entrance located on 51 St
• On east side of 48 St
• West side of Public Works shop – 4920 – 48 Ave

Thursday, May 30—Town of Viking
Curbside pick up, large items **must be on the street**—not on your lawn or driveway. If the items have not been picked by June 4, please call our office at 780.663.2038 extension 133 and speak with someone in the Collections Department.

If you are unable to get your large items to one of the collection bins, please reach out to our Collections Department (780.663.2038, extension 133) for assistance. They will arrange to pick the large item up directly from your front yard. Please note that Claystone employees will not enter a private residence to collect large items.

NOTE: Fridges, freezers, water coolers and window air conditioning units are acceptable, however there is a \$25 charge for Freon removal. Urban residents will need to pay for the Freon removal at the local Town/Village office. Once payment has been made, a sticker will be provided that needs to be placed on either the front or side of the appliance.

Items acceptable for collection in this Program include mattresses sofas, recliners, white goods (stove, washing machine, etc.) and appliances, tires and propane tanks.

Items that are unacceptable for the collection program include grass clippings, trees, tree branches, bags of household garbage, small items that would fit into the neighbourhood waste bin, and cardboard boxes. These items can be broken down and placed in the bin in the alley. Electronic waste should be taken to a transfer station. Chunks of concrete or cement must be taken directly to the landfill site in Ryley.

Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:
50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0
Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;
Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays
NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;
Administration building
Mon to Fri 8:00am —4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 - 1:00pm
Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

Lindbrook Transfer Station:
51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704
Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am - 6:30pm;
Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Tofield Transfer Station:
51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731
Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Viking Transfer Station:
12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956
Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Kinsella Transfer Station:
46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802
Wed 11:00am - 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am - 5:00pm

Please note: All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.



BEAVER COUNTY



RYLEY LIONS CLUB INVITES YOU TO...

MOTHERS DAY Brunch

SUNDAY MAY 12 | 10:30 AM - 1 PM

RYLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ADULTS \$18 | KIDS (6-12) \$9

Tree Health Check

In partnership with Toso Bozic at ATTS Group Inc., Beaver County is offering FREE personalized tree consulting services. Our Agricultural Services Team is ready to help you restore the health and beauty of your trees, enhancing our county's natural environment.

Find out more on our website under Services > Agricultural Services > Tree Health Check



SCAN ME

www.snowgoosefestival.ca
Tofield Arena



April 27-28
Snow Goose Festival

The Snow Goose Festival is a celebration of spring migration through the Beaverhill Lake area. Everyone is welcome — from first-time to experienced birders — children and adults. On-site guided bus and/or walking tours, trade show, evening banquet, and more!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 22, 2024

Beaver County Council is considering a bylaw to update the Area Structure Plan for the Equity Industrial Park located adjacent to the Village of Ryley.

Further information, including a copy of the proposed bylaw and Area Structure Plan can be obtained at the Beaver County Office (5120 – 50 Street, Ryley) or on the Beaver County website.

Beaver County will be holding a public hearing to give residents an opportunity to provide input on the proposed Area Structure Plan. Details of the public hearing are as follows:

- Date: **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**
- Time: **9:45 am**
- Location: **Council Chambers, Beaver County Service Centre,**
- Contact: **Margaret Jones at 780-663-3730 or mjones@beaver.ab.ca**

Please note that this public hearing is NOT related to Council's initiative to update the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw. A public hearing regarding this project will be held at a later date.

If you wish to submit written comments regarding the proposed Area Structure Plan, a copy must be delivered to the Beaver County Office, attention Delayna Koch (dkoch@beaver.ab.ca), no later than 4:30 pm, Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Written submissions will not be accepted during the public hearing.

If you submit written comments regarding the proposed bylaw, the information you provide may be made public subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



IMPORTANT DATES

May 1

- 9:30 AM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

May 22

- 9:30 AM - Regular Council Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



Book Club

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month.
Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.

<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3/>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

None this week

OPEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- Request for Proposal:
 - Municipal Planning Services
 - Closing date: Noon, May 24, 2024

Please find complete information for all requests on our website > Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes



The Beaver Heritage & Ag Society
18TH ANNUAL

Spring Splash

DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2024	DOORS OPEN 5:30 PM DINNER AT 6:30 PM	RYLEY COMMUNITY HALL
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Tickets \$40 - available at:
Ryley Swimming Pool, Nutrien Ag Solutions - Ryley,
and KC Insurance - Tofield

All proceeds support the Ryley Swimming Pool and Wellness Centre

FIRESMART GUIDE

HOME IGNITION ZONE

Wildfire season is upon us. Stay prepared and protect your home and loved ones with essential preventative measures. Check out the FireSmart guide for vital tips and strategies. Pick up your copy at the County office or find the online version by heading to the News Section of our website, or by typing FireSmart Guide in to Google.



Mailing list
Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website
Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.



Heads up! Tax Notices will be mailed by May 15th

Social media
Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Council discusses support for economic development organization

Patricia Harcourt

A letter of support request resulted in a long discussion by county councillors concerning economic development in the region.

The request came from the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development for support regarding the Rural Economic Development Alliance, or REDA). and proposed changes by the province for funding allocations.

Aimee Boese, manager of external relations and special projects, stated in her report to council April 17, “that the province intends to move away from providing operational funding for REDAs with the aim of making them operationally self-sufficient.”

She said a conditional operating funding model would be in place for three years “as the province transitions out of

providing operational funding altogether starting in 2027.”

This would mean a loss for each of the nine REDA organizations of \$125,000 in operational funding annually.

Once the funding is gone, Boese said the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development “will not be able to survive on membership dues alone.

“To recoup the loss, BRAED may be forced to increase membership fees and at that time, many of the current BRAED members, especially smaller towns and villages, will have to consider if they can afford to remain in the regional partnership.

“This will then put more pressure on those members that remain to cover operational costs,” she said.

The new model for operational funding only provides BRAED with \$97,000, with funding to

be reduced every year until there is none after three years.

At a BRAED Board of Directors meeting in March, member municipalities were asked to provide a letter of support for their economic development work and for a return to the \$125,000 annual funding model,

Beaver County has Councillor Lionel Williams as the county’s representative on the BRAED board, with Reeve Kevin Smook the alternate appointee.

The county paid an annual membership fee of \$4,401 and another \$500 for a tourism sponsorship for one of BRAED’s events.

The work of the regional rural economic development alliances was ‘to strive to link new investors and businesses with the local communities in their regions while fostering innovation and connection.”

However, Deputy

Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) didn’t want to support the signing of a letter that had been provided by BRAED. The letter was to be sent to the premier and to various provincial ministers for finance, economy and trade.

He asked to reserve his decision until after he had read the letter with the proposed wording included.

Boese said the letter in the agenda package would follow a similar format.

“Then I won’t support it,” replied Hrabec.

Williams spoke in support of BRAED which he said wants to be more supportive as a regional association and to support municipalities with their economic development efforts.

“The county economic development committee could have some good synergies that could be

beneficial to both sides,” he said.

Division 4 Councillor Barry Bruce supported Williams stating he recently attended an economic development conference in Kananaskis. “The message was there are all kinds of investment that want to come into Alberta...So I support it.”

Division 5 Councillor Dale Pederson favoured sending a letter of support.

“I see no harm in it,” he said. “It might help, it might not.”

Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) said the word at the RMA convention was that there would be no funding cut.

“From my understanding the province likes regional economic development,” he said.

A motion by Williams to support the signing and forwarding of letters of support was passed.

Surveillance Policy

Continued from BCC1

Camp Lake Concession, County Service Centre, Holden Grader Shed, Kinsella Grader Shed, Ryley Grade Shed, Tire Shop, Tofield Grader Shed, Transportation Shop and Viking Grader Shed.

Under “Access Requests from Law Enforcement,” the policy states that any requests for a video record must be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer or the General Manager of Infrastructure.

They “will ensure that a law enforcement disclosure form is completed before access to the surveillance system or copy of the video record is provided,” says the policy. The CAO and/or general manager of infrastructure will “determine whether to obtain legal advice in granting access or copies” to law enforcement.



Why Work With Us: At Flagstaff County, we’re committed to building a stronger, vibrant, and sustainable community. We actively engage with local communities, businesses, and government bodies, ensuring transparent financial management and promoting environmental sustainability.

Flagstaff County's Vision and Principles:

Vision: At Flagstaff County, we envision a vibrant and sustainable regional community that preserves our rural essence and enhances the quality of life for all residents.

Principles: Our Council has established three fundamental principles that guide our actions and decision-making **collaboration, fiscal leadership & environmental responsibility.**

Flagstaff County is unwavering in our dedication to these principles, and they form the foundation of our work. Join our team and contribute to the betterment of our community while upholding these core values.

Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume along with a cover letter by email to:

Contact:
Human Resource Department
Email: Human.Resources@flagstaff.ab.ca
Direct: (780) 384-4100

For the full job description please visit: www.flagstaff.ab.ca

Flagstaff County is recruiting for the full-time position of:

Lead Heavy Equipment Operator / Truck Driver

Position Overview: Join our dynamic team dedicated to enhancing community infrastructure and safety. We’re seeking a skilled Lead Heavy Equipment Operator to make a substantial impact in our Municipal Services department. Reporting to the Field Coordinator, you’ll efficiently operate heavy equipment as well as various trucks and trailer combinations for hauling gravel or equipment, and provide essential staff training and supervision.

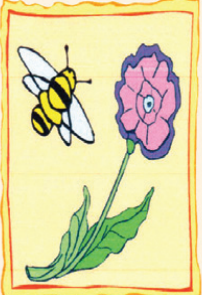
Key Responsibilities:

- Operate equipment for road recovery, dust suppressant, gravel, and arterial road maintenance.
- Assist in winter snow plowing, sanding, water pumping, and culvert maintenance.
- Report and assist in repairing damaged signs, culverts, road surfaces, and dispose of debris.
- Report view obstructions like brush and weeds.
- Maintain and clean equipment and vehicles.
- Inspect and service equipment daily before operation.
- Manage inventory for equipment and vehicles, including tools, parts, and fuel.
- Assist in training staff on equipment operation, road issue identification and repair, and supervise assigned work.
- Ensure compliance with County policies, Health and Safety program, and HR guidelines.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of two to three (2-3) years of related experience in operating a grader, other heavy equipment and multi axle trucks.
- Valid class 1 driver’s license or valid class 3 driver’s license with air endorsement.
- Ability to train and supervise staff.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships in the course of work, including the ability to work cooperatively in a team environment as well as independently.
- Flexibility and adaptability to be able to work in a wide range of conditions and perform a variety of tasks.

Position Type: Permanent Full-time
Hours of Work: Monday to Friday 8-10 hrs/day (Guaranteed 176hrs/month)
Salary Range: \$37.16/hour to \$45.70/hour
Closing Date: Until a suitable candidate is selected



The Beaver Heritage & Ag Society

18th Annual Spring Splash

Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Doors open 5:30 pm • Dinner at 6:30 pm

@ the Ryley Community Hall

Tickets \$40

Advance ticket booking is recommended

Tickets available at:

Ryley Swimming Pool, Nutrien Ag Solutions - Ryley, and KC Insurance - Tofield

All proceeds support the Ryley Swimming Pool and Wellness Centre

