

Greetings from the Reeve

Here at the County of Vermilion River is has been a busy time with our grader operators out clearing off snow from the roads and Council continuing to lobby the provincial government in many areas of concern.

Council would like to invite everyone to attend the Council Open House on March 6, 2024 at the Kitscoty Community Hall. In the past months there have been several open houses held to discuss the draft Land Use Bylaw and Public Works road plans. There were also Policing Open Houses held in Dewberry and Islay, and it is disappointing to report that there was limited attendance at these two events. Rural Crime continues to be a top priority for Council and we meet regularly with RCMP from Vermilion, Kitscoty and Onion Lake and also meet with RCMP officials in Edmonton during the RMA Conference.

Council passed an interim 2025 Budget and will be meeting on March 14, 2025 for a Special Meeting of Council to discuss the final budget and any changes in the Provincial Budget which came down on February 27, 2025. With the continued downloading onto municipalities, it is important to note that Council takes every opportunity to discuss County issues with Ministers at the RMA Conference, Agriculture Service Board Conference and with personal meetings in Edmonton. Recently Council met with Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIver to discuss the City of Lloydminster's Charter and challenges around this for the County of Vermilion River.

Through out the end of 2024 and into 2025 Council was in negotiations with the Town of Vermilion regarding the extension of the Fire Agreement with the Town of Vermilion. An agreement extension was made in late January which ratified the agreements extending the Fire Service Agreement until April 6, 2026.

The County of Vermilion River and the Town of Vermilion have an extensive and long history of shared firefighting, dating back over 100 years and with formal agreements between the two existing for nearly 30 years. Currently the County of Vermilion River has eight fire halls across the County with upwards of 175 volunteer firefighters working to safeguard our shared community.

Council conducts its Regular Meetings and Policy and Priorities Committee Meetings in person and through ZOOM webinars. We encourage residents to register (see the link on our webpage) to attend these meetings. It is encouraging to note some residents have adjusted to the virtual council meetings and are participating and joining in on a regular basis.

On behalf of the County of Vermilion River Council - Deputy Reeve Leslie Cusack, Councillor Dale Swyripa, Councillor Stacey Hryciuk, Councillor George Kuneff, Councillor Jason Stelmaschuk and Councillor Clinton Murray we ask that you work safely during this seeding and calving season.

Should you have any concerns or compliments, please let us know via office@county24.com or by phone at 780-846-2244.

Reeve Marty Baker