



## COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE:

Council Meeting

Date: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Deputy Mayor Sánchez opened the meeting in welcoming the delegations.

**Parents with Children up to 6 years of age:** Community Services Manager Mrs. Dallaire presented a potential opportunity for the Town of Penhold to participate in a Parent Link program. The focus of the program is to work with families that have children from 0 to 6 years of age by creating interactive opportunities for parents and children. This program is a direct result from the EC mapping done 1 ½ years ago. The program will be hosted by the Town of Innisfail with each community participating at varying levels based on need. There will be more information coming forward in weeks to come. Anticipated startup is April of 2015.

**Resident Presentation** - Ms. Josephine Michaluk asked council to consider waiving the cost of the new garbage containers and garbage fees. She transports all her own garbage out of town and does not use this system.

The pickup contractor charges per household. The town is required to pay a fee if there is a pickup or not. Council after some clarification and discussion did not support a fee waiver request.

**Fire Department:** Fire Chief Pendergast identified In January there were 14 callouts. 8 were medical and 5 fire alarms. Current fire personnel total is 35 members. The cadet program has been received well and continues to grow.

**Public Works:** Focus over the next several weeks is snow removal and the assembly and placement of garbage totes to residents

**Penhold Multiplex:** continues to be a busy place with tournaments and numerous other functions occurring. During the month of January there were approx. 16,800 people who used the facility.

**Development for 2014:** Record year once again with 182 permits being pulled for a total of \$ 34,186,029 for 2014. January 2015 is looking to be a very good month for permits.

**2015 Budget:** CAO Binnendyk walked council through the latest revisions made to the municipal budget for 2015. **The 2015 budget shows a zero change for the tax rate** for doing municipal operations. CAO Binnendyk identified that one last major cost for the budget is the Provincial School Billing from Alberta Education. Once this has been received then Council can establish the 2015 taxes.

Deputy Mayor Sánchez identified that Council has worked through the budgets a number of times to finalize a balanced budget. There have been some funds set aside for reserves at this point with a small surplus of \$ 4,100 on a \$9.57 million dollar budget. Until the Provincial School costs are forwarded we cannot identify what the change will be on the average home. What we have done is

ensure the tax rate did not change keeping any increase to a minimum. We cannot control the Provincial costs.

**Utility Bills:** there will be a minor change to the sewer rate of 5 cents per cube. This cost is a direct pass through by the regional system increase. Garbage fees to assist in offsetting the totes cost will be going up by 2 dollars. You will see these changes on your March billing.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month starting at 6:00PM. They are open to the public. Questions are welcomed at the end of the meeting.

For more information, please contact:

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