



Town of Penhold – Council Media Release

Highlights

From February 26th, 2018 Council Meeting

Council meeting started with two presentations:

1. Rural Transportation:

Mrs. Teresa Ainscough, Penhold FCSS Coordinator, identified a potential to obtain funding for a Rural Transportation Pilot Program through an Alberta Transportation Grant. The purpose of the grant is to improve connections between Alberta's mid-sized urban centers and surrounding populations.

The proposal is a regional collaboration with Red Deer County, Towns of Innisfail and Penhold to extend the busing that currently runs from Red Deer to Springbrook further south to encompass the communities of Penhold and Innisfail. Buses would run Monday – Friday, three times a day; be handicap accessible; and provide seamless entry into the transit system at the Bower Mall stop. This will help to improve service for residents within our communities. This project if approved will be a pilot project subject to ridership use. Applications must be in before the end of March.

2. Penhold Minor Soccer:

Mr. Len Istace made presentation to Council on behalf of the Penhold Soccer Association. They are a newer organization and have utilized school fields for the past four years. With the new soccer pitches built they are requesting the Town waive the user fees for this calendar year. The organization identified that they would take responsibility for the field preparation with lining and placing of nets on the field. They further inquired about the possibility to obtain port-a-potties on site for the users.

Council identified that if the organization is doing all the field preparations for the sports teams and that there is no additional work required of the Town outside of mowing the fields then they support the waiving of fees in 2018.

An additional request was made regarding a Penhold minor sport community trophy case; and help from the Town in finding a home for the trophies won by the groups. Council asked Administration to look into options for a local sports teams' trophy case.

On Feb. 12, 2018 the Town had a fire which saw two homes burn down. CAO Binnendyk identified that the victims impacted by the fire have been in touch with Town staff getting assistance to find the appropriate sources for food, accommodations, and other life necessities. Council identified how proud they are to see how our residents and businesses stepped up during the fire and after to assist. The Penhold Fire Department expressed appreciation to all who assisted.

Awesome job Penholdians!

On Feb 22nd the Penhold Safety Sub-Committee held a staff training session dealing with emergencies around the Regional Multiplex. There were four different scenarios: missing person, gunman enters the facility, fight breaking out in the parking lot, and a severe storm heading towards the Regional Multiplex. This exercise was very informative for staff and helped outline their roles and responsibilities during different events.

The Penhold Fire Department applied for a grant under the Emergency Management Preparedness Program through the Province to host a mock emergency involving a bus accident. They were successful in their application and the funding will help assist the Penhold Fire Department, Town and our community schools in dealing with a larger scale emergency. This larger scale exercise will be planned in the fall of 2018.

Penhold sent a letter to the Minister of Health in support of the need of funding for the Red Deer Regional Hospital. A response has been received from Sarah Hoffman, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health identifying that “despite other parties” calls to make reckless cuts to the health services our families depend on, we will keep working with communities to invest in and improve health care even in a very challenging economic time.”

The Deputy Premier outlined the funding committed to the Queen Elizabeth II Highway interchange Gaetz Avenue project, and investment in a new Red Deer Justice Centre. Also identified was their effort to make improvements to health care services such as: expanding the labour and delivery until area for new moms; adding a new state-of-the-art MRI unit, as well as invested in infrastructure that was deferred under the previous government. A youth detox facility is also being built. The minister acknowledges that “there is much work left to do, and we are committed to improving health care in the Red Deer region to ensure residents get the right care, in the right place, at the right time.” They will continue to work with Alberta Health Services in assessing the health needs in Central Alberta.

Mayor Yargeau identified that the Town received a further letter that was added to the agenda in response to the Town encouraging the Minister of Education to ensure there is strong guiding principals in place for drafting future legislation. The response from the Minister expressed appreciation to the letter and continued to identify their consultation process. A report outlining what they heard from organizations and Albertans will be forthcoming. They are committed to ensuring all students will have supported environments within the schools.

The Community Service Advisory Board continues to see great representation from most organizations in Penhold. They are doing a great job of working together and assisting where needed. Council has requested that Administration review the CSAB Bylaw and see if the Town can step back to one Council representative sitting on this board for future meetings.

Councillor Hamm identified that the Red Deer & District Community Foundation is exploring the possibility of a councillor from a smaller community becoming a member of their Board.

Council granted permission for Councillor Hamm to participate as a member of the Red Deer & District Community Foundation.

Council reviewed a request from Parkland Regional Library System for an expression of interest to construct a new regional library headquarters. Council expressed appreciation for the opportunity but declined to submit a proposal at this time.

Upcoming important Dates/Events:

- Sat. March 10 Daddy & Me from 1:00pm – 3:00pm (FREE in Library)
- Sat. March 17 Women’s Day from 9:30am – 4:00pm (call to register; \$20/ticket)
- Sun. March 25 Easter Eggs extravaganza from 1:30pm – 3:30pm (\$3/person; \$10/family)

Council Meetings:

2nd and 4th Mondays each month beginning at 6:00 PM.

For further information contact:

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