

**MACKENZIE COUNTY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers
Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

AGENDA

1. Delegation (10:00 a.m. – 12 noon)
Jennifer Renton and Brian Makowecki – Alberta Environment & Parks
2. MGA Survey 3
3. Action List 31
4. Next Meeting – February 27, 2017
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Continuing the Conversation

November 2016

FURTHER TOPICS FOR
DISCUSSION ON THE
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENT ACT

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INTRODUCTION

The *Municipal Government Act (MGA)* is the guide to how municipalities operate, and is one of the most significant and far-reaching statutes in Alberta. The *MGA* affects every Albertan, the private sector, and every ministry in the Government of Alberta in one form or another.

On May 31, 2016, the Government of Alberta introduced Bill 21, the *Modernized Municipal Government Act (MMGA)*, to the Legislative Assembly. Following introduction, Municipal Affairs went on the road to talk to Albertans and gather their thoughts on the proposed changes to the *MGA*. In total, 2402 people attended the 21 public sessions held across Alberta, 2376 questionnaires were submitted to the ministry, and 122 letters commenting on the draft legislation were sent to Municipal Affairs. The feedback we received over the summer informed the changes to the *MMGA* being introduced during the fall 2016 session of the Legislature.

The discussions throughout the summer gathered their own momentum and led to thoughtful feedback, questions, and written submissions on other modernizations that could potentially be made beyond the items contemplated in the *MMGA*. This paper is an opportunity to continue the conversation with Albertans about building an even stronger framework for our municipalities, and to raise some technical or clarifying changes that may be necessary to improve the act's effectiveness.

On the following pages you will find:

- discussion and description of emerging topics and how the act could be amended to address them; and
- a listing of proposed general technical amendments.

This discussion guide will be available for Albertans' feedback until January 31, 2017. Comments may be submitted through an online questionnaire on the *MGA* review website (<http://mgareview.alberta.ca>).

Feedback on this discussion paper will be used to inform potential amendments to the *MGA* for Spring 2017.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION—HOW ARE MUNICIPALITIES EMPOWERED TO GOVERN?

COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

BACKGROUND:

The *MMGA* proposed the concept of intermunicipal collaboration frameworks (ICFs). These frameworks are intended to ensure ongoing collaboration between municipalities, including coordinated land use planning, regional service delivery and cost sharing. In addition, the *MMGA* also proposed the requirement for municipalities to offer orientation training for municipal councillors.

The *MGA* does not apply to First Nations lands (federal legislation applies), and the planning and development components of the *MGA* do not apply to Metis Settlements; however, Indigenous groups intersect with municipalities through regular interactions for a variety of reasons, such as utility service delivery.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

The Province is committed to implementing the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and, as such, it is important to encourage the province’s municipalities to continue to take meaningful and reasonable steps to understand and engage with neighbouring Indigenous communities and citizens in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner, particularly with respect to land use planning and service delivery. Taking these steps also responds to First Nation and Metis concerns with respect to the degree of Indigenous involvement in the municipal land use planning process

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Agreements with Indigenous Communities	The <i>MGA</i> is currently silent on the relationship between municipalities and Indigenous communities.	Add a provision to the proposals in the <i>MMGA</i> to clarify that a municipality may invite Indigenous communities to participate in an ICF or any sub-agreement that is part of an ICF.
Orientation Training for Municipal Councillors	The <i>MMGA</i> (s. 201.1(2)) indicates what topics would have to be included in the proposed mandatory offering of orientation training for councillors, such as, the role of municipalities, roles and responsibilities of council and councillors, public participation, etc.	Add Indigenous Awareness Training to the list of topics councillors would be offered as part of their orientation training.
Statutory Plan Preparation	The <i>MGA</i> (s.636) deals with notifications with respect to statutory plans and the provision of opportunities for providing representations and suggestions regarding those plans during the development of the plans. The <i>MGA</i> currently exempts Metis Settlements from the Planning and Development portion of the Act (Part 17).	Require municipalities to implement policies with respect to how they will keep neighbouring Indigenous communities informed during the development of statutory plans and require municipalities to inform Indigenous communities that share a common boundary with two-week’s notice of a public hearing for statutory plans including notice information (i.e. statement of purpose, date, time, and address of the meeting).

ENFORCEMENT OF MINISTERIAL ORDERS

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Minister of Municipal Affairs may issue directives to ensure accountable and responsive local government under very specific circumstances. Directives may currently only be issued flowing from an inspection of a municipality where the inspection finds that the municipality has been governed or managed in an irregular, improvident or improper manner. In rare and extreme cases, where Directives resulting from a municipal inspection are not carried out to the Minister’s satisfaction, the Minister may take actions such as removing councillors or Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs).

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Currently, the *MGA* does not give the courts direction on how to consider Ministerial orders and directives. This has created challenges in enforcing Ministerial orders and directives intended to address local governance concerns. Throughout the *MGA* Review process, Albertans and many municipal officials have expressed that it is important for there to be processes in place that hold councils accountable for their actions and promote a high standard of local governance.

Proposed changes would not allow the Minister to act arbitrarily, but would ensure proper authority exists to address significant concerns, and to provide more tools to ensure municipal compliance with Ministerial Orders.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
General Minister Powers	Currently the Minister lacks adequate authority to enforce Ministerial orders that implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decisions of an official administrator; or • decisions that settle intermunicipal disagreements. 	Allow the Minister the same authority currently available with respect to the inspection process for situations where, in the Minister’s opinion, a municipality has not complied with direction provided by an Official Administrator or by the Minister in respect of an intermunicipal disagreement. With this authority, the Minister could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suspend the authority of a council to make resolutions or bylaws in respect of any matter specified in the order; • exercise resolution or bylaw-making authority in respect of all or any of the matters for which resolution or bylaw-making authority is suspended under the above measure; • remove a suspension of resolution or bylaw-making authority, with or without conditions; and, • withhold money otherwise payable by the Government to the municipality pending compliance with an order of the Minister.
Judicial Review	Individuals have the constitutional right to apply for judicial review of Ministerial decisions.	Require 10-day notice be given to the Minister prior to applying for injunctive relief against a decision of the Minister. The Ministerial Order would remain in effect during an appeal of the Minister’s decision.

PARENTAL LEAVE FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS

BACKGROUND:

Currently, municipal councils can pass a resolution excusing a councillor from council meetings for a period exceeding 8 consecutive weeks, but there is no specific reference to parental leave in the *MGA*.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Throughout the summer of 2016, various stakeholders expressed an interest in opening the discussion around parental leave for municipal councillors by specifically allowing municipalities to create policies on parental leave. Under the approach being explored, if a municipality chose not to allow for parental leave, the existing leave provisions in the *MGA* (up to 8 weeks) would still apply. The contents of a parental leave policy would be established by each municipality based on the needs of that municipality; however, if the policy allowed for extended parental leave, it would also be required to address how the constituents in that councillor’s ward would be represented during the councillor’s leave.

Providing for this kind of change would give municipalities the opportunity to take steps to make political life more family-friendly and accessible for women seeking office.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Parental Leave Policy	The <i>MGA</i> is silent on this matter.	Enable councils, by bylaw, to create a policy respecting parental leave. The contents of the policy will be determined by each municipality in accordance with the needs of that municipality. If the municipality allows for parental leave, it must also then address how the constituents will be represented during the councillor’s absence.
Reasons for Disqualification of Councillors	The <i>MGA</i> (s.174) sets out the disqualification provisions for municipal councillors, such as being ineligible for nomination, being absent from regular council meetings for 8 consecutive weeks, the councillor becoming an employee of the municipality, etc.	Specifically state that a councillor is not disqualified by being absent from regular council meetings under subsection (1)(d) if the absence meets the criteria set out in a parental leave policy bylaw.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BACKGROUND:

Traditionally, municipal purposes have been defined as providing good governance; providing services, facilities and other things necessary or desirable for the municipality; and developing and maintaining safe and viable communities.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

During the summer 2016 discussions, some stakeholders expressed concern that municipalities lack explicit authority to incorporate environmental stewardship considerations in their operational and land-use decision making processes.

Explicitly including environmental stewardship as a municipal purpose would give municipalities authority to cite environmental consideration in a range of operational and growth decisions. It would also allow municipalities to fully embrace a leadership role in environmental stewardship and more actively participate in moving toward the goals in Alberta’s Climate Leadership Plan.

Municipalities would not be permitted to take responsibility for areas covered under provincial legislation, such as the *Water Act* or the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, nor would they be authorized to take land for environmental stewardship considerations without compensation. The reserve land provisions in Part 17 of the *MGA*, including the proposed new conservation reserve provisions, would continue to apply.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Environmental Stewardship as a Municipal Purpose	<p>The <i>MGA</i> identifies the following municipal purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to provide good government;• to provide services, and• to develop and maintain safe and viable communities. <p>The <i>MMGA</i> proposes also including the following as a municipal purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services.	<p>Include consideration of the stewardship of the environment as a municipal purpose.</p>

NOTIFICATION OF AMALGAMATIONS AND ANNEXATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Some local authorities, such as school boards, have expressed concern that they are not always notified of proposed annexations or amalgamations, which can affect the jurisdiction in which students go to school.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Currently, by definition, a “local authority” includes municipalities, regional health authorities, regional services commissions, and school boards. Any change would ensure that all local authorities in the area are notified of a proposed annexation or amalgamation.

The *MMGA* has removed the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs as the Administrator of the Municipal Government Board, and replaced that position with a Chair of the Board. As a result, whereas the previous notification provision would result in the Ministry being notified via the Deputy Minister, this will no longer be the case. A separate provision is needed to maintain the notification to the Ministry.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Amalgamations: Initiation by a Municipal Authority	The <i>MGA</i> (s.103 (1)) indicates who a municipal authority must notify when initiating an amalgamation.	Require that a municipality initiating an amalgamation must notify all local authorities that operate or provide services in the affected municipalities, and include proposals for consultation with local authorities in the requirement for notice.
Initiation of Annexation	The <i>MGA</i> (s.116) indicates who a municipal authority must notify of a proposed annexation.	Require that a municipality initiating an annexation must notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs and all local authorities that operate or provide services in one or both of the affected municipalities be notified.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION—HOW DO MUNICIPALITIES WORK TOGETHER AND PLAN FOR GROWTH?

MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOL BOARDS

BACKGROUND:

As part of the subdivision application approval process, a municipality may require a portion of the land in a subdivision to be dedicated for a public benefit such as a park or school. Such lands are called reserve land. A municipality may require up to 10 per cent of the lands from a subdivision area to be dedicated as municipal reserve (MR), school reserve (SR), or municipal and school reserve (MSR) lands.

Joint Use Agreements (JUAs) between schools and municipalities have been in existence since the late 1950s, and outline how MR, MSR and SR lands will be allocated between the municipality and each school board within its boundary. In the absence of a JUA, the needs of municipality and the school board(s) are determined at subdivision. Many municipalities within the province have developed JUAs with local school boards to provide clarity on the use, development, and disposal of school facilities and land.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

During the MGA Review's 2016 summer engagements, municipalities and school boards expressed frustration with the reserve land assembly process. Both advocated for a new approach when acquiring land for sites that exceed the amount of reserve land available through the subdivision process. In addition, many municipalities and school boards advocated for legislative amendments to mandate the establishment of Joint Use Agreements as a normal course of business.

Benefiting Area Contribution

The assembly of land for larger parks and school sites can be difficult under the current reserve land process. A solution that has been discussed over the course of the MGA Review is allowing reserve land contributions through a benefiting area contribution structure. This structure could be used to support land dedication and development of parks and school sites, and would allow the impact on developers in the area to be distributed more evenly.

This structure would give municipalities the ability to define a geographical area in a developing area that will benefit from larger assembly of land sites, such as the catchment area for children attending a high school. This benefiting area will typically have more than one developer involved in developing the land. Once the benefiting area is defined, municipalities would identify which developers' subdivision will contain the reserve land site. The municipality would then be enabled to collect up to half of the other developers' maximum 10% contribution in funds rather than in lands, and the resulting funds could be used to compensate the developer where the site is located (for the additional land required for the site above and beyond the normal 10% dedication).

The benefiting area contribution structure would be different from the existing money-in-place of MR, SR and MSR structure as it would include the costs required for the assembly and servicing of the reserve sites, thereby promoting an equitable distribution of costs required to assemble and service the sites.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Joint Use Agreements

The MGA provides the flexibility for municipalities to enter into JUAs with school boards, but they are not mandatory. Stakeholders expressed during the summer engagement that there is a need for a more efficient and effective use and development of school facilities and sites to better address the goals of integrated planning, more livable communities, and more efficient and cost effective funding.

Making JUAs mandatory would support collaboration between school boards and municipalities, and ensure municipal reserves are used efficiently and effectively. This change would lead to coordinated decision-making in the use, development, and disposal of school facilities and sites.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current	Proposed Changes
Benefitting Area Contribution	The MGA authorizes the taking of reserve land by a subdivision authority (e.g. provision of land, provision of money in lieu of land, etc.), as well as restrictions on that authority (e.g. percentage of lands taken and percentage of money required to be paid). The MMGA proposes maintaining that same structure for Conservation Reserve.	Provide municipalities with increased flexibility to use a ‘benefitting area contribution structure’ that would support land dedication and development parameters with respect to assembly of parks and school sites.
Mandatory Joint Use Agreements	The MGA (s.670) enables Joint Use Agreements as a voluntary agreement to address the allocation of municipal and school reserves.	Require municipalities to enter into JUAs with school boards within their municipal boundaries and to collaborate with respect to addressing the effective and efficient use of municipal and school reserve lots. The contents of a JUA would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the process for acquiring and disposing of land and associated servicing standards for the schools; • a process for enabling and developing long term and integrated planning for school sites/facilities; • a process for determining access agreements for facilities and playing fields, including matters related to any maintenance, liabilities and fees; • a dispute resolution mechanism agreed to by both the municipality and the school boards; • a process for determining ancillary reserve use to complement or enhance the primary school uses for reserve land outlined in the MGA and that have a public benefit; • a time frame and mechanism for regular review of the joint use agreement. Consequential amendments may be required to the <i>School Act</i> and the <i>Education Act</i> .

OFF-SITE LEVIES

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities can collect off-site levies from new developments within their boundaries to pay for servicing upgrades related to water, sanitary sewage, storm sewer drainage, and municipal roads. Through the *MMGA*, it is proposed to expand this levy to include fire halls, police stations, libraries, and community recreation facilities.

CONTEXT OF AMENDMENTS:

During the summer, stakeholders brought forward additional issues related to off-site levies.

Provincial Transportation Systems

A levy system could be implemented to fund provincial highway improvements that service a new development upon its completion (for example, highway overpasses and interchanges); this would support the creation of more comprehensively planned communities. Approval by the Minister of Transportation would be required to ensure the levy costs align with Alberta Transportation's projected costs for the construction of the infrastructure. Alberta Transportation would also have an opportunity to review and comment on any proposed new development and its impacts on Provincial highway infrastructure when statutory plans are created.

Inter-municipal Off-site Levies

Stakeholders indicated that, in some instances, off-site infrastructure or the benefit of additional off-site infrastructure may extend into developments in another municipality. It was proposed that municipalities should have the ability to levy for off-site infrastructure across municipal borders. This is consistent with the strong intermunicipal collaboration focus of the *MMGA*, enabling intermunicipal off-site levies would be an additional tool to increase regional collaboration.

In this model, when new or expanded off-site infrastructure is located in one municipality, but the benefitting area extends to one or more other municipalities, off-site levies could be charged to developments in either municipality benefitting from the infrastructure.

Validating Existing Off-site Levy Bylaws

Some municipalities have existing bylaws and agreements in place, and the proposed new off-site levy provisions may create legal challenges for some of these off-site levy bylaws or agreements. Validating existing off-site levy bylaws and agreements would ensure off-site levy bylaws and development agreements created before a specific date would remain valid until such time as the agreement expires or the bylaw is amended.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Education

In some situations, off-site levies may be applied to school developments. School Boards have requested that they be exempted from the application of off-site levies for school site projects given that new schools provide a public benefit within communities. It is proposed that school boards be exempt from paying off-site levies on developments related to school board purposes.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT DISCUSSION:

Topics	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Provincial Transportation Systems	The <i>MGA</i> (s.648) authorizes councils, by bylaw, to impose levies on land that is to be developed or sub-divided and sets out parameters for the imposition and collection of levies. The legislation does not currently allow for levies related to provincial infrastructure upgrades.	Enable off-site levies, by bylaw, to be charged for provincial transportation projects that serve the new or expanded developments. Require approval of the Minister of Transportation before this type of levy can be collected. Consequential amendment to the <i>Public Highways Development Act</i> may be required to authorize the Minister of Transportation to approve municipal off-site levy bylaws pertaining to provincial highway off-site levies.
Intermunicipal Off-Site Levies	The legislation does not currently allow for intermunicipal off-site levies.	Enable municipalities to collaborate with one another on the sharing of intermunicipal off-site levies, including the expanded uses (libraries, police stations, fire halls, community recreation facilities).
Validating Existing Off-Site Levy Bylaws	This item is not currently addressed in the legislation.	Specifically, state that any off-site levy fee or charge made by bylaw or agreement before November 1, 2016 is deemed to be valid.
Education	This item is not currently addressed in the legislation.	Exempt school boards from paying off-site levies on non-reserve lands that are developed for school board purposes.

CONSERVATION RESERVE

BACKGROUND:

As part of the subdivision application approval process, a municipality may require a portion of the land to be dedicated for a public benefit such as a park or school. Such lands are called reserve land. The *MGA* requires municipalities to follow a public process when removing the reserve designation from most municipal, community services, and school reserve lands. Lands designated as environmental reserve cannot have the reserve designation removed, but the use of this land can be altered through a council bylaw process.

Under the *MMGA* a new type of reserve land designation, conservation reserve, was proposed. Under this model conservation reserve would be collected during the subdivision application process and used to protect environmentally significant areas. The conservation reserve land assembly process would ensure owners of land taken as conservation reserve are appropriately compensated. Should land be dedicated as conservation reserve, the dedication could not be removed.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

During the summer, stakeholders indicated that further clarity is required with respect to how conservation reserves should be identified, transferred between municipalities, and protected.

Stakeholders are seeking clarity and predictability within the land designation process and in order for municipalities and landowners to make more informed land-use planning decisions. Stakeholders were also interested in whether the conservation reserve land designation could be removed on lands that have lost their conservation significance (e.g. flood, fire).

The specific changes proposed include:

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Transfer of conservation reserve	The <i>MGA</i> (s.127) identifies what an order to annex lands may require.	Require the municipality receiving the annexed land to pay compensation to the other municipality for any conservation reserve lands within the annexed area in the amount that the municipality originally paid for the land.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Transfer of conservation reserve	<p>The <i>MGA</i> ensures that during formations, annexations, amalgamations, and dissolutions ownership of any land, or portion of land, designated as a public utility lot, environmental reserve, municipal and school reserve, transfers to the new municipal authority (s.135(1)(c), (2) and (2.1)).</p> <p>The <i>MGA</i> also indicates that if reserve lands are sold or money instead of land is received by the old municipality after notification of annexation or amalgamation, the proceeds of the sale or money received must be paid to the new municipal authority by the old municipal authority.</p>	<p>Specifically state that the proposed new Conservation Reserve designation is treated the same as these other categories of land and that the designation would remain on that land until such time as it is changed through any required processes.</p>
Identification of conservation reserve	<p>The <i>MGA</i> outlines what a Municipal Development Plan must and may contain (s.632(3))</p>	<p>Clarify that in addition to other types of reserve land that must be included in an MDP, a municipality may include policies addressing the proposed new conservation reserve designation, including types and locations of environmentally significant areas and the environmental purpose of conservation.</p>
Identification of conservation reserve	<p>The <i>MGA</i> indicates that an Area Structure Plan may contain any other matters a council considers necessary (s.633(2)(b)).</p>	<p>Specifically state that municipalities may develop policies addressing reserve lands within their area structure plans. This would include identifying types and locations of environmentally significant areas and the environmental value of conservation.</p>
Exempting conservation reserve lands from paying municipal property taxes.	<p>The <i>MGA</i> exempts environmental reserves, municipal reserves, school reserves, municipal and school reserves and other undeveloped property reserved for public utilities from paying municipal property taxes (s.361.c).</p>	<p>Exempt land designated as conservation reserve under the proposed new provisions from paying municipal property taxes.</p>
Disposal of conservation reserve	<p>The proposals in the <i>MMGA</i> do not address removal of the conservation reserve designation or sale of conservation reserve lands.</p>	<p>Allow municipalities to dispose of land designated as the proposed new conservation reserve when a substantive change outside of municipal control occurs to the feature being conserved, while ensuring the public process used to dispose of municipal reserve and school reserves is followed with the disposal of conservation reserve lands</p> <p>Specifically state that any proceeds from the disposal of conservation reserve would have to be used for conservation purposes.</p>

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION—HOW ARE MUNICIPALITIES FUNDED?

COMPLIANCE WITH THE LINKED TAX RATE RATIO

BACKGROUND:

Municipalities currently have the ability to distribute property taxes between non-residential and residential property owners however they wish. In some municipalities, this has led to non-residential tax rates increasing much faster than residential tax rates. In some cases, non-residential property tax rates are more than 10 times higher than the residential property tax rates. The MMGA proposed a maximum ratio of 5:1 between the highest non-residential property tax rate and the lowest residential property tax rate. Under this proposal, municipalities that had higher tax rate ratios would be able to maintain their ratio from year to year, but would not be permitted to increase it.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Feedback from stakeholders over the summer indicated that further consultation was required to determine whether municipalities currently outside of the proposed 5:1 ratio should be required to come into compliance with the maximum ratio within an established timeframe rather than have their ratios maintained at current levels.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
<p>Compliance Timeframe</p>	<p>No required compliance date has been proposed for municipalities outside of the proposed ratio.</p>	<p>Add a provision requiring municipalities to comply with the proposed maximum tax rate ratio.</p> <p>Allow the Minister to set a schedule with progressively lower maximum tax ratios that municipalities exceeding the 5:1 ratio would have to meet in the intervening years. The Minister would have authority to set timeframes by which municipalities or groupings of municipalities would have to reach the 5:1 ratio, based upon how much their local ratio diverges from the legislated 5:1 ratio. Municipalities would always set their own tax rates, but within the ratios set out in the regulation.</p> <p>Add a provision giving the Minister authority to exempt a municipality from any aspect of the proposed compliance schedule if and when they consider it appropriate.</p>

TAXATION OF INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

BACKGROUND:

Intensive agricultural operations are large-scale farming operations that take place on a relatively small land area, often with extensive use of farm buildings and improvements such as structures, fencing, and lighting. Farm buildings and improvements are currently exempt from property taxation in rural municipalities and, due to changes proposed through the *MMGA*, may soon be exempt from property taxation in all municipalities. The result could be that intensive agricultural operations, which have large investments in farm buildings and improvements, may pay about the same amount of property tax as non-intensive farms of similar land area.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Intensive agricultural operations generally move large volumes of animals or agricultural products which can cause significant wear and tear on municipal infrastructure such as roads and bridges. This can result in high maintenance costs for municipalities. Throughout the *MGA* Review there has been consistent conversation about how to ensure that these operations contribute funds to their municipalities commensurate with their impact on municipal infrastructure and services.

Should such a change be included in the *MGA*, discussion with stakeholders would be required to get input and perspective on regulatory requirements.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
<p>Levy on Intensive Agriculture</p>	<p>There are no specific provisions for intensive agriculture operations</p>	<p>Explicitly authorize municipalities to pass a bylaw imposing a levy on intensive agricultural operations.</p> <p>Also authorize the creation of regulations respecting the intensive agricultural operations levy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the definition of intensive agricultural operations; • the calculation of the levy; • the purposes for which funds collected through the levy may be used; and, • any other matter necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purpose of the levy.

ACCESS TO ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

BACKGROUND:

The *MMGA* proposed consolidating several industrial property types (major plants; facilities regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Utilities Commission and National Energy Board; railway properties; and linear property) under a new classification of Designated Industrial Property (DIP) which will all be assessed centrally by the Province.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Property owners and municipalities both have a stake in ensuring that assessments prepared for these properties are accurate, which is why both parties would have the ability to file complaints about assessments prepared by the province. Property owners would have a legislated right to request information sufficient to show how the assessor prepared their assessment, but as the proposed legislation is currently drafted, municipalities would not have a similar right.

Some of the information that would be used to prepare DIP assessments is considered confidential by industrial property owners. This information may be necessary for a municipality to understand how the assessment was prepared, but it should not be shared or used for purposes outside of this process.

Any amendments to the proposals in the *MMGA* would provide municipalities with the right to access the information used to prepare an assessment of DIP property within their jurisdiction in order to understand how the assessment was prepared, but would also protect confidential information about the industrial property in question.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Access to DIP Assessment Information	The <i>MMGA</i> as written would not allow municipalities access to information regarding how a DIP assessment was prepared.	<p>Include provisions in the proposed new legislation to allow a municipality to request information regarding assessments of designated industrial property in their jurisdiction. The provincial assessor would have to comply with this request except while there is an active complaint from the municipality on the property.</p> <p>Under this proposal, municipalities requesting information on provincially prepared assessments could be required to sign a standardized confidentiality agreement to ensure that information provided by property owners is only used to determine if the property is assessable, if the assessment is prepared correctly, if a complaint is warranted; and to prepare a case.</p>
Providing the Information to Municipalities	The <i>MGA</i> is silent on this matter.	Specifically state that information provided to the province by property owners under sections 294 and 295 could be provided to municipalities upon request, subject to confidentiality requirements.

ASSESSMENT NOTICES

BACKGROUND:

It is not sufficiently clear when assessment complaint periods begin and end due to ambiguity regarding when documents are understood to be sent and received.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Stakeholders expressed that it is important to remove ambiguity about the complaint period for assessment notices.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
Notice of Assessment Date	Assessment notices must include the deadline for filing a complaint about the assessment, which must be 60 days from the date the assessment notice is sent.	Requires municipalities and, in the case of the proposed <i>MMGA</i> provisions, the provincial assessor to set a “notice of assessment date” which would be required to be between January 1 and July 1. The notice of assessment date would be included on assessment notices, and assessment notices would be sent prior to the notice of assessment date. Enable municipalities and the proposed provincial assessor to establish additional notice of assessment dates for amended and supplementary assessment notices, which could occur at any time throughout the year. The deadline for filing a complaint about an assessment would be 60 days from the notice of assessment date.

CLARITY REGARDING TAX EXEMPTIONS

BACKGROUND:

Any Crown interest in property is exempt from taxation under the *MGA*. This includes Provincial agencies as defined under the *Financial Administration Act*.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

While any Crown interest is exempt from taxation, the government recognizes that it is fair and appropriate to compensate municipalities for the services the municipality provides to these properties (such as water, sewer, and fire protection).

The provincial government has the discretion to pay municipalities a grant up to the amount the municipality would collect in property taxes if a Crown property were not exempt from taxation. In other cases, where the government leases property, the lease agreement often means that the property owner pays property taxes on behalf of the government. Given the wide range of leasing and accommodations arrangements by provincial government entities, greater clarity is being sought by stakeholders regarding the responsibility of Crown agencies to pay property taxes.

The definition of “Provincial agencies” in the *Financial Administration Act* specifically excludes Alberta Health Services and housing management bodies established under the *Alberta Housing Act*. The *Municipal Government Act* (section 362) also specifically exempts schools, colleges and universities from property taxes. Any proposed amendment would not affect the tax status of Alberta Health Services properties, social housing, schools or universities.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current	Proposed Changes
Taxation of Provincial Agencies	Under the <i>MGA</i> , any property interest held by a Provincial agency is exempt from taxation.	Specifically state that properties owned, leased and held by provincial agencies (as defined in the <i>Financial Administration Act</i>) are taxable for the purposes of property taxation. This would not include Alberta Health Services, housing management bodies established under the <i>Alberta Housing Act</i> , schools, colleges and universities.

CORRECTIONS TO ASSESSMENTS UNDER COMPLAINT

BACKGROUND:

The *MGA* (as amended by the *MMGA*) would allow an assessor to revise an assessment, even if the assessment is under complaint; however, the current framework for assessment complaints does not include a suitable process for the assessor to revise assessments that are under complaint.

CONTEXT OF TOPIC:

Until recently, assessors’ authority to revise assessments was limited to correcting minor technical errors. A recent ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada has re-interpreted the *MGA* to expand assessors’ authority to revise assessments, including the ability to increase assessments. The combination of expanding the type of revisions that an assessor can make and allowing assessors to revise assessments that are under complaint has implications for the assessment complaint framework.

The proposed amendments are intended to provide a suitable process whereby the assessor can revise assessments during the complaint process, but fully maintain the property owner’s rights to review their assessment and file a complaint.

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT FOR DISCUSSION:

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
<p>Changes to Assessments under complaint</p>	<p>Under the <i>MGA</i> as amended by the <i>MMGA</i>, assessors would be permitted to revise an assessment even after a complaint has been filed on the assessment.</p>	<p>Establish the following process for revising an assessment that is under complaint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require an amended assessment notice, along with written reasons for the changes to the assessment, to be sent to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the assessed person; ○ the municipality (if the property is Designated Industrial Property); ○ the complainant (if it is not the assessed person); and ○ the assessment review board or Municipal Government Board (depending on the property type). • Require the assessment review board or Municipal Government Board to cancel the complaint, notify the property owner of the cancellation, and refund the complaint fee. <p>An amended assessment notice is not required if an assessment is revised as a result of a complaint being withdrawn by agreement between the complainant and the assessor, except in the case of the proposed new Designated Industrial Property class.</p>

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Topic	Current Status	Proposed Changes
		<p>An assessed person or a municipality would be able to file a complaint about the amended assessment notice within 60 days of the assessment notice date.</p> <p>Do not permit an assessor to revise an assessment after an assessment review board or the Municipal Government Board has rendered a decision on a complaint regarding the assessment.</p>

GENERAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

GENERAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS—GOVERNANCE

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>Other Requirements for a Petition s.224 (MGA) This section indicates that a witness to a petition signature must take an affidavit indicating the signatory to a petition is eligible to sign.</p>	<p>Clarify that the inclusion of witness affidavits is required upon submission of a petition.</p>	<p>The absence of affidavits makes it difficult to determine the validity of signatures, and therefore the overall sufficiency of a petition. The inclusion of an explicit provision requiring affidavit submission will assist in either compelling their submission or finding the petition to be insufficient.</p>
<p>Contents of an Operating Budget s.243(1) This indicates that a municipal operating budget must include the estimated amount of specific expenditures and transfers.</p>	<p>Add a requirement to include the estimated amount of expenditures and transfers needed to meet the municipality’s obligations for services funded under a proposed Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) or a revenue sharing agreement.</p>	<p>This amendment would ensure that funding obligations under proposed ICFs would be addressed, and will also continue the provisions in a soon-to-expire regulation governing the sharing of revenue from Improvement District 349 in the Bonnyville-Cold Lake region (ID 349 Revenue Sharing Regulation).</p>
<p>Advertisement Bylaw s.606(2)(c) (MGAA, 2015) This section authorizes a municipality to advertise only on its website and without the requirement of a bylaw.</p>	<p>Repeal subsection (2)(c), repeal the reference to it in s.606.1(4) and repeal the additional notice requirement in s.606(6)(e) that relates only to notification given on a website under subsection (2)(c).</p>	<p>Some stakeholders raised concerns with the potential lack of transparency that could result. 606(2)(d) and 606.1 allow for the same form of notification while including additional transparency and accountability measures if a council wants to use such alternative notification methods. In practice, this means that a municipality could still use their website as a means of satisfying public notification requirements, but only if a bylaw had been passed, following a public hearing, to enable this approach.</p>

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>FOIP and Closed Council meetings s.197 Indicates when a meeting may be closed with reference to the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> (FOIPP).</p>	<p>Remove the direct reference to the FOIPP provisions. This matter will be addressed by directly referencing the allowable exceptions within a proposed regulation.</p>	<p>The Privacy Commissioner has identified that the reference to the exceptions from FOIPP should be replaced by specific provisions in the <i>MGA</i> or associated regulations. This change would allow the description of the exceptions to be clearer by framing them in the context of meetings. The exceptions will be incorporated into the proposed Closed Council Meetings Regulation.</p>
<p>Form of Nomination The Local Authorities Elections Act (LAEA) (s.27(1)) includes the requirement that each candidate must provide a written acceptance, which includes the statements that the candidate is eligible to be elected and will accept the office if elected.</p>	<p>Add a new provision to the <i>LAEA</i> to require candidates to acknowledge the requirement to read and comply with the municipality's code of conduct if elected.</p>	<p>This is consistent with the intent of requiring all municipalities to have a code of conduct in the 2015 <i>MGAA</i>.</p>
<p>Revision Authorized s.63 (MGA) This section allows council, by bylaw, to authorize administration to revise a bylaw in accordance with a list of permitted revisions.</p>	<p>Add a requirement to allow council, by resolution, to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer of a municipality to revise a bylaw in accordance with a list of permitted revisions.</p>	<p>Stakeholders have expressed a need to clarify the process for correcting minor errors to bylaws.</p>
<p>Requirements Relating to Substituted Bylaws s.65 (MGA) This section sets out deeming requirements for passing revised bylaws.</p>	<p>Clarify that this section operates despite the provisions in s.191, which deals with the power to amend or repeal a bylaw.</p>	<p>Stakeholders have expressed a need to clarify the process for correcting minor errors to bylaws.</p>

GENERAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS—PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>Environmental Reserve s.664(1)(a) This section identifies the types of land that can be dedicated as Environmental Reserve during subdivision application processes.</p>	<p>Change the reference from swamp to wetland.</p>	<p>Changing swamp to wetland will modernize the language in the MGA and harmonize the legislation with the wetland policy that was developed by Environment and Parks.</p>
<p>Statutory Plans s.636.1 The MGA addresses notifications with respect to statutory plans and the provision of opportunities for suggestions or representations regarding those plans.</p>	<p>Add a requirement that area structure plans with a provincial highway component will need to be referred to Alberta Transportation.</p>	<p>Alberta Transportation has indicated that this will assist with their long-range planning.</p>
<p>Subdivision and Development Appeals s. 686(1.1) This section indicates the date of notification of an order, decision or development permit is deemed to be 7 days from the date mailed.</p>	<p>Ensure that the appeal period is the same for posted, advertised or mailed notices.</p>	<p>Development permit decisions can be posted, advertised or mailed, depending on a municipalities land use bylaw.</p> <p>Maintaining this provision, as is, would mean that mailed notices would have 21 days to file an appeal, but that published or advertised notices would only have 14 days.</p> <p>An amendment to adjust this section to make the appeal period the same for posted, advertised and mailed and published notices was not possible through house amendment.</p>

GENERAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS—ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>New Extension of Linear Property Regulation</p>	<p>Exclude the Extension of Linear Property Regulation from s.603.1(3) and have it become repealed either upon the coming into force of a new regulation or on December 31, 2020</p>	<p>This regulation treats electric power generation plants that have the ability to sell power as linear property for assessment and taxation purposes.</p> <p>The Extension of Linear Property Regulation is a section 603 made regulation that expires June 30, 2017. There is a need to have the regulation remain until the matter is dealt with in the Matters Relating to Assessment & Taxation Regulation (MRAT)</p>
<p>New Electric Energy Exemption Regulation Elevation</p>	<p>Elevate the policy of this s.603 regulation directly into the MGA, thereby enabling the Minister by Order to exempt certain components of properties from education property tax, where those components are used for or in the generation of electricity.</p>	<p>The regulation enables the making of a Ministerial Order to exempt components used for or in the generation of electricity of ‘electric power systems’ from paying education property taxes.</p> <p>The Electric Energy Exemption Regulation first came into effect January 1, 2001 to provide for the consistent property assessment of all types electric power generating systems, to provide for a tax incentive that would attract industry investment, and to mitigate any adverse financial impacts for certain municipalities in a deregulated market environment for electric power generation.</p> <p>This regulation expires on June 30, 2017 and cannot be renewed under s.603 which provides time-limited regulation-making authority. The <i>Municipal Government Amendment Act (2015)</i> saw the elevation of other s.603 regulations in the Act; for others, new regulation-making authority was created.</p>

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>Right to enter on and inspect a property s. 294 Assessors have the right to enter and inspect property for the purpose of preparing an assessment or determining if a property is to be assessed (section 294 of the <i>MGA</i>). Assessors also have the right to compel people to provide any information necessary for the assessor to carry out their duties under the <i>MGA</i>.</p>	<p>Clarify the legislation so that the purposes for which assessors are permitted to inspect properties are aligned with the right of assessors to request information to carry out their duties under Parts 9-12 of the <i>MGA</i>.</p>	<p>Information should only be used for the purpose for which it was collected. Aligning the purposes for which an assessor may request information and perform an inspection would mean that all information in the assessors' possession can be used for the same purpose (i.e. to carry out their duties and responsibilities under the <i>MGA</i>).</p>
<p>Assessment information An assessed person may ask the municipality or, under the <i>MMGA</i> proposals, the provincial assessor for sufficient information to determine how the assessor prepared the assessment of that person's property. The municipality or proposed provincial assessor must comply unless the property owner has filed a complaint about their assessment and the issue has not been resolved.</p> <p>Under the <i>MMGA</i> proposals, assessors could compel property owners to provide records during an inspection or respond to a request for information at any time, regardless of whether an assessment on the property is under complaint.</p>	<p>Clarify that assessors may not compel a property owner to provide records during an inspection or respond to a request for information relative to the current assessment year if the property owner has filed a complaint about their assessment.</p> <p>The assessor may still request information or compel the property owner to provide records relative to the upcoming assessment year.</p>	<p>This amendment would create a better balance between the access to information rights of property owners and assessors. It would mean that while a complaint is active, both parties are only obliged to share information as part of the complaint process.</p>
<p>Subclasses Under the <i>MMGA</i> proposals, councils would be permitted to set different tax rates for sub-classes of non-residential property (as defined in the regulations). Assessors would be required to apply the sub-classes defined in the regulation to assessments even if council wishes to tax all sub-classes at the same rate.</p>	<p>Clarify that assessors would only be required to apply non-residential sub-classes in the assessment process if council chooses to tax the sub-classes differently.</p>	<p>Applying non-residential sub-classes to property assessments would require additional work and investment in information technology infrastructure for most municipalities. This amendment would allow municipalities to avoid these expenses if they choose not to use non-residential sub-classes.</p>

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MGA

November 2016

Current	Proposed	Rationale
<p>Liability Code Assessments rolls and notices are required to include a “liability code”, which is assigned by the assessor (section 303(f.1)).</p>	<p>Remove the requirement to include a liability code on assessment rolls and notices.</p>	<p>This code was required because provincial auditors made use of it when auditing municipal assessments – it is not meaningful for property owners or municipalities. It is no longer required for the audit program.</p>
<p>Receipts Municipalities are required to provide a receipt when taxes are paid (section 342).</p>	<p>Clarify that municipalities will be required to provide a receipt when taxes are paid, unless otherwise advised by the property owner.</p>	<p>Costs associated with issuing receipts (usually by mail) may be unnecessary if property owners do not wish to receive a receipt.</p>

Mackenzie County Action List as of December 13, 2016

Council Meeting Motions Requiring Action

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
February 27, 2013 Council Meeting			
13-02-121	That administration continue to work towards expanding the Fort Vermilion Bridge Campground recreational area by applying for a lease with Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development that encompasses both existing and future area.	Ron	Site work complete. Waiting for report/clearance.
May 28, 2013 Council Meeting			
13-05-375	That the Zama Access paving be the first capital priority for paving a road outside a hamlet boundary and that administration continue reviewing options and applying for provincial and/or federal grants as these may become available with intent to complete the paving of this road.	CAO	2017 Budget REDI is discussing at the next NTAA meeting.
July 29, 2015 Council Meeting			
15-07-531	That administration be authorized to negotiate a Mutual Aid Agreement with Tall Cree First Nation.	CAO	Emails & Phone Call to the Chief – no response
August 26, 2015 Council Meeting			
15-08-604	That administration further review and bring back additional information regarding access issues on the Sand Hills Road.	Byron Len	2016-12-13
October 28, 2015 Council Meeting			
15-10-801	<p>That administration draft a fireworks policy based on the following:</p> <p>The Municipality will, prior to issuing permission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting the purchase, possession, handling, discharge, fire or set-off; obtain from the applicant written confirmation that the person: • Will conduct activities in accordance with safe practices outlined in the Alberta Fire Code, • Is of at least 18 years of age, and • Respecting sales, obtain from the owner of the retail business, written confirmation that the business: • Holds a valid municipal business license or confirmation of ownership of the business when the municipality does not require business to hold such license, • Employees handling fireworks for sale are of at least 18 years of age, • Manufacturer's instructions are posted at the sales location and provided with each sale, • Record of each sale is retained for examination by the Fire SCO, and • Stores fireworks in conformance with Part 3 of the 	Ron	<p>Meeting held with Agriculture and Forestry, they are responsible for issuing Firework permits during the fire season.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 2016</p>

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
	Alberta Fire Code		
December 14, 2015 Special Council (Budget) Meeting			
15-12-956	That the 2015 Fort Vermilion Cold Storage/Emergency Generator Building Project funds be redirected to the Fort Vermilion Shop Office Addition and that the additional shop bay be brought to the 2017 budget deliberations.	Ron	2017 Budget Deliberations
February 9, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-02-093	That administration draft a policy for the appointment of Members at Large.	Carol	March 2017
February 22, 2016 Council Meeting			
16-02-135	That the County covers the additional cost of the survey on Plan 5999CL, Lot E to date and have administration release a copy of the report to the landowner informing them that the initial investigation survey has been completed.	Byron	Initial report has been received, still awaiting final report Investigated by Director of Surveys
March 8, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-03-158	That administration researches grant funding options for covering the costs of hazardous materials removal from the condemned office building on the experimental farm in Fort Vermilion.	CAO	2017 Budget Deliberations Scheduled to be burnt in fall 2016. Quote to haul it away.
16-03-178	That administration pursues taking possession of the southerly gravel pit lease DRS 834, and delays pursuing possession of the northerly gravel pit lease DRS 780149.	Ron Mark	February 2017
March 23, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-03-216	That administration proceeds with obtaining access in Mackenzie County's name for the E½ 30-101-17-W5M and the S½ 3-102-17-W5M.	Dave	In progress (Roads to New Lands – Blue Hills)
May 10, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-05-354	That administration be authorized to proceed as follows in regards to the Zama Crown Land Procurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cancel PLS 080023; pursue acquisition of land parcels as identified on the map presented in red; identify a parcel of land to be subdivided from Title Number 102 145 574 +1 (Short Legal 0923884; 21; 1) and offered for trade or sale to Alberta Environment and Parks due to its unsuitability for a hamlet development , specifically the land use restrictions per Alberta Energy Regulator. 	Don	PLS Cancelled Need to submit 2 different applications. \$1,050 fee per application. 2017 Budget Deliberations
June 14, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-06-440	That Bylaw 1030-16 being a road closure bylaw for the closure of government road allowance between Section 28 and 29 Township 108, Range 13, W5M for the purpose of consolidation be forwarded to the Minister of	Byron	Ministerial Order Required 6 months to 1 Year

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
	Transportation for approval.		
16-06-441	That Bylaw 1031-16 being a road closure bylaw for the closure of all of Plan 2982PX within SE ¼ Section 28, Township 108, Range 13, W5M lying north and east of Plan 1508PX for the purpose of consolidation be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation for approval.	Byron	Ministerial Order Required 6 months to 1 Year
16-06-442	That Bylaw 1032-16 being a road closure bylaw for the closure of all of the uncanceled portion of Plan 2144EU within SE ¼ Section 28, Township 108, Range 13, W5M lying northeast of Plan 1508PX and northwest of Plan 2982PX for the purpose of consolidation be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation for approval.	Byron	Ministerial Order Required 6 months to 1 Year
16-06-443	That Bylaw 1033-16 being a road closure bylaw for the closure of all of the uncanceled portion of Plan 2144EU within SE ¼ Section 28, Township 108, Range 13, W5M lying south of Plan 2982PX for the purpose of consolidation be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation for approval.	Byron	Ministerial Order Required 6 months to 1 Year
16-06-457	<p>That Mackenzie County support the following projects for application under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That administration prepares an application under the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure program for the identified Parks & Campgrounds projects and that the 2016 budget be amended to include an additional \$37,000 from the General Capital Reserve, subject to grant funding. • That a letter of support be provided to the Fort Vermilion Recreation Board for the replacement of the Ice Plant at a cost of \$980,000 and that the 2016 budget be amended to include the County's portion (50% of the project) with \$200,000 in funds coming from Recreation Facilities – Fort Vermilion Reserve, and \$280,000 in funds coming from the General Capital Reserve, subject to grant funding. • That a letter of support be provided to the La Crete Recreation Society for the renovation of the arena lobby and kitchen at a cost of \$830,000 and that the 2016 budget be amended to include the County's portion (50% of the project) with funds coming from General Capital Reserve, subject to grant funding. • That a letter of support be provided to the Old Bay House Society, the Zama Recreation Board, and the High Level Agricultural Society towards their Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program grant applications. 	<p>Ron – letters of support</p> <p>Peng – budget amendments</p>	Mackenzie County application was not successful.
June 30, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-06-512	That administration bring back additional information specific to individual properties affected by the hamlet utility easements.	Fred	2016-11-23

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
July 12, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-07-526	That the County pursue purchasing the leased lands at the Wadlin Lake and Hutch Lake campgrounds.	Ron Len	2017 Budget Deliberations Request was made to the Minister.
16-07-529	That the County agree to the request from Alberta Transportation to create a municipal road allowance on the 14 km access from the Wentzel River to the Peace River crossing accessing Fox Lake and that the County not be responsible for capital, operational and maintenance costs; or liability for the public road way and the ferry/ice-bridge.	CAO Bill K.	Notified AT Response letter received 2016-07-29 Waiting for agreement from AT
August 9, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-08-570	That administration meet with sawmills/forestry companies in regards to summer log hauling and Road Use Agreements.	Ron Dave	February 2017
16-08-575	That the budget be amended to include an additional \$10,000 from the General Capital Reserve for the Fort Vermilion – Ice Chiller project, subject to grant funding.	Peng	Pending Canada 150 grant approval
16-08-599	That administration proceed with registering the utility right of way on NE 3-106-15-W5M and NW 3-106-15-W5M. (La Crete SE Drainage Ditch)	Byron	Signed. Submit to Land Titles. December 2016
16-08-601	That Policy DEV001 Urban Development Standards and Policy DEV007 Rural Development Standards be amended to clarify procedures for oversizing requirements.	Byron	December 2016
August 24, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-08-626	That a letter be sent to Parks Canada and the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (Species at Risk Act) regarding the Disease Risk Bison and the potential disease transfer to caribou.	Byron	In progress
16-08-627	That the Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and Mackenzie County for the Peace Officer be approved and that administration submit the proposal to RCMP K Division for ratification.	Ron	Signed MOU was received.
16-08-649	That administration be authorized to place pit run on a section of trail through section 7-108-9-W5M up to a maximum of \$3,000 with funding coming from the operating budget.	Dave	
16-08-656	That administration draft an endeavor to assist policy for lateral water lines.	Fred	March 2017
September 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-09-630	That the range management plans for Northwestern	Byron	In progress

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
	Alberta address the future of both Wood Bison and Woodland Caribou within the existing protection areas.	Bill K.	
16-09-637	That the assessor be informed that the cabins at Bistcho Lake should have been reclassified to Residential in 2014 due to the closure of commercial fishing.	Peng	RFD to Council for update
16-09-648	That administration contacts the assessor and have the repeat Tax Roll reductions reassessed.	Peng	RFD to Council for update
September 28, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-09-673	That a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Employment to preserve Canada Post's national retail network.	Len	In progress
16-09-698	That Mackenzie County apply for funding through the Alberta Government, Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES) Grant for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithium Investment Opportunity Marketplace (as a Tri-Council application) 	Byron	2017-02-01 Tri-Council Meeting
October 11, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-10-721	That Bylaw 1041-16 being a Road Closure Bylaw to close all of the Government Road Allowance adjoining the south boundary of SW 18-104-17-W5M for the purpose of sale and consolidation be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation for approval.	Byron	Waiting for Minister Approval
16-10-726	That Mackenzie County proceeds with an application to change the name of the Fort Vermilion Airport, which respectively recognizes Wilfrid Reid "Wop" May and his efforts during his January 1929 mercy flight from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion.	Byron	In progress
16-10-743	That Mackenzie County proceeds with acquiring the additional right-of-way from SE 17-106-15-5 that is required for future road improvements in the Hamlet of La Crete.	Byron	Engage WSP
October 25, 2016 Organizational Council Meeting			
16-10-753	That Bylaw 977-14 Organizational and Procedural Matters of Council, Council Committees and Councillors be brought back with the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 60 – remove "by providing a statutory declaration or affidavit sworn or declared before the CAO or Commissioner for Oaths prior to the next regular Council meeting". Include a section to allow for the rotation of the Chair. 	Carol	2016-12-13
October 26, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-10-797	That a letter be sent to CN Rail requesting that they continue service and upgrade the service in Keg River.	Grant	

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
16-10-798	That a letter be sent to MP Warkentin, MP Viersen, MLA Jabbour and federal and provincial agriculture ministers, with a copy to the County of Northern Lights, regarding the maintaining and upgrading the producer car siding service in Keg River.	Grant	
16-10-805	That a response letter be sent to the Town of High Level indicating that the new pickup truck is not viewed as an airport capital improvement expenditure and that the sports complex expansion project amount be amended to the \$3,152,350 budget that was presented at the High Level Sports Complex Design Task Force meeting on October 12, 2016, less any grants applied for.	Len Ron	
November 8, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-11-849	That a letter be sent to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General requesting clarification on the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch personnel ceasing attendance at Alberta airport facilities.	Len	
16-11-854	That Mackenzie County enter into a contract with Knelsen Sand & Gravel Ltd. to supply and load a minimum of 20,000 tonne 4-20/4-40 gravel from Knelsen Sand 7 Gravel yard in La Crete for the 2017 season.	Dave	
November 22, 2016 Budget Council Meeting			
	Bring back a separate discussion regarding a fire hall construction reserve.		
November 23, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-11-864	That a revised letter of support be sent to Alberta Seniors and Housing regarding the Boreal Housing Foundation Ministerial Order and that a letter be sent to the Boreal Housing Foundation (with a copy to Alberta Seniors and Housing) to recommend that the housing foundation bill back each member for honorarium and expense costs for each of their participating members.	Carol	
16-11-867	That a letter be sent to the Prime Minister and the Special Committee on Electoral Reform requesting that a referendum be held prior to the implementation of any proposed changes to the current first-past-the-post voting system for federal elections.		
16-11-868	That Mackenzie County initiate discussions with First Nations with the intention of creating a Memorandum of Understanding for a communication protocol between Mackenzie County and our First Nation neighbours.	Ron Jessica	
16-11-879	That Mackenzie County requests the Registrar to cancel the existing Certificate of Title for the following parcels of land and issue new Certificates of Title in the name of Mackenzie County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Roll 219457 	Peng	

Motion	Action Required	Action By	Status
16-11-880	That the following properties remain in the current owners name and that the County continues to attempt to collect property taxes and that the property be inspected and reassessed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax Roll 300574 	Peng	
16-11-884	That a bylaw be brought back to rescind Bylaw 904-13 being a bylaw to impose a local improvement tax for Water and Sewer Extension on 43 Avenue and a portion of 50 Street in the Hamlet of Fort Vermilion.	Fred Carol	2017-01-23
December 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting			
16-12-907	That Mackenzie County proceed with applying for the Inter-municipal Collaboration grant for creating an Integrated Resource Management Plan in partnership with the County of Northern Lights and other northwest municipalities.	Byron Jessica	
16-12-910	That Accredited Supportive Living Services be exempt from paying 6% of the 2017 property taxes for the office that they lease in La Crete.	Peng	
16-12-913	That administration change equipment values as determined and to engage in an appraisal for buildings over \$100,000 as per amended list in 2017.	Peng Ron	
16-12-914	That the tender be issued for the Zama City Vegetation Management project with a closing date of January 23, 2017.	Don	2017-01-23
16-12-920	That administration proceed with the water and sewer extension to the east of the college and church properties (future 49th street) and apply an off-site levy to the property owner to the east of these properties (Fort Vermilion Settlement, Range 3, Lot 8) for future development and that the budget be amended to include an additional \$16,000 with funding coming from the General Capital Reserve.	Fred Peng	Budget amendment completed.