

## Mayor's Report April 5th - 19th

**April 14**

### **AUMA Conference**

- The following were the education sessions.
  - Municipalities Role in Red Tape Reduction
  - COVID Recovery
  - Municipal Finances and Reserves (Provincial and Federal Governments should take lessons from Municipal Governments on how to handle finances).

**April 14**

### **Minister Dreeshen**

- We had a very productive meeting with the minister.
- Minister Dreeshen was very interested in the project and would be happy to take on the role of advocate for the facility.

**April 15**

### **AUMA Conference**

#### **Leader of the Opposition**

- In a video address to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association spring leadership convention, Notley said government budget cuts such as funding reductions to the municipal capital infrastructure program will kill jobs and take hundreds of millions of dollars out of local communities for
- The program was first outlined in February's budget and would take effect if Bill 56, which is currently in its second reading, passes in the legislature.
- She added that some municipalities may have no choice but to increase taxes on residents to pay for rising costs such as policing.
- The Village of Forestburg in east-central Alberta is recommending the AUMA lobby the province to allow municipalities to pass a special tax bylaw to raise money for policing.
- **Education session** on Municipal Elections

As part of Spring Municipal Leaders Caucus, participants considered the following member-submitted Requests for Decisions (RFDs)

#### **1. RFD from the Town of Slave Lake - All Albertans Deserve Access to Justice**

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Town of Slave Lake requests that the AUMA advocate for the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to ensure the justice system is properly resourced so that all Albertans have timely and equitable access to justice through:

1. Addressing court backlogs that create long delays for trials, with many cases simply not prosecuted due to the Jordan decision
2. Reforming bail hearings so that people with local expertise are present to inform judicial decisions; and

3. Holding a public inquiry that determines the causes of and proposes solutions to recidivism and prolific offenders.

## **2. Member RFD from the Village of Forestburg - Local Government Funding Framework (LGFF) Implementation**

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Council from the Village of Forestburg requests that the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to implement the proposed Local Government Funding Framework (LGFF) at the beginning of the province's 2023-24 fiscal year.

- **RFD from the Village of Forestburg — Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Government Act — Division 5**

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Council from the Village of Forestburg requests that the AUMA advocate for the provincial government to amend Section 382(1) of the Municipal Government Act to allow municipalities to pass a special tax bylaw to raise revenue to pay for policing services.

**All three recommendations passed.**

**April 15**

**MP Chris Warkentin**

- Council members had a productive meeting with MP Warkentin.
- He will discuss our project with his caucus and look for areas of the budget that may be suitable.

**April 16**

**AUMA Conference**

- Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIvor said that the decrease in base funding to be split by municipalities as part of Bill 56 is necessary to rein in spending.
- He discusses how Alberta's expenditures far exceed those of other provinces and that the GOA knows in the long run that is just not sustainable.
- Minister McIvor went on to state that we have an \$18-billion deficit in this year's budget and most Albertans would agree that all of us need to do what we can to live within our means while we're still providing the services to our citizens the best we can.

**April 16**

**CEDI**

- We met to discuss administration handover and capacity

**April 19**

**Women in the North Conference**

The mandate of this group and the conference is to bring training, networking opportunities, motivation and information to women in business and leadership positions. Last year the Conference was canceled due to COVID and this year the Conference was held virtually with speakers and workshops held from 11:45 to 1:00.

### **Kristen Cumming Leading Through Volatility**

- This session was about helping leaders understand their role and purpose when supporting people during volatile conditions.

- The content covered how to get clarity for yourself and for others, how to remain connected and resilient and how to commit to decisions and actions while working through a pandemic.
- Finally, the session covered how to lead during these turbulent times and new opportunities that turbulence sometimes provides.

**April 20**

**Boreal Housing**

- **In-Camera**

**April 20**

**AFPA (Jason Krips- CAO)**

- He discussed how Alberta's forest industry is deeply concerned about several different initiatives by the GOA that threaten to drastically increase the cost of electricity.
- Mechanical pulp mills and panel mills are especially at risk, the integrated nature of the industry means that a failed pulp or panel mill often causes other types of mills to fail as well.
- Failed mills also negatively affect small business and communities.
- Jason would appreciate advocacy from municipalities to the government underscoring the importance of forestry to our community and ask the government to consider pausing these initiatives and taking further steps to ensure an affordable electricity supply.

**Background Information As supplied by AFPA:**

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is:

- proposing changes to the way that costs of transmission are paid for by users.
- The proposed changes would see massive cost increases for large load users.
- As the proposal stands, 7 facilities in Alberta would see total electricity costs increase by more than 10%. 4 of the 7 facilities are forestry mills.
- This is unnecessary targeting of one of the few industries that is investing in Alberta.
- It also puts an unfair share of the burden for electricity transmission on northern and rural Alberta.
- It is important to note that while AESO is framing this issue as a 10% increase, the criteria they are using is 'total delivered electricity cost'. This means that transmission tariffs for the 7 identified facilities (and likely many other manufacturing facilities throughout the province) will increase by much more than 10%.
- The redesign discourages investment in manufacturing that has large electricity loads.
- Large load users are big employers that provide economic diversity to Alberta.
- As we work to make our economy less reliant on oil and gas, this type of manufacturing becomes increasingly important.
- AESO has not done sufficient analysis of the impact on investment or consumption.
- This effectively changes the rules of the game after investments have been made. These types of actions put a chill on investments and threaten our economic recovery.
- Alberta's industry competes with suppliers from around the world. Brazilian producers have larger mills, lower wages, and a quicker growing wood supply. They've put pulp mills around North America and Europe out of business. Increasing the proposed costs makes it very difficult to compete.

- With the current state of Alberta's economy and the impacts of COVID, there ought to have been serious consideration for lowering the rate of return. Ramming the decision through without consultation eliminated the chance to have that conversation.
- The AFPA has partnered with 9 other organizations to write a letter to the government expressing concerns about this decision and are asking forestry communities to write letters to key decision makers. Potential recipients for letters include:
  - MLA
  - The Premier
  - The Minister of Energy
  - The Associate Minister of Natural Gas and Electricity
  - Chair and CEO of AESO
  - Chair and CEO of the AUC Messages for Government:

#### **April 21 Bistcho Subregional/Caribou Plan**

- I took part in the public meeting for the Subregional plan.
- I strongly encourage all citizens of the Northwest region to please read the plan which can be found on the GOA webpage or google Bistcho Subregional public engagement and then take the survey provided online.
- There will also be Two more ZOOM dates for people to ask questions of the GOA presenters.

#### **The following dates and times are available:**

- May 6 at 10:00 am
- May 6 at 2:00 pm
- May 6 at 7:00 pm
- May 18 at 10:00 am
- May 18 at 2:00 pm
- May 18 at 7:00 pm

**April 21**  
**Jenifer Horvath**

**Women of the North Conference**  
**Managing Your Mental Health For**

#### **Improved Productivity and Leadership**

- Jennifer discussed how studies show that long-term stress impacts our ability to make good decisions, communicate effectively, stay motivated and get things done.
- Many of us were stressed before COVID-19, but the pandemic has added layers of stress, anxiety, and depression.
- The United Nations reports that women have been burdened disproportionately by the pandemic.
- Jennifer also discussed :
  - how stress and anxiety biologically impacts one's' executive abilities,
  - ways to manage that biological system for improved mental functioning.

**April 21**

**Sponsorship Task Force**

- The Task Force met to discuss how to proceed with finding sponsors for the Multi-Purpose/Evacuation Centre.
- The Team reviewed the "Terms of Reference" and decided to add two community members (One from the Dene Tha and one from the High Level).
- The Director of Community Services will compile a package for the Task Force members to deliver to prospective sponsors.

**April 23**

**Women of the North Conference**

**Beckie Scott**

**Impact of Effective Leadership**

- Beckie's story is about the importance of resilience, ethical decision-making and above all, leading with integrity.
- As we continue to adapt and adjust to the ever-changing realities of living and working through a global pandemic, Beckie presents fresh inspiration through her stories of lived-experience.
- Beckie Scott was very passionate when discussing practical solutions on how leaders, teams and organizations can overcome all obstacles for success.