

Coffee with Council – Division 3
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
6:00 pm
Lundbreck Hall

Attendees:

Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillors Dave Cox, John MacGarva and Jim Welsch, CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, Community Peace Officer Robyn Potter and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Audience:

Approximately 13 residents from the Division 5 area

Welcome from Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder

- Welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out.
- Introduced Councillors and MD staff.
- Reminder that the meeting is for all topics.

Councillor John MacGarva chaired the following dialogue:

Water Concerns:

- Updates weekly from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.
- New vertical intakes have been installed at the dam.
- Albera Environment is cautiously optimistic that the water level is holding.

Bylaw Officer (Community Peace Officer):

- CPO started in July.
- Will be attending the meeting, but was in the midst of giving a ticket for an overweight vehicle on the road.
- Open house is planned for October 6, 2025
 - Traffic Bylaw will be discussed
 - Community Standards Bylaw will be discussed
- A CPO has the authority to enforce traffic acts and other Provincial acts

Lundbreck Hamlet Study:

- Survey was done through ORRSC
 - Draft results will be out later this fall

New School proposal:

- Livingstone Range School Division has hosted a public meeting
- Concerns around gym size, but due to student numbers the school doesn't qualify for a larger gym.

Community Standards Bylaw:

- Administration clarified that it isn't a new Bylaw, but encompasses noise, unsightly premises, etc.

McKim's thanked Council and the Agricultural Service Board for the nomination to the BMO Farm Family Awards at the Calgary Stampede this year. Mr. McKim then provided an overview of the history of DU Ranch.

Are there any major projects being developed in the MD?

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- At present time the MD is under a moratorium for solar/wind projects.
- There are no current applications in at the MD for large industrial projects.

Old Gulf Plant?

- American Bit Coin owns location (but has changed companies at least three times in recent history).
- Currently 800 acres that is already designated “Industrial”
- According to American Bit Coin website, there are plans to build a data centre at this location, but MD has no applications, only rumours.
 - Is this a concern? If so, why?
 - Perception is that a data centre is noisy and uses a lot of water.
 - Until the MD has an application, there is nothing to vote on.
 - MD has already taken steps for applications for large industrial development projects.
 - By utilizing “Direct Control”, the MD can add specific rules around the development.

Wildlife Fencing Project:

- MD was not consulted; this is a Provincial project.

CPO Potter arrived at the meeting at 6:30 pm.

- Introduced herself and reviewed her history with the community.
 - Born and raised in the MD, has been away for about twenty years.
- Informed that concerns can be submitted via email, or call her directly, a form will be on the MD website shortly.

Resident, thank you for the extra work in the hamlet this season, it isn’t going unnoticed.

Are residents responsible for cutting grass on their boulevards now?

- Correct, unless it is unsafe to do so, then the MD will maintain.
 - Resident mentioned that many years ago the MD came around with a load of top soil to help with low spots, asked if the MD would do this again.

What is left on the mortgage on the MD building?

- None – it was paid upon building.

Livingstone Landowners Group representative made note that there is a forestry management plan for this region, and they are having a meeting in Cowley on Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

MD is hosting a Rural Resident Bear Safety Workshop on October 3, 2025, register through the office.

Community Policing Initiative:

- Rural Crime Watch hasn’t been very active.
- MD asking people to assist with the program as we are hearing people are unhappy with how its being administered.
- More volunteers are needed for the success of the program.
- Citizens on Patrol is very active but not able to assist much in the rural area, as they don’t know who’s vehicles belong where.
- RCMP does contact Citizens on Patrol if they can assist.

Are drones legal?

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- CPO Potter confirmed that they are not allowed to be flying above roads or over people's personal property.
- Enforcement is through Alberta Transportation.

Tourism:

- South Canadian Rockies Tourism has a survey out that they are asking residents to give comments on tourism in the area.
- Apps for camping and hunting, if you are a landowner you can go onto the app and remove the pin at your location if you don't want camping to occur there.
- Comment was made that Province should be putting money into assist Municipality with extra costs that tourism causes.
 - Council has been pushing this exact concern with Province.
 - More people mean more vehicles on our roads, increased garbage, dust, trespassing, etc.

Regional Health Advisory Council:

- Province recently appointed a regional advisory council, with 150 members from 71 communities, which will advise Alberta's four health ministries and the recently refocused health agencies:
 - Primary Care Alberta, Acute Care Alberta, Assisted Living Alberta, and Recovery Alberta.
- Each council will explore solutions to local challenges and identify opportunities for the health system to better support community decision-making.
- Pincher Creek has two appointees, Barbara Boyer and Mayor Don Anderburg.

Public Works:

- Snowfencing will be starting soon.
- Mowing is still happening; some places need a second mow due to July rains.
- Six capital projects were done this year, with more being planned.
 - Old landfill road will be closed for a portion of time this fall to allow contractors to replace two culverts, the MD will piggyback on the closure and complete a project on the same road.

Meeting concluded at 7:10 pm.