



From the Bear Pit

Regional Council Newsletter

September 14, 2020

UPDATE: 911 Emergency Call Service

Over the past three years, a significant number of obstacles to the establishment of 911 service have been overcome, most recently with the support of the ministries of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Citizens' Services.

911 service requires a Public Safety Access Point (PSAP) provider to receive 911 calls originating in the Northern Rockies in order to dispatch the appropriate emergency response team. A potential provider has been located: the City of Grande Prairie Fire Department already services roughly 40 other local government jurisdictions. Canadian Radio-Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approval of the 911 call service model is also necessary to proceed.

Funding 911 service is the responsibility of local government in BC, with a portion being funded by fees collected as a levy on landlines, which is a shrinking service, and the balance of the cost normally funded through taxation or related revenue. The table below provides an estimate of the effect of the additional services on municipal taxation. [Administration Report No. 62/20](#)

Tax Impact on \$100,000 Assessment of Proposed B9-1-1 Service Model			
Category	\$100,000.00	68,000 (year 1)	53,000 (year 2)
Residential	\$1.95	\$1.33	\$1.03
Business	\$5.66	\$3.85	\$3.00
Rec non-profit	\$0.62	\$0.42	\$0.33
Farm	\$0.95	\$0.65	\$0.50
Industry	\$6.44	\$4.38	\$3.41



Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) Grant

The [Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\)](#) is offering grants to help municipalities strengthen their asset management practices in an effort to make the most of every infrastructure dollar.

The NRRM has used this funding to develop its asset management system; further funding would develop the structure and implement an NRRM-specific Asset Management Process Map (AMPMP).

Council approved the submission of a grant application up to \$50,000 to the FCM MAMP Program. A Union of BC Municipalities grant opportunity has the potential to fund the balance of this project estimated at a total of \$65,000. [Administration Report No. 63/20](#)

Did you know that you can watch Regional Council meetings (even special meetings) from the comfort of your own home?

Click to visit the municipal YouTube channel by searching NRRM or accessing www.NorthernRockies.ca/councilcast

CouncilCast



Photo Courtesy of Mayor Foster

2019 Annual Report

The [Community Charter](#) requires that municipalities produce an annual report, and include the following: the municipality's audited annual financial statements for the previous year, a list of the permissive tax exemptions provided by council, and for each exemption, the amount of property tax that would have been imposed during the previous year if the exemption had not been granted, a report on the municipality's services and operations for the previous year, a progress report on the performance of the municipality with respect to established objectives and measures and a statement of objectives and measures that will be used as the basis for determining the municipality's performance during the current year and following year. Regional Council adopted the Annual Report without amendment. [Administration Report No. 61/20](#)
[2019 NRRM Annual Report—PDF](#)



Click image to view a flipbook version of the annual report

Christmas Service Reduction: Municipal Office

The municipal office has been closed between Christmas and New Years for several years on a trial basis, as traffic has typically been minimal. No negative public feedback has been received and employee comments have been positive.

Council has opted to maintain the holiday closure in future, with the municipal office closing at noon on December 24 and reopening January 2 (or the next business day, which is January 4, 2021) at 8:30am. [Administration Report No. 60/20](#)

