

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held December 10, 2013 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Jim Duncan
	Theresa Laing
	Kyle Greenwood
	Curt Maki
Chief Administrative Officer:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, Community & Protective Svs:	Mike Haugen
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
	Rhonda Serhan
	Erik Hansen
	Kurt Magnus
	Trevor Duley
Media:	Sarah Maetche

AGENDA: Reeve Alexander requested addition of Item K – Committee Report.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted.

454/13 CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting be accepted.

455/13 CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Letter of Support for Woodlands County re Provincial Funding for Bridges

Marshall Morton presented a letter in support for Woodlands County's efforts to encourage the provincial government to reinstate funding for the maintenance, repair, and replacement of bridges and culverts.

Mr. Morton noted copies of the letter will be sent to Minister of Education, Minister of Transportation and Alberta rural municipalities.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council approves the Letter of Support for Woodlands County.

456/13 CARRIED 7/0

2. Road Allowance Permit Request E/W 36-41-8 W5 Bylaw 982/13

Mr. Hansen presented a permit application for the use of the road allowance which lies between the E1/2-35-41-8 W5M and W1/2-36-41-8 W5m (approximately 1227 meters/6.10 acres) for cattle grazing purposes.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council grants first reading to Bylaw 982/13 and schedules a Public Hearing for January 13, 2014.

457/13

CARRIED 7/0

3. Policy Review: "Road Weights Control"

Dennis Ross joined the meeting.

Marshall Morton presented changes to the existing Road Weights Control policy that include a revised weight schedule for heavy haul equipment on surfaced roads and the adoption of the provincial ban schedule for surfaced roads that have been upgraded to a ban-free status.

Discussion followed on the recommended maximum weight allowances, provincial standards and the process for obtaining permits.

Mr. Morton noted Clearwater County will not issue permits for overloads; the recommended allowable weights are based on tire size and provincial permitting; and once a road structure achieves a ban-free status, it could be added to the policy.

Discussion followed on provincial standards and regulations for road substructure, Clearwater County's strategy for a 100% ban-free status, process of achieving ban-free roads, and the maintenance overlay schedule.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council approves the Road Weights Control policy as presented and authorizes administration to add road structures to the policy as they achieve a ban-free status.

458/13

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen, and Kurt Magnus left the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

2. Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Committee Appointments

Discussion took place regarding the Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services Committee appointments. Councillor Curt Maki indicated his interest as an alternate member.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council designates Councillor Maki as alternate member to the Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services Committee.

459/13

CARRIED 7/0

3. Canadian Postal Service Charter Review

Trevor Duley presented a letter from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers regarding the future of Canada Post and a request from Anderson Consulting to participate in a survey on postal services in the community.

Discussion followed on rural postal service and Council's preference in working with members of parliament and federal government ministers as opposed to union representatives.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council discusses postal service issues at the annual meeting with the two Members of Parliament for Wildrose and Wetaskiwin constituencies.

460/13

CARRIED 7/0

4. Municipal Recovery Action Plan

Trevor Duley presented the completed Municipal Recovery Action Plan for Clearwater County and stated that the plan was mandated by the Province's Flood Recovery Task Force. He provided information on discussions between staff and the provincial government on the plan's purpose.

Discussion followed on provincial programs affecting funds based on the declaration of a local state of emergency and rebuilding for flood mitigation versus repairing to meet pre-existing conditions.

Council noted expectations for restoration and long term planning for flood mitigation should be added to the plan.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the Municipal Recovery Action Plan with additional comments and authorizes staff to submit it to the Provincial Flood Recovery Task Force.

461/13

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson, Ellen Bonde, Art Terpsma, Allan Sunde, and Melanie O'Connor joined the meeting.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES & LANDCARE:

1. Delegation: Agricultural Society

Matt Martinson introduced Ellen Bonde, Art Terpsma, and Allan Sunde, members of the Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society. Mr. Martinson stated the society is requesting \$20,000 for a feasibility study and a needs-assessment survey for an agricultural recreation facility.

Ms. Bonde, Mr. Terpsma and Mr. Sunde provided information on the Agricultural Society's activities and responded to questions from Council.

Discussion followed on a previous needs assessment study, potential users of a facility, agricultural recreation facilities in other communities, and costs that would need to be considered for an agricultural recreation facility in this area.

REEVE ALEXANDER: That Council tables Item E1.

462/13

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson, Ellen Bonde, Art Terpsma, and Allan Sunde left the meeting. Michelle Narang joined the meeting.

COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

1. WCFS Wheelchair Van Agreement

Trevor Duley introduced Michelle Narang, Executive Director for West Country Family Services. Ms. Narang responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on the terms of the agreement and the possibility of including the wheelchair van's operational costs in the regional strategy.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council authorizes the agreement with West Country Family Services as presented and consider a regional funding strategy for the wheelchair van’s operational costs in the future.

463/13 CARRIED 7/0

Rick Emmons, Eleanor Pengelly, and Marilyn Sanders joined the meeting. Melanie O’Conner and Michelle Narang left the meeting.

AGRICULTURAL
SERVICES &
LANDCARE:

1. Delegation: Agricultural Society

Discussion followed on Rocky Mountain House Agricultural Society’s funding request for a needs assessment survey and feasibility study on an agricultural recreational facility.

464/13 COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council approves funding in the amount of \$20,000 for a needs assessment survey and feasibility study on an agricultural recreational facility.

Trevor Duley and Mike Haugen left the meeting.

PLANNING: 1. Closure of the Remainder of Road Plan 7140AU by Resolution of Council

Eleanor Pengelly presented a request for closure of the remainder of Road Plan 7140AU and provided historical information on the subject area.

Ms. Pengelly explained the process required for approval by Council and noted applicable sections from the Municipal Government Act. Ms. Pengelly noted comments received from Clearwater County Public Works Department and stated no comments or concerns were received from applicable government agencies, utility companies or adjacent landowners.

Ron Leaf noted the request is subject to approval from the Minister of Transportation.

Ms. Pengelly responded to questions from Council regarding public access and property location

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves the closure of all the remainder of Road Plan 7140AU between SE 32 37 06 W5 and NE 32 37 06 W5 and the consolidation of the subject land with lands held in title by the property owners.

465/13 CARRIED 7/0

Eleanor Pengelly and Marilyn Sanders left the meeting. Steve Maki joined the meeting.

2. 2013 Internal Safety Audit

Steve Maki presented the results from the 2013 Internal Safety Audit and noted Clearwater County achieved a passing grade of 90%.

Discussion followed on safe work practices; inclusion of a safe work environment in the strategic plan; unique challenges facing Clearwater County’s Safety Coordinator; and legislative requirements.

Mr. Maki noted the action plan for 2014 and stated there is opportunity for improvement.

Discussion followed on incident reporting, Occupational Health and Safety regulations; and differences in health and safety obligations between contractors assigned "Prime Contractor" status and those working as day labour contractors.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

466/13

CARRIED 7/0

Steve Maki and Rick Emmons left the meeting. Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. Request for Tax Penalty Waiver

Denniece Crout presented a ratepayer's request to waive the late payment penalty on Tax Roll 3908211001.

Discussion followed and staff responded to questions from Council.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council authorizes the waiver of the late payment penalty on Tax Roll 3908211001.

467/13

CARRIED 4/3

Denniece Crout and Rhonda Serhan left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

1. AAMDC Apples to Apples: Rural Municipal Finance in Alberta Discussion Paper

Ron Leaf reviewed the core findings of the recent discussion paper released by the AAMDC in relation to the AUMA lobby concerning pooling of linear and M&E assessments. Mr. leaf provided further clarification on several items, and recommended the following:

- 1) That copies of the Apples to Apples report be forwarded to the Town and Village Councils and that the CEOs, if not the entire Councils, meet to discuss the report and potential implications for local "urbans" if "corporate pooling" occurs
- 2) That Council raises the findings of the report with provincial MLAs and cabinet ministers as well as MPs when Council meets with them in the coming months.
- 3) That the *Apples to Apples* study be placed on the County website and that the report be highlighted in coming newsletters and community engagement sessions.

Sarah Maetche left the meeting.

Discussion followed on provincial funding programs for municipalities; similarities of infrastructure costs for urban and rural municipalities; pooling of taxation revenue; and challenges that are facing both municipalities in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement for revenue sharing.

Dennis Ross left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented and approves the recommendations.

468/13

CARRIED 7/0

2. Meeting with MLA Joe Anglin

Ron Leaf recommended three items for discussion with MLA Joe Anglin as follows: 1) Rocky Mountain House Hospital, 2) bridge funding, and 3) core findings from the *Apples to Apples: Rural Municipal Finance in Alberta* discussion paper.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council discuss West Country projects, bridge funding and the *Apples to Apples: Rural Municipal Finance in Alberta* discussion paper with MLA Anglin at the January 13 Regular Council Meeting.

469/13

CARRIED 7/0

3. Municipal Law 2014 Educational Sessions

Ron Leaf provided information on legal sessions hosted by Brownlee LLP and Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes all councillors to attend the 2014 Brownlee LLP Emerging Trends session in either Calgary or Edmonton and/or the Reynolds Mirth session in either Edmonton or Airdrie.

470/13

CARRIED 7/0

4. Agenda & Priorities 2014 Meeting Dates

Ron Leaf requested the 2014 Agenda & Priorities (A&P) meeting dates be set as follows: January 20, April 14, June 16 and September 15.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the A&P meeting dates for 2014 as presented.

471/13

CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION:

1. Information Items

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the CAO's Report, Public Works Director's Report, Councillor Remuneration, Councillor Calendar, and Accounts Payable Listing, is accepted as information.

472/13

CARRIED 7/0

Janice Anderson, Joanne Lipsey and Rhonda Serhan joined the meeting.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Reeve Alexander provided an update on Bill 28: Enabling Regional Growth Boards Act and noted the bill passed and will come into force December 11, 2013.

IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the proposed reform for the Local Authorities Pension Plan at 12:05 P.M.

473/13

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	CARRIED 7/0 That the meeting reverts to an Meeting at 12:44 P.M.	Open
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474/13

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes the Reeve to send a letter requesting further information to support the proposed reform and to extend the deadline for response.

475/13

CARRIED 7/0

**ADJOURNMENT:
12:48 P.M.**

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the Meeting adjourns.

476/13

CARRIED 7/0

REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER