

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held February 25, 2014 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Reeve: | Pat Alexander |
| Councillors: | Curt Maki |
| | Jim Duncan |
| | Theresa Laing |
| | Earl Graham |
| | Kyle Greenwood |
| Director, Corp Services: | Rudy Huisman |
| Director, Public Works: | Marshall Morton |
| Recording Secretary: | Tracy Haight |
| | Erik Hansen |
| | Brad Welygan |
| | Kurt Magnus |
| | Trevor Duley |
| | Rhonda Serhan |
| | Patrick Oslund |
| | Christine Heggart |
| | Dennis Ross |
| Media: | Sarah Maetche |
| | Rianne De Lang |
| | Laura Button |

AGENDA: Councillor Graham requested an In Camera item addition and Reeve Alexander requested an addition as I3 – Jubilee Reciprocal Insurance Exchange Annual General Meeting.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the February 25, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted.

0075/14 CARRIED 6/0

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: 1. February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting be accepted.

076/14 CARRIED 6/0

PUBLIC WORKS: 1. 2014 Winter Gravel Program Fuel Adjustment Review

Councillor Greenwood left the meeting.

Marshall Morton stated administration reviewed current diesel fuel costs and noted since 2012, costs per litre have increased from \$1.093 to \$1.211. As a result, administration proposes an increase of \$0.12 in the “tonne/mile” rate for the 2014 Winter Gravel program.

Councillor Greenwood joined the meeting.

Mr. Morton noted prices listed in the agenda item are for clear diesel fuel, not dyed.

Mr. Morton stated the estimated amount for the trucking costs on the 2014 Winter Gravel program is \$270,792.11. The proposed \$0.12/tonne/mile rate increase would add approximately \$14,197.73 to the 2014 budget.

To account for further fluctuations in diesel fuel costs, administration proposes indexing the Winter Gravel program tonne/mile rate in relation to diesel fuel costs. He provided an example and rational for the formula used to calculate future adjustments and noted if the prices fluctuate by \$0.03 cents or more per litre, Clearwater County will adjust the tonne/mile rate accordingly.

Discussion followed and it was noted the fuel adjustment will be retroactive and if fuel costs remain high, equipment rates may be reviewed before summer.

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council approves the proposed \$0.12 increase in the "Tonne/Mile Truck Rate" for the 2014 Winter Gravel Program and authorizes the "Tonne/Mile Truck Rate" adjusted if diesel fuel price fluctuates by \$0.03 or more per litre.

077/14

CARRIED 6/0

2. Additional Use of Funding to the 2014 Grader Pool Program

Matt Martinson joined the meeting.

Kurt Magnus presented three options to utilize the \$250,000 in increased funding to the 2014 Grader Pool Program.

Option A: Additional contract for grader beat.

Option B: Additional contract for floater grader.

Option C: Additional time to each existing grader beat.

Discussion followed on the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Marshall Morton noted there would not be any significant changes to existing contracts with the addition of a grader beat contract. Mr. Magnus noted Option A received positive feedback from contractors and that it would not affect existing contractors budgets.

Staff responded to questions from Council on the amount of kilometers for grader beats and on the effects of an additional floater grader. Mr. Morton explained that some grader beats include subdivisions which results in an increase in kilometers. Erik Hansen noted the budget still includes provision for a grader floater if conditions require.

Rhonda Serhan and Brad Welygan left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes an additional grader beat for Clearwater County roads.

078/14

CARRIED 6/0

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

**AG SERVICES
& LANDCARE:**

1. Dispersal of Surplus Used Equipment

Matt Martinson stated Ag Services & Landcare budget allows for the purchase of a new lawn mower to replace its current mower and the Caroline & District Athletic & Agricultural Society indicated an interest in acquiring the used mower to maintain the South East recreation grounds.

Discussion followed and it was noted as the recreation grounds are Clearwater County's property, allowing the society to acquire the used lawn mower would be considered a transfer of assets. The used lawn mower has approximately 500 hours and estimated value is \$3,000 - \$5,000. An estimated cost for a new mower is \$15,000.

Mr. Martinson responded to questions from Council and stated the society relies on assistance from volunteers and Ag Services & Landcare to maintain the 23-acre area as their current mower is unable to maintain the grounds properly and efficiently.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That Council authorizes transfer of ownership of the used lawn mower to the Caroline & District Athletic & Agricultural Society.

079/14

CARRIED 6/0

Laura Button and Matt Martinson left the meeting.

COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

1. 2014 Annual Fire Guardian Appointments

Regional Deputy Fire Chief Patrick Oslund provided information pertaining to the appointment of fire guardians within a municipality's boundary to enforce the Forest and Prairie Protections Act.

Mr. Oslund explained the appointment of Regional Fire Chief Cammie Laird, and Regional Deputy Fire Chiefs Patrick Oslund and Paul Prevost, will ensure the enforcement of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act within the boundaries of Clearwater County.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council appoints Regional Fire Chief Cammie Laird, Regional Deputy Fire Chiefs Patrick Oslund and Paul Prevost as Fire Guardians for a one year term, March 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015.

080/14

CARRIED 6/0

Patrick Oslund left the meeting.

2. Tour of Alberta Roadrace Funding Request

Trevor Duley stated at the February 11 Regular Council Meeting the Tour of Alberta Local Steering Committee requested Clearwater County provide \$50,000 in funding as a host start community for the Tour of Alberta Roadrace on September 5, 2014.

The Tour of Alberta Local Steering Committee requested the same amount from the Town of Rocky Mountain House Council which Town Council denied.

Mr. Duley stated the committee now requires a total of \$100,000 before February 28 in order to host the event in the community.

Mr. Duley outlined three options for Council's consideration as follows:

Option A: Provide \$100,000 in funding with the expectation that the County will be reimbursed up to 50% once the committee receives corporate sponsorships.

Option B: Provide \$100,000 in funding and ask the committee to take the item back to Town Council to request their desired involvement with the event.

Option C: Deny the request for funding.

Discussion followed on the costly amount requested and the timing of the event; the number of construction projects expected to take place in the Town of Rocky Mountain House in 2014; and the potential of overburdening corporate sponsors with funding requests.

Discussion continued on the economic and tourism value of the event to Clearwater County and the possibility of supporting the event in 2016 or 2017.

Keith McCrae joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves Option C: Deny the request for funding.

081/14

CARRIED 6/0

3. Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council takes the Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference from the table.

082/14

CARRIED 6/0

Trevor Duley presented the Terms of Reference for the Caroline HUB Committee and provided background information.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves the Caroline HUB Committee Terms of Reference as presented.

083/14

CARRIED 6/0

4. Hospital Committee Proposal

Trevor Duley presented the *2014 Rocky Mountain House Hospital Proposal* report from the Hospital Committee. The report notes the Town of Rocky Mountain House Council, the Village of Caroline Council, and Clearwater County Council have identified the replacement of the current Rocky Mountain House hospital as the community's greatest infrastructure need.

Discussion followed on the benefits of a new hospital to the community.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council accepts the information as presented.

084/14

CARRIED 6/0

Trevor Duley left the meeting.

PLANNING:

1. South Saskatchewan Regional Plan – Overview and Feedback

Keith McCrae stated administration reviewed the draft South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) with the perspective that policy direction formulated in the SSRP could likely foreshadow policy direction in the upcoming planning processes for the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP) and the Red Deer Regional Plan (RDRP) given some of the similarities between regions.

Mr. McCrae noted the draft plan's strategies and the integration of random camping, off-highway vehicles, recreation areas and trails are consistent with Clearwater County's Municipal Development Plan and municipal initiatives.

Christine Heggart left the meeting. Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

Discussion followed on random camping issues; relevance of Bill 36 to the regional plans; municipal land development policies and the importance of recognizing Clearwater County's development nodes and trail initiatives in the regional plan.

Mr. McCrae noted administration will continue to closely monitor municipal planning policies in relation to the regional plan.

Mr. McCrae noted Clearwater County has not been included on the provincial list for mapping of flood zones as the province has not identified this area as a priority. However, if Clearwater County continues to lobby the provincial government to address this issue in the regional plan, financial costs for flood zone mapping would be the provincial government's responsibility.

085/14

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council accepts the information as presented.

CARRIED 6/0

Christine Heggart joined the meeting. Keith McCrae left the meeting.

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. Request for Tax Penalty Waiver

Denniece Crout presented a ratepayer's request to waive the late payment penalty on their property assessment.

Discussion followed and staff responded to questions from Council.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council denies waiver of late tax payment penalties on a ratepayer's property assessment.

086/14

CARRIED 6/0

2. Well Drilling Equipment Tax Update

Denniece Crout provided information on the Well Drilling Equipment Tax (WDET) legislation and noted the following:

- The legislation is currently under review by the provincial government, municipalities, the oil and gas industry, and municipal associations.
- Due to the number of complex issues involved, stakeholders have not been able to reach an overall consensus on changes or a revised tax amount.

- The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ken Hughes, announced that the legislation will expire on December 31, 2014.

Ms. Crout stated as per the current WDET legislation, Clearwater County collected approximately \$4 million in revenues in 2013.

Discussion followed on the possible effects of legislation changes on Clearwater County's budget.

COUNCILLOR MAK: That Council accepts the information as presented.

087/14

CARRIED 6/0

Dennis Ross and Denniece Crout left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

1. By-Election: Incapacitated Voters

Christine Heggart provided information from the *Local Authorities Election Act, Section 79* on “Incapacitated elector at home” and stated historically, Council has permitted deputies to attend incapacitated voters.

Ms. Heggart recommended, with the upcoming by-election on March 5, Council choose February 27 as the date deputies are authorized to attend incapacitated voters.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That Council authorizes the attendance of two deputies at the residence of an elector, on February 27, 2014 from the hours of 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, in order to take the votes of an elector who, because of physical incapacity, is unable to attend a voting station to vote.

088/14

CARRIED 6/0

Christine Heggart left the meeting.

2. Appointment of Alternate Member to the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee

Rudy Huismann stated an appointment of an alternate member is recommended to ensure full representation at the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee meetings.

Councillor Maki indicated interest as an alternate member.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council appoints Councillor Maki as an alternate member on the Inter-municipal Collaboration Committee.

089/14

CARRIED 6/0

Rhonda Serhan joined the meeting.

3. Jubilee Insurance Annual General Meeting

Reeve Alexander provided information on the annual general meeting of the Jubilee Insurance Reciprocal that is scheduled for March 17 at the AAMDC spring convention. Reeve Alexander recommended Councillors Laing, Maki, and Greenwood to attend if possible.

Discussion followed and Reeve Alexander, Councillors Maki and Greenwood indicated they will attend the Jubilee Insurance Reciprocal annual general meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council accepts the information as presented.

090/14

CARRIED 6/0

INFORMATION: 1. Information Items

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That the Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable Listing, and Councillor Remuneration are accepted as information.

091/14

CARRIED 6/0

Sarah Maetche and Rianne De Lang left the meeting. Trevor Duley joined the meeting.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss land issues at 12:36 P.M.

092/14

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 1:05 P.M.

093/14

CARRIED 6/0


**ADJOURNMENT:
1:05 P.M.**

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the Meeting adjourns.

094/14

CARRIED 6/0


REEVE


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER