

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held January 13, 2014 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:01 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
Director, Corporate Services:	Rudy Huisman
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
	Rhonda Serhan
	Denniece Crout
	Brad Welygan
	Kurt Magnus
	Trevor Duley
	Marianne Cole
	Dennis Ross
Media:	Sarah Maetche

AGENDA:

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That the January 13, 2014 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted.

001/14 CARRIED 7/0

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

1. December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

002/14 CARRIED 7/0

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. 2014 Operating and Capital Budgets

Rhonda Serhan presented the proposed 2014 operating budget with total expenses of \$32,475,772 for 2014. This represents an increase of \$5,374,684 (19.8%) compared to the 2013 budget.

2014 expenses represent service levels consistent with prior years, and the County's strategic plan, while providing for increasing costs of providing those services. Ms. Serhan noted a large portion of the additional expenses is from the \$2,600,000 budgeted to repair flood damaged infrastructure in 2013 which is offset by an increase in the operating revenue in the form of a provincial government grant. In addition, \$1,275,000 has been identified for contribution toward arena renovations in Rocky Mountain House, and \$500,000 has been added to enhance road maintenance and dust control.

Rick Emmons joined the meeting.

User fees for municipal services and the requisition for regional waste continue to move towards a full cost recovery model.

Operating revenues increased slightly over \$4,000,000 due to revenues from well drilling taxes, grant revenue, and an increase in the assessment base for M&E and linear assessment classes.

The 2014 capital budget reflects total expenditures of \$20,691,175 which represents a decrease of \$12,691,175 (38.2%) compared to 2013. The major variances in the 2014 capital budget is due to the absence of a base pave project and a decrease in the asphalt overlay program from 12.3 million to 5.3 million.

Ms. Serhan stated current work plans for 2014 do not have an impact on the tax rate.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council adopts the operating and capital budgets for calendar year 2014.

003/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the proposed operating and capital budgets for calendar years 2015 and 2016 for information.

004/14

CARRIED 7/0

2. Request for Tax Penalty Waiver

Denniece Crout presented a ratepayer's request to waive the late payment penalty on Tax Roll 3707101001.

Discussion followed and staff responded to questions from Council.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council denies the waiver of the late payment penalty on Tax Roll 3707101001.

005/14

CARRIED 7/0

3. Municipal Tax Exemption

Denniece Crout presented a request from the Leslieville Elks Lodge for municipal tax exemption status on their property. Ms. Crout explained the requirements and criteria for tax exemption status as per the Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation (COPTER).

Ms. Crout responded to questions from Council and stated as per the Municipal Government Act section 364.1 Council may by bylaw exempt property held by a non-profit organization from municipal tax. Exemption of the school tax would require grant approval and amendments to the community hall funding policy.

Discussion followed on the Leslieville Elks' charitable activities and donations to other local organizations and if there are other organizations in the community that have municipal, school, and senior lodge tax exemption status.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council requests the preparation of a bylaw providing for the exemption of property tax for Leslieville Elks Lodge.

006/14

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion followed regarding options on addressing the school portion of the tax bill that Council cannot waive.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council tables Leslieville Elks Lodge's request for exemption of school and senior lodge tax pending further information.

007/14

CARRIED 7/0

Deniece Crout left the meeting. Brad Welygan left the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. 2014 Winter Gravel Program

Kurt Magnus outlined the 2014 Winter Gravel Program and noted estimated cost is \$1,064,172.45 to re-gravel approximately 386km of road and will use approximately 75,000 tonnes of gravel from current inventory. Start date is scheduled for January 20, 2014, pending Council's approval and suitable weather conditions.

Staff responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on the purpose, procedure, and common misconceptions of the winter gravel program.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council approves the 2014 Winter Gravel Program as presented.

008/14

CARRIED 7/0

Bonny Carson joined the meeting.

2. Policy Review

Marshall Morton presented the Road Weights Control Policy and noted amendments include maximum weight allowances for single and tandem steer axle configurations with permanently mounted equipment; a revised weight schedule that includes allowances based on tire size, provincial permitting that is consistent with the Province; and the inclusion of an "approved roads list".

Mr. Morton stated an industry information session will be held in February to explain Clearwater County's policies and procedures for road use.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council approves the Road Weights Control Policy as presented.

009/14

CARRIED 7/0

3. Delegation: Bonny Carson – Snow Removal

Bonny Carson presented her concerns with the condition of roads in Clearwater County regarding snow plowing of roads and snow removal from roads. Ms. Carson provided suggestions for types of snow plowing equipment and made recommendations for increasing speed of service.

Council thanked Ms. Carson and noted that the service recommendations and equipment suggestions would increase costs thus requiring a significant amount of funds to be added to the budget.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council accepts as information.

010/14

CARRIED 7/0

Bonny Carson left the meeting.

Reeve Alexander recessed the Council meeting for a Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M.

Reeve Alexander reconvened the Council meeting at 10:23 A.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting excluding Kurt Magnus and including Jim Nelson, Ron Killick, Amanda Wilson, Keith McCrae, Marshall Morton, and Brian Bilawchuk.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

**1. Delegation: Deb Fluet/Cpl. Heaslip – Sunchild Horse Capture
Program Funding Request**

Trevor Duley stated the delegation was unable to attend due to poor highway driving conditions.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council tables Item G1.

011/14

CARRIED 7/0

Trevor Duley left the meeting.

PLANNING:
**1. Delegation: Nordegg Residents and Business Owners –
Lease/Rental Rates**

Rick Emmons introduced Jim Nelson, General Manager Nordegg Resort Lodge and President Nordegg Chamber of Commerce; and Ron Killick, Owner David Thompson Resort, to Council.

Mr. Nelson suggested any increase to lease/rental rates in Nordegg should be based on fair market value and suggested the creation of a mobile home park in the future. Mr. Nelson referred to maintenance and repairs on the leased security houses and suggested further discussions take place with Council on this issue.

Mr. Nelson extended an invitation on behalf of the Nordegg Chamber of Commerce for Council to meet in Nordegg.

Discussion followed on Nordegg issues and lack of ambulance services in Nordegg.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council accepts as information.

012/14

CARRIED 7/0

Councillor Graham and Rhonda Serhan left the meeting.

2. Community Peace Officer Service Level Review

Councillor Graham joined the meeting.

Mike Haugen presented the Community Peace Officer Service level Review report and noted amendments.

Discussion followed on the wording of the first recommendation. Councillor Vandermeer recommended deleting all wording after the second sentence with the item to then read as: "Enforcement on two digit highways is a RCMP responsibility. Councils must continue to lobby the Provincial Government to ensure there are adequate resources in place to effectively patrol all highways within Clearwater County."

Discussion followed on item five.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the Community Peace Officer Service Level Review with amendment to Recommendation Item One.

013/14

CARRIED 5/2

4. Bylaw 982/13

Council reviewed all information presented at the January 13, 2014 Public Hearing for application for the use of a road allowance which lies between the E1/2 35 41 8 W5M and W1/2 36 41 8 W5M (approximately 6.10 acres more or less) for cattle grazing purposes.

SECOND READING of Bylaw 982/13 for Permitting of Road Allowance which lies between the E1/2 35 41 8 W5M and W1/2 36 41 8 W5M (approximately 6.10 acres more or less) was moved by Councillor Duncan.

014/14

CARRIED 7/0

THIRD READING of Bylaw 982/13 for Permitting of Road Allowance which lies between the E1/2 35 41 8 W5M and W1/2 36 41 8 W5M (approximately 6.10 acres more or less) was tabled by Councillor Duncan pending further information from land owners.

015/14

CARRIED 7/0

2. Update Fee Schedule for Land Use Amendment, Subdivision, and Development Fees

Kim Jakowski presented the proposed fee schedule for land use amendment, subdivision, and development fees.

Staff responded to questions from Council and discussion followed.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council tables Item F2 to allow Council additional time to review the material.

016/14

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

Councillor Duncan and Greenwood noted they will be attending the 2014 ASB Provincial Conference in Medicine Hat, January 27 – 30.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That the meeting recess for lunch at 12:06 P.M.

017/14

CARRIED 7/0

The Meeting reconvened at 12:45 P.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting excluding Marshall Morton, Sarah Maetche, Rhonda Serhan, Kurt Magnus, Rudy Huisman, Marianne Cole, Denniece Crout, Brad Welygan, Dennis Ross, Matt Martinson, and Trevor

Huisman, Marianne Cole, Denniece Crout, Brad Welygan, Dennis Ross, Matt Martinson, and Trevor Duley.

INFORMATION:

1. Information Items

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

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

018/14

CARRIED 7/0

4. Village of Caroline Agreements

Mike Haugen summarized the draft agreements between Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline for the lease, governance and services of the Village of Caroline Complex and the services for the South East Recreation Grounds.

Staff responded to questions from Council and discussion followed.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council authorizes the Caroline Complex Lease Agreement.

019/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER:

That Council authorizes the Caroline Complex Governance Agreement.

020/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes the Caroline Complex Services Agreement.

021/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council authorizes the South East Recreation Grounds Services Agreement.

022/14

CARRIED 7/0

5. Parkland Regional Library (PRL) Annual Survey

Mike Haugen presented the Parkland Regional Library annual survey and stated library representatives have made their recommendations and responses have been noted on the survey.

Discussion followed on library service in Clearwater County.

Trevor Duley joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD:

That Council approves the survey responses and authorizes staff to submit.

023/14

CARRIED 7/0

3. Fish Lake (Nordegg) Wildfire After Action Report

Mike Haugen presented the After Action Report (AAR) regarding the Fish Lake (Nordegg) wildfire that occurred May 5 to July 15, 2013.

Rick Emmons and Amanda Rodriguez joined the meeting.

Mr. Haugen stated the report outlines strengths and weaknesses of the response. Mr. Haugen noted Clearwater County administration response did not cause a failure in the action and did not affect the outcome.

Terri Miller joined the meeting.

Mr. Haugen stated with Council approval, a public presentation on the report's findings and the event in general will take place in Nordegg, date to be determined.

Discussion followed on the report's findings and the proposed presentation.

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council accepts the Fish Lake Fire AAR as information.

024/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes a public presentation of the report in Nordegg.

025/14

CARRIED 7/0

Reeve Alexander thanked Mike Haugen for his service and commitment to Clearwater County and wished him success in his new position as CAO of the MD of Greenview.

Terri Miller left the meeting.

IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss land and labour issues at 1:32 P.M.

026/14

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 3:08 P.M.

027/14

CARRIED 7/0


ADJOURNMENT:
3:10 P.M.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD:

That the Meeting adjourns.

028/14

CARRIED 7/0


REEVE


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER