

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held September 24, 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:	John Vandermeer
	Bob Bryant
	Jim Duncan
	Case Korver
	Dick Wymenga
	Earl Graham
Chief Administrative Officer:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, Community & Prot Services:	Mike Haugen
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
	Helge Nome
	Sarah Maetche
	Erik Hansen
	Kurt Magnus
	Christine Heggart
	Rhonda Serhan

**AGENDA:** Ron Leaf requested the addition of In Camera items on legal and land issues. Councillor John Vandermeer requested the addition of an In Camera item on the Caroline arena.

JIM DUNCAN: That the September 24, 2013 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

**349/13** CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** 1. September 10, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

CASE KORVER: That the Minutes of the Sept 10, 2013 Regular Meeting be accepted.

**350/13** CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** 1. September 10, 2013 Public Hearing Minutes

DICK WYMENGA: That the Minutes of the Sept 10, 2013 Public Hearing be accepted.

**351/13** CARRIED 7/0

**PUBLIC WORKS:** 1. Wastewater Facilities Upgrades

Marshall Morton provided background information on efforts by the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County to provide a combined wastewater facility. Mr. Morton stated two assessments concluded that the Town of Rocky Mountain House's existing facility would require upgrades in order to meet Alberta Environment standards and provide a fiscally responsible facility capable of handling any additional septage from County residences or businesses.

Mr. Morton noted the Town of Rocky Mountain House has estimated the cost of the upgrades, which includes additional aeration and the construction of an automated receiving station, at \$2.2 million.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council on the increase in cost and noted that the facility design includes fencing, grinder, and rock trap, which will make for a more efficient system. The facility will also have an offload station and the ability to monitor hydrocarbons.

CASE KORVER: That Council approves the reallocation of \$2,200,000.00 from wastewater reserve to Public Works for the completion of the described works.

352/13

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Policy Review: DRAFT "Snowplowing and Grading of Gravel Roadways"**

Kurt Magnus presented the draft policy for snowplowing and grading of gravel roadways and noted this policy is intended to replace the previous "Snowplowing and Lane Grading of Private Driveways" policy.

Discussion followed on processes for snowplowing cemeteries, community halls and churches. Mr. Marshall noted snowplowing is provided for events that take place at halls and churches, and funerals. Mr. Magnus stated staff contacted Canada Post and received confirmation that it is not public works responsibility to clear around post office boxes.

Council recommended to include "lane grading on private property is not permitted" in the "Summer Maintenance (Grading)" section.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council approves the changes as presented and recommends the addition of "Lane grading on private property is not permitted" to the draft policy.

353/13

CARRIED 7/0

**CORPORATE SERVICES:**

**1. Tax Penalty Waiver Requests**

Denniece Crout provided background information on Council's decision to reinstate the tax due date for properties with a farmland assessment to September 16. Ms. Crout presented thirty-four roll numbers representing twenty-two applications to request waiver of tax penalties due to financial hardship.

Council noted this is a one-time application to assist ratepayers with the transition from December 16 to September 16 due date.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council authorizes the 8% late tax penalty applied on September 17, 2013 and the 2% to be applied on October 1, 2013 waived on roll numbers 3707281001, 6638754, 3605334001, 3904083001, 6640670, 3807014001, 6636513, 3805292003, 3904082002, 66800251, 3807023001, 4006064001, 6639054, 3904052009, 3504281001, 3707362001, 3805162001, 3904082001, 3904052001, 3504282001, 3504291001, 3906301002, 3807112001, 3504191001, 3504293001, 3504322004, 3904111001,

3605234001, 3504293002, 3706202001,  
3505253001, 4005023001, 3706274001,  
3505252001.

354/13

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Recovery of Taxes Related to Land**

Denniece Crout stated taxes were collected on Plan 8421114 Lot 3 property; therefore today's discussion is applicable only to Plan 9722425 Block 1 Lot 1 property.

Ms. Crout provided background information, as per the Municipal Government Act (MGA), on the procedures and processes applicable to the recovery of taxes on property that is three years in tax arrears. Ms. Crout stated Clearwater County has followed and implemented all procedures required.

Ms. Crout outlined the sale procedures and noted staff's recommendation for a minimum reserve bid is \$347,660 which represents the current year's tax assessment. Staff also recommends conditions of sale as follows: non-refundable deposit of 10% of accepted bid offer, balance due within 30 days of sale date, and payment in cash, or certified cheque or direct electronic payment.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council approves the minimum reserve bid at \$347,660 and sale conditions for Plan 9722425 Block 1 Lot 1 for the recovery of tax arrears.

355/13

CARRIED 7/0

Keith McCrae and Kim Jakowski joined the meeting. Denniece Crout, Rhonda Serhan, Christine Heggart, Erik Hansen and Marshall Morton left the meeting.

**PLANNING: 1. First Reading Bylaw 981/13 LUA 04/13**

Kim Jakowski provided background information on Application 04/13 to amend the land use bylaw to redesignate +/- 11.72 acres of the E1/2 of NE 31-38-07 W5M from Agriculture District "A" to Intensive Agriculture District "IA" for the purpose of consolidation with Plan 1221401 Block 1 Lot 2. Ms. Jakowski noted the property boundaries and portions of the Municipal Development Plan applicable to the application.

Ms. Jakowski noted the property owners wish to simplify the boundaries of the two existing parcels, increase the effective size of the Intensive Agriculture parcel and to add a modern residence to the Intensive Agriculture parcel to increase the value and marketability.

Discussion followed on access roads, approach locations and if there was a sewage lagoon on the property. Ms. Jakowski and Keith McCrae noted approach issues would be addressed during the subdivision process and a site inspection would be conducted.

CASE KORVER: That Council grants first reading to Bylaw 981/13 and schedules a Public Hearing for November 5, 2013.

356/13

CARRIED 7/0

Trevor Duley joined the meeting. Keith McCrae, Kim Jakowski and Kurt Magnus left the meeting.

**COMMUNITY  
& PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**1. Local High School - Fall Awards Ceremonies**

Trevor Duley stated Council budgets \$4,000 annually to provide \$1000 scholarships for post-secondary education to one student from each of the four high schools in the county. As per policy, a county councilor shall attend the high school award ceremony to present the award.

Council noted St. Dominic's High School awards ceremony would require attendance by staff as it conflicts with the Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (CAAMDC) zone meeting.

EARL GRAHAM: That Council authorizes Councillor Graham to attend Caroline School on October 10; Councillor Bryant to attend David Thompson High School on October 10; Staff to attend St. Dominic's High School on October 11; and Councillor Wymenga to attend West Central High School on October 18.

357/13

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Parkland Regional Library Proposed 2014 – 2016 Budget**

Trevor Duley noted the proposed budget for Parkland Regional Library (PRL) shows an increase to the per capita rates of 3% for 2014 and a projected 5% increase for 2015 and 2016.

Mr. Duley stated that PRL has requested that Council provide a written decision regarding the approval of this budget by November 1, 2013 in order that any concerns may be addressed at the PRL Board meeting that is scheduled for November 7, 2012.

Discussion followed on the effects of the provincial government's cutbacks to grant funding, schools using their own resources, and the area that PRL services.

BOB BRYANT: That Council approves PRL's 2014-2016 proposed budget as presented.

358/13

CARRIED 7/0

**4. Final Mile Rural Internet Program**

Trevor Duley stated staff was informed that Clearwater County was not selected as a grant recipient for the "Final Mile Rural Community" program. The funding would have allowed the county to build three new towers in the southern portion of the county to provide internet access to rural residents. Staff was also informed of a new government initiative thru Service Alberta to assist eligible residents in rural and remote areas connect to high-speed internet through satellite technology and waived installation distance costs.

Mr. Duley stated staff confirmed land locations in the southern portion of the county are not eligible for this new service and the Government of Alberta recommended residents contact private service providers.

Mr. Duley noted TELUS has stated in previous correspondence that they will be investing \$800,000 of communication infrastructure into the Clearwater/Caroline/Rocky Mountain House community; however details have not been released.

Terri Miller and S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw joined the meeting.

Discussion followed on the quality of internet service and mixed messages received from TELUS on the availability of internet service in this area. Staff noted Council will be informed of any new programs and/or services for internet that become available.

EARL GRAHAM: That Council accepts the information as presented.

**359/13**

CARRIED 7/0

**3. West Country Activity**

Terri Miller provided a summary of the long weekend activities for 2013 and stated an increase in traffic on the Thursdays before the long weekends was observed. S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw stated efforts made during the May long weekend were very successful and he noted public education is continuing. Ms. Miller stated the July long weekend showed increased activity and the August long weekend was quiet due to road closures in the back country.

Keith McCrae and Marilyn Sanders joined the meeting.

Discussion followed on September long weekend activities and it was noted the September long weekend is becoming as popular as the May long weekend with the potential for increased activities. Ms. Miller stated there were more officers in force from Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) and other agencies, including presence of RCMP and community peace officers in Nordegg and there was an increase in activity in the Burntstick Lake area.

Ken Qually, Dennis Ross, and Garth Dymment joined the meeting.

Ms. Miller responded to questions and stated dumpsters are not typically provided during the September long weekend and the public is groups of all ages as compared to mostly graduate students during the May long weekend.

CONSENSUS: That Council tables agenda item G3- West Country Activity.

**360/13**

CARRIED 7/0

Terri Miller and S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw left the meeting.

Reeve Alexander recessed the Council meeting for a Public Hearing at 10:04 A.M.

Reeve Alexander reconvened the Council meeting at 10:20 A.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting excluding Rhonda Serhan, Christine Heggart, Erik Hansen and Marshall Morton and including Velma Hart, Dennis Ross, Ken Qually and Garth Dymment.

**PLANNING: 2. Bylaw 980/13 LUA 03/13**

Council reviewed all information presented at the September 24, 2013 Public Hearing for application to amend the land use bylaw for the redesignation of 11.0 acres described as the east portion of Plan 1992NY Lot B PT NE 14-39-07 W5 from Agriculture District "A" back to Industrial District "I".

BOB BRYANT: That Council grants second reading to Bylaw 980/13.

**361/13**

CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM:

That Council grants third reading to Bylaw 980/13.

362/13

CARRIED 7/0

Terri Miller and S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw joined the meeting. Velma Hart left the meeting.

**COMMUNITY  
& PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**3. West Country Activity**

S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw presented the RCMP Quarterly Crime Report for July 1 – September 24, 2013 and noted there were increases in crimes against person, weapons offences, and impaired driving. The new laws for impaired driving are proving to be effective and are making a difference.

S/Sgt. Laidlaw noted there is an increase in vehicle collisions particularly at the Hwy 752 and Hwy 11 intersection.

Trevor Duley joined the meeting.

Discussion followed on reasons for vehicle collisions and it was noted the intersection at Hwy 11 and 42 Avenue is also considered a high risk for collisions.

S/Sgt. Laidlaw presented the Detailed Crime Report for 2013 and noted increases in criminal codes offenses such as quad thefts and “failure to comply” charges. S/Sgt. Laidlaw noted that the Rocky detachment is very busy, and that more resources are needed to service the Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County area. S/Sgt. Laidlaw noted the hiring of a School Resource Officer, Stephanie Lesiak, will be of assistance in domestic assault investigations.

Discussion followed on the size and distance of the service area in Clearwater County and S/Sgt. Laidlaw noted rural addressing has been effective and very beneficial to RCMP members.

S/Sgt. Bill Laidlaw left the meeting.

Terri Miller presented the Clearwater County Highway Patrol Report ending August 2013 and noted the following: two community peace officers have been hired; wildfire, floods, and potential dam breach kept the department busy; and seminars with industry and the Safety Fair program were successful.

Ms. Miller noted the May long weekend taskforce and check stop was successful and she stated it would be beneficial to have the ESRD provide support during all summer long weekends. Mike Haugen noted the department will develop plans and proposals for an enforcement campaign in the West Country for a future presentation to Council.

Discussion followed on ESRD officers not allowed to issue violation tickets. Ron Leaf noted discussions and meetings with the Government of Alberta will continue in 2014 on this issue.

Ms. Miller noted 2013 file numbers are lower due to less staff resources available for enforcement. Tickets issued have increased for failure to stop at stop signs, speeding, failure to stop for peace officer, and public lands violations. Ms. Miller stated an annual report will be presented to Council in January which will include trending issues.

Ms. Miller noted the public is becoming educated thru consistent messaging from agencies on OHV impaired driving and consumption of alcohol on public trails.

Discussion followed on changes to the court bookings and that more court time is needed in Rocky Mountain House to handle traffic violations.

BOB BRYANT: That Council accepts the information as presented.

**363/13**

CARRIED 7/0

Terri Miller left the meeting.

**5. RES: Agriculture Working report**

Trevor Duley presented the Reeve's Economic Summit: Agriculture Working Group Report and noted revisions to the recommendations section will include environmental recommendations.

Mr. Duley noted the legislation section in the report stated agriculture service boards (ASB) are encouraged to bring issues to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) for regulatory resolutions.

Councillor Jim Duncan recommended amending "focus on the 'undesirables'... to "focus on noxious weeds and pests as examples of invasive species" and adding the "ASB's role needs to be clearly defined so than enforcement of noncompliance can be handled", and "the ASB is aware of, and follows best management practices" to the legislation section in the report.

Mr. Duley stated the amended report will be available on the website.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council accepts the RES: Agriculture Working Group Report as amended.

**364/13**

CARRIED 7/0

Trevor Duley left the meeting.

**Municipal: 1. Intermunicipal Coordination Committee (ICC) Recommendations**

Ron Leaf stated the Intermunicipal Coordination Committee (ICC) discussed the Regional Revenue Sharing Grants between the County and the Town and, the County and the Village. In 2012, prior to the grants expiring, County Council agreed to extend the revenue sharing funding through 2013. Mr. Leaf stated due to a number of factors the ICC will not have a recommendation on a new revenue sharing program for the Councils before year's end therefore, the ICC recommends that the County extend the revenue sharing funding through 2014.

Mr. Leaf provided details on the ICC's 2014 work program to review the following: 1) regional revenue sharing; 2) regional management concepts and principles; 3) regional wastewater requirements and feasibility; and 4) policing and law enforcement requirements. Mr. Leaf noted the Solicitor General will hold discussions with all municipalities on cost contributions for policing and law enforcement requirements, potentially beginning in early 2014.

Mr. Leaf stated the ICC has identified two AB Municipal Affairs grants totaling \$80,000 that would assist the committee with its 2014 work program. Mr. Leaf noted the amount of matching funding required by the three municipalities will not be known until approved by AB Municipal Affairs; however it is anticipated that the County's contribution will be approximately \$10,000.

BOB BRYANT: That Council accepts the ICC recommendation to extend the revenue sharing funding through 2014 in the amounts of \$13,120 for the Village of Caroline and \$177,950 for the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

365/13

CARRIED 7/0

JIM DUNCAN: The ICC Committee recommends Council support the submission of a \$30,000 CGI Implementation Grant and \$50,000 of Regional Collaboration Project funding to fund ICC projects and that the County's contribution be reflected in the 2014 budget.

366/13

CARRIED 7/0

Ken Qually and Dennis Ross left the meeting. Janice Anderson joined the meeting.

**INFORMATION: 1. Information Items**

Ron Leaf stated an in depth assessment of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business report will be provided at a later date.

Councillor Bob Bryant will attend the Westview Lodge Grand Opening on October 11, 2013.

EARL GRAHAM: That the CAO's Report, Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable listing as of September 24, 2013, and Councillor Remuneration, be accepted as information.

367/13

CARRIED 7/0

**IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera**

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the CAO Review, legal and land matters, and Caroline Arena at 11:41 A.M.

368/13

CARRIED 7/0

Helge Nome, Garth Dymont, Sarah Maetche, Mike Haugen, and Tracy Haight left the meeting.

BOB BRYANT: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 1:00 P.M.

369/13

CARRIED 7/0

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes a Letter of Intent to move the CAO to the next grid level effective November 1, 2013.

370/13

CARRIED 5/2

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

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That the Meeting adjourns.

371/13

CARRIED 7/0

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REEVE

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER