

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held June 26, 2012 in the County Office at Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Jim Duncan
	Robert Bryant
	Dick Wymenga
	Case Korver
Municipal Manager:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Recording Secretary:	Christine Heggart
TIMS:	Darrell Philip
Construction Supervisor:	Erik Hansen
	Scott Brettelle
	Anthony Rodriguez
	Trevor Duley
	Sarah Maetche
	Helge Nome

Scott Brettelle introduced the new heavy duty mechanic Anthony Rodriguez to Council.

Jim Duncan added a Committee Report regarding the PowWow to the agenda.

Ron Leaf requested Council add two in camera items regarding land.

Scott Brettelle and Anthony Rodriguez left the meeting.

**AGENDA:** BOB BRYANT: That the June 26, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

239/12 CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. June 12, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

EARL GRAHAM: That the Minutes of the June 12, 2012 Regular Meeting be confirmed as circulated.

240/12 CARRIED 7/0

**PUBLIC WORKS: 1. BF 72763 & BF 76780**

Marshall Morton presented tenders for the replacement of two bridge sized culverts: BF 72763 (SSE 14-41-6-W5M) on Sleepy Valley Rd (Twp. Rd 41-2) and BF 76780 (SSW 26-41-6W5M) on Silver Springs (Twp. Rd 41-4).

Mr. Morton noted that staff received three bids, with Prairie Erectors Int'l Inc. being the low valid bidder and that the low valid bid for the construction portion of this project came in at \$153,446.85 over the engineer's estimated budget.

Mr. Morton noted the GAP funding formula and added that the cost for the bidder to control the detour and associated road maintenance were the

reason for the increased cost and that staff will evaluate whether this criteria will be included in future tenders.

Mr. Morton noted that tenders were reviewed with consultants and Alberta Transportation and that based on the GAP funding formula, the municipal share would be \$73,527.00 for these two bridge structures.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council approves awarding BF 72763 and BF 76780 tenders to Prairie Erectors Intl Inc.

241/12

CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM: That Council approves transferring \$73,527 from the Contingency to Public Works Bridges Budget.

242/12

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton, Darrell Phillip and Erik Hansen left the meeting. Diane Fingler joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:        2.        Local Authorities Election Act – Municipal Affairs Survey**

Ron Leaf presented recommendations for responses to Alberta Municipal Affairs Local Authorities Election Act Consultation.

Council recommended changing the response to Q3 to extend current Council term to spring of 2014 and then have four year terms thereafter.

Mr. Leaf noted for Q5 the nomination response the returning officer would have to investigate five valid signatures and Council agreed by consensus. Mr. Leaf noted for Q6 the response notes not precluding candidates from running in a by-election in the same term. Council amended the response to “no” by consensus.

Mr. Leaf responded to questions regarding Q12 noting that rural municipalities typically do not have voter’s lists, regarding Q13 regarding election campaign contribution limits being set by the individual municipality regarding the response for Q14 would be “yes” and the question of what would cause a campaign deficit and how candidates would fund the deficit.

Mr. Leaf responded to question regarding Q29 and Q33 regarding disclosure and by consensus Council amended Q33 response to “no”.

Discussion on Q35 and that voting online should not be allowed and by consensus Council agreed to keep the response “yes”.

BOB BRYANT: That Council approves the Local Authorities Election Act Consultation responses on behalf of Clearwater County Council, as amended.

243/12

CARRIED 7/0

Tyler McKinnon joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:        3.        Community Hall Capital Grant Funding Policy**

Tyler McKinnon presented background information on the Capital Grant Funding for Community Halls/Associations policy and provided a historical

listing of hall funding, noting the instances where funding provided deviated from the policy guidelines, such as funding in excess of 50% of a project or retroactive funding.

Mr. McKinnon noted areas of the policy that staff identified for discussion and clarification including: retroactive funding; matching requirements; annual funding amount; hall usage; and, eligible projects.

Councillor Vandermeer noted that he is comfortable reviewing applications on a case by case basis, that halls need to focus on their long term sustainability and that keeping the current annual budget amount is acceptable.

Councillor Wymenga noted the vital community service provided by community halls.

Councillor Bryant noted that projects should not be retroactively funded.

Councillor Graham noted that staff should provide notice to halls and encourage application during budget. Tyler noted that halls are sent a letter twice a year to remind them of grant and application deadlines.

Reeve Alexander noted that Council varied from the policy in many circumstances, that deviations from the policy may be seen as a fairness issue and reiterated his support for the policy as written.

Councillor Korver added the need to ensure halls focus on long term planning.

Mike Haugen noted the aging infrastructure of the halls and suggested the County request the hall's financial statements and/or a long term capital plan as part of grant application materials.

Councillor Vandermeer added the need to identify capital costs, maintenance issues and what halls will do to generate revenue (e.g. user fees).

Councillor Duncan noted the need to allow halls to qualify for funding even if the hall has reserves, to demonstrate their ability to plan for capital sustainability.

Ron Leaf noted previous discussion by Council of being the "funder of last resort". Councillor Duncan noted the need to define the statement and then stick to it.

BOB BRYANT: That Council tables the Community Halls Capital Grant Funding discussion.

244/12

CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. MP Blake Richards and Blaine Calkins**

Blaine Calkins provided a briefing on the spring session in Ottawa, noting the budget bill passed and that the budget will change the way federal government does business in Canada.

Mr. Calkins noted that the gas tax funding, set to expire in 2014, was extended until 2015 and doesn't see why it won't continue indefinitely and noted that Council should continue to make the gas tax a policy priority with AAMDC and FCM.

Blake Richards noted upcoming changes to the Building Canada Fund and the opportunities for Council's participation in the consultation sessions.

Mr. Calkins noted that he reviewed the Howse Pass economic feasibility report and that as the highway would cross two provinces and a national park. The proposal is complicated and is not likely to move ahead until both Alberta and British Columbia (BC) are on board.

Mr. Calkins further noted that the twinning of Highway 1 and major investments in the Kicking Horse Pass are opening up more east-west passage opportunities.

Mr. Richards noted he understands the merits of the Howse Pass project and that until BC is on board the project is a non-starter.

Marshall Morton and Erik Hansen joined the meeting.

Mr. Calkins added his concern with the toll required to travel west of Rocky Mountain House and that he'd like to see that toll removed to be consistent with travel west of Calgary and Edmonton.

Reeve Alexander noted that due to population urban centres control Alberta governance. As a result, Reeve Alexander noted his concern with funding in rural areas for important infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools and hospitals.

Mr. Richards noted the recognition of how important rural Canada is to this country and economy, that agriculture needs to be innovative and attract youth and that the opening up trade channels are key.

Mr. Calkins noted that everything happens in Canada because of rural resource bases and that the recent budget reflects support for rural Canada.

Councillor Bryant noted concern with quality of life issues, that see people leaving the Rocky Mountain House community to take advantage of better recreation facilities and schools in other communities, such as Red Deer.

Mr. Calkins noted budget provisions that support doctors and nurses working in under-serviced areas.

Mr. Richards noted that the removal of barriers and regulatory reforms should aid in rural sustainability.

Reeve Alexander noted that Clearwater County's revenues come mostly from industry (88%).

Ron Leaf referenced the need for a national policy on rural sustainability and noted concern with the lack of understanding of the challenges of rural Alberta citing the recent 700MHZ telecommunications auction. Mr. Leaf suggested that a percentage of the 700 MHZ should be reserved for rural Canada.

Mr. Richards noted that a national strategy is not needed and that an understanding of rural Canada manifested itself within the current budget – with the focus on the removal of trade barriers etc.

Councillor Duncan referenced the recent elimination of the federal Shelter Belt Program and Mr. Richards noted that the goal was to keep the federal budget in balance. He added that a review occurred and programs that were not meeting their objectives were cancelled and that any budget amendments or program cuts affect all parts of the country.

Councillor Duncan discussed the horse slaughter bill and the need to ensure horse slaughter remains an option in Canada.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council accepts the meeting with MP Blake Richards and MP Blaine Calkins as information.

**245/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**IN CAMERA:        7.       In Camera**

EARL GRAHAM: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of meeting with MP Blaine Calkins and Blake Richards regarding enforcement.  
11:30 A.M.

**246/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Helge Nome, Diane Fingler and Sarah Maeche left the meeting.

CASE KORVER: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 12:08 A.M.

**247/12**

CARRIED 7/0

BOB BRYANT: That the meeting recess for lunch at 12:09 P.M.

**248/12**

CARRIED 7/0

The meeting reconvened at 1:41 P.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting excluding Darrell Philip, Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen, Scott Brettelle, Anthony Rodriguez and Diane Fingler and including Keith McCrae, Eleanor Pengelly, Kathy Tessmer and Ed Nordall.

**PLANNING:        1.       Land Use Amendment – Bylaw 960/12 - Tessmer**

Council reviewed information from the public hearing regarding the redesignation of 16.85 acres described as Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 022 0194 (PT. NW 21-39-07-W5) From Agriculture District "A" to Light Industrial District "LI" for the purpose of expanding an existing pipeline maintenance business.

SECOND READING of Bylaw 960/12 was moved by Councillor BRYANT.

**249/12**

CARRIED 7/0

THIRD READING of Bylaw 960/12 was moved by Councillor DUNCAN.

**250/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Keith McCrae, Eleanor Pengelly, Kathy Tessmer and Ed Nordall left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:        3.       Community Hall Capital Grant Funding Policy**

DICK WYMENGA: That Council resumes discussion regarding the Community Halls Capital Grants Policy.

**251/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Discussion took place on the length of time needed for individual hall sustainability plans with Council's consensus that five years was a suitable length. Discussion also took place on the "funder of last resort" and by consensus Council opted to leave the wording the same.

Rhonda Serhan joined the meeting.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council directs staff to bring back policy amendment for \$35,000.00 for the 2013 budget year.

**252/12**

**CARRIED 5/2**

Discussion took place on the need for halls to provide proof that they can be profitable, either financial statements or long term capital plans.

Mr. Haugen noted that staff will be developing a best management practices guideline for community halls and Mr. Leaf noted that the capital grants policy is intended to reflect Council's support of community halls to remain self-sustainable.

Reeve Alexander and Councillor Duncan both noted there is no need to provide halls retroactive funding.

Marshall Morton and Erik Hansen joined the meeting.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council directs to staff to amend the Capital Grants for Community Halls policy as directed and bring back to Council for approval.

**253/12**

**CARRIED 7/0**

**MUNICIPAL:**

**4. Bingley Hall Capital Grant Request**

Tyler McKinnon presented a request from the Bingley Hall Community Association for \$3000.00 funding for replacement of their existing furnace with an energy efficient one, with an estimated total cost of \$3,100.00.

Mr. McKinnon referred to the relevant Capital Grants for Community Halls policy and noted the remaining funds in the 2012 Capital Grants budget total \$3,764.47 and described several capital projects completed by the hall in previous years.

Mr. McKinnon responded to question of how much savings are realized from switching to an energy efficient furnace, noting the need to follow up with the hall. He further respond to questions regarding hall fees and how Bingley Hall plans to manage the facility over the next five years.

Discussion took place on supporting the 50/50 rule.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council table the Bingley Hall Capital Grant request until information regarding furnace replacement needs, efficiencies in replacement and long term planning are presented.

**254/12**

**CARRIED 6/1**

Kimberly Jakowski, Keith McCrae and Vic Maxwell joined the meeting. Tyler McKinnon left the meeting.

DICK WYMENGA:

That the meeting recess for a public hearing at 2:14 P.M.

**255/12**

CARRIED 7/0

The meeting reconvened at 2:23 P.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting excluding Darrell Philip, Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen, Scott Brettelle, Anthony Rodriguez and Diane Fingler and including Keith McCrae, Eleanor Pengelly and Vic Maxwell.

**PLANNING:**

**2. Land Use Amendment – Bylaw 962/12 - Maxwell**

Council reviewed information from the public hearing regarding the redesignation of 3.16 acres described as Pt. SW 01-40-07-W5 from Country Residence District “CR” to Country Residence Agricultural District “CRA” and; for the redesignation of 1.34 acres described as SW 01-40-07-W5 from Agriculture District “A” to Country Residence Agricultural District “CRA” for the purpose of consolidating with the existing first parcel out to increase the size

SECOND READING of Bylaw 962/12 was moved by Councillor WYMENGA.

THIRD READING of Bylaw 962/12 was moved by Councillor GRAHAM.

**256/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL:**

**5. Regional Waste Authority – Proposed Change to Agreement**

Mike Haugen presented a request from the Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority Board to member municipalities, asking them to consent to a change to the current operating agreement. Specifically, additions to Clauses 21 and 22 are being proposed.

Mr. Haugen noted that the proposed additions clarify the respective processes and do little to change any current operations or service levels.

Mr. Haugen noted that the County already maintains insurance as outlined and the proposed changes are not seen to have any negative impact. As such, staff recommends that Council endorse the proposed changes.

CASE KORVER:

That Council authorizes the Reeve and CAO to sign the written notice dated June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 authorizing amendments to the Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority Agreement as presented.

**257/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL:**

**6. Collaborative Governance Initiative**

Ron Leaf provided information regarding a letter from the two Mayors and the Reeve sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs advising him that the Town of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline and Clearwater County wish to be considered for funding under AB Municipal Affairs Collaborative Governance Initiative (CGI).

Mr. Leaf noted that following recent joint meetings, the respective Councils have agreed that there is benefit in exploring collaborative ways of promoting matters of mutual interests including creation of new partnerships or expansion of existing partnerships to enhance service delivery or improve operational efficiencies.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council authorizes the Municipal Services Committee to act as steering committee to develop a Terms of Reference and review process for the CGI.

258/12 CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION: 1. Information Items

BOB BRYANT: That the Accounts Payable listing, the Municipal Manager’s Report and the Public Works Manager’s Report of June 26, 2012 be accepted as information.

259/12 CARRIED 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**PowWow Report**  
Councillor Duncan noted his attendance at the PowWow Committee and that they are promoting their event at the Marketplace on Main event taking place every Thursday evening over the summer.

**ACE Initiative**  
Councillor Duncan provided an update on the Active Creative and Engaged (ACE) communities committee and that his group developed an educational program for the West Country. He noted that the project is still awaiting funder approval.

Reeve Alexander noted the Bob Bryant was reelected to the Red Deer River Watershed Alliance board.

IN CAMERA: 7. In Camera

EARL GRAHAM: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing two land development issues.  
2:40 P.M.

260/12 CARRIED 7/0

Helge Nome, and Sarah Maeche left the meeting.

FIRST LAST: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 4:50 P.M.

261/12 CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT: CASE KORVER: That the Meeting adjourns.  
4:51 P.M.

CARRIED 7/0

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REEVE

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MUNICIPAL MANAGER