

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held March 14, 2017, in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

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

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
	Jim Duncan
	Curt Maki

Staff:	
Chief Administrative Officer	Ron Leaf
Recording Secretary	Tracy Haight
Director, Public Works	Marshall Morton
Director, Corporate Services	Rodney Boyko
Director, Community & Protective Services	Ted Hickey
Manager, Legislative Services	Christine Heggart
Manager, Operations	Erik Hansen
Project Technologist	Kate Reglin
Manager, Finance	Rhonda Serhan
Deputy Fire Chief	Ivan Dijkstra
Fire Chief	Steve Debiegne

Media:	Laura Button
	Keanna Nelson

AGENDA APPROVAL:

'Alberta Forestry in the Legislature' was added to Item I3 – Councillor Verbal Reports.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That the February 28, 2017 Regular Meeting Agenda is adopted as amended.
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083/17

CARRIED 7/0

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

1. February 28, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN	That the Minutes of the February 28, 2017 Regular Meeting are adopted as circulated.
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084/17

CARRIED 7/0

Christine Heggart and Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

**PUBLIC
WORKS:**

1. Tender Award: BF07463 (NW 12 38 04 W5M/Range Road 4-1 Bridge Crossing)

K. Reglin stated Administration received nine bids for the tendered bridge rehabilitation project, BF07463, to replace the bridge culvert at Range Road 4-1 located in NW 12 38 04 W5M.

Pearl Rose Construction Ltd., being the low valid bidder, received the tender award at a total cost of \$194,196.00 which is \$22,687.50 below budget.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the BF07463 (NW 12 38 04 W5M/Range Road 4-1 Bridge Crossing tender award information as presented.

085/17

CARRIED 7/0

**CLEARWATER
REGIONAL FIRE
RESCUE
SERVICES:**

1. 2017 Fire Season Prevention Report

R. Leaf introduced Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services' (CRFRS) new Fire Chief, Steve Debiegne.

S. Debiegne informed Council that Alberta's Wildfire Season started March 1 and burning within the Forest Protection Area (FPA) now requires an Alberta Forestry burn permit and notifying CRFRS.

He noted Clearwater County entered into a mutual aid agreement, effective 2016, with Alberta Forestry for the prevention and control of wildfires within the FPA. CRFRS will monitor conditions and consult with Alberta Forestry on the implementation of fire bans during the upcoming season. CRFRS will also continue raising awareness on the prevention of grass and wildfires.

Discussion followed on the FPA boundaries and R. Leaf confirmed Administration will provide more information on FPA mapping.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council receives the 2017 Fire Season Report as presented.

086/17

CARRIED 7/0

Ted Hickey joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. Bylaw 1019/17 Well Drilling Equipment Tax – First, Second and Third Readings

R. Boyko presented Bylaw 1019/17 authorizing Clearwater County to impose a tax on well drilling equipment for oil and gas wells. New Alberta well drilling

equipment legislation came into effect therefore an updated bylaw and fee schedule is required. Bylaw 1019/17 implements the calculation of fees as per Alberta Regulation 218/14.

087/17 COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council grants first reading of Bylaw 1019/17 Well Drilling Equipment Tax.
CARRIED 7/0

088/17 COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council grants second reading of Bylaw 1019/17 Well Drilling Equipment Tax.
CARRIED 7/0

089/17 COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council considers third reading of Bylaw 1019/17 Well Drilling Equipment Tax.
CARRIED 7/0

090/17 COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council grants third reading of Bylaw 1019/17 Well Drilling Equipment Tax.
CARRIED 7/0

2. Assessment and Tax Implications

R. Boyko noted the 2016 Assessment Roll was declared on February 22 and confirmed, upon receipt of the provincial education tax requisition amount, Administration will prepare the 2017 Tax Rate Bylaw for Council's review at the April 11 meeting.

D. Crout summarized the 2016 tax assessment results as follows:

- Under the current tax rate, an increase in the residential component assessment reflects a revenue increase of \$62,000.
- Residential tax revenue at risk is estimated at \$100,000.
- An estimated \$225,000 budget shortfall is anticipated under the current tax rates for all assessment classes.
- Large reductions in linear assessment did not materialize as anticipated.

D. Crout responded to questions and confirmed the increased residential assessment is for new builds. D. Crout also explained factors affecting uncollectable and/or tax revenue at risk. Administration intends to provide further details at the next Agenda and Priorities meeting scheduled for April 18.

091/17

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council receives the Assessment and Tax Implications report for information as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

3. Reserve Transfer for Broadband Administrative Report

R. Boyko reviewed Clearwater Broadband Foundation's proposal to Clearwater County on February 28 as follows:

1. That CBF borrows \$3.48 million from Clearwater County over 25 years, with \$0 principle and interest repayment for five years followed by a modest interest rate charge for 20 years.
2. That CBF uses County staff resources; and, County departments collaborate with CBF, to facilitate fibre deployment and completion of grant applications for projects.
3. That the County develops a 'dig-once' broadband deployment policy focused on increasing coordination between government agencies and utility companies to decrease the frequency of highway excavation.
4. That the County provides a timely response to CBF's proposal.

As per Council's February 28 direction for an administrative report and recommendations on CBF's proposal, Administration recommends contracting services to ensure the County provides due diligence and expert assessment of the business, legal and technical components of the review. Unbudgeted costs for applicable services, not including staff/department resources and materials for Items 2 and 3, is estimated at \$35,000.

R. Leaf responded to questions and explained Administration's progress to date includes meetings held with CBF Chair and Vice Chair, preliminary discussions held with three technical consultants with various engineering backgrounds, and a scheduled meeting with legal counsel on March 29.

R. Boyko responded to questions and explained CBF's proposal requires a thorough analysis and due diligence to ensure monies invested are done responsibly and with mitigated risks.

R. Leaf responded to question and noted anticipated completion date for the review is end of April to mid-May.

092/17

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council approves transferring \$35,000 to Other Contracted Services from the Internet Reserve to complete due diligence for the Administrative Report on CBF Broadband Proposal.

CARRIED 7/0

Rick Emmons, Keith McCrae, and Dustin Bisson joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

2. Letter of Support for 'Connect to Innovate' Grant Applications

T. Hickey stated Administration received a request from an local Internet Service Provider requesting a letter of support from Council for their 'Connect to Innovate' federal grant application.

Administration anticipates more requests to follow and recommends Council support other applicants as the program offers funding for rural or remote areas to obtain and/or improve high-speed internet connection using new "backbone" infrastructure, with a portion of funding for upgrades and "last-mile" infrastructure to households and businesses.

T. Hickey noted Clearwater County does not qualify as an applicant nor does the County have any projects that qualify for the grant before the grant's April 20 deadline. To qualify, applicants must identify who will build, own and operate the network, as well as who will manage the project. If the applicant does not itself have a track record in operating Internet infrastructure, it will be asked to demonstrate in its application that appropriate resources with experience deploying and operating Internet infrastructure are part of the project team/contracted resources.

R. Leaf responded to questions and confirmed CBF is not submitting a grant application.

093/17

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council directs Administration, as requested by qualifying organizations, to provide a letter of support for its 'Connect to Innovate' grant application.

CARRIED 6/1

PLANNING:

1. Clearwater County Hamlet Residential Chicken Bylaw

D. Bisson presented a draft bylaw, "Clearwater County Hamlet Residential Chicken Bylaw", for regulating and controlling the keeping of up to six chickens (excluding roosters) on hamlet residential lots in Alhambra, Condor, Leslieville and Withrow.

D. Bisson responded to questions and explained enforcement of bylaw regulations, based on complaints received, would require a designated officer either contracted or employed by the County.

Discussion took place and the following points were noted:

- The bylaw should include multi-lot residential properties.
- The bylaw should address manure management/chicken waste disposal that follows best practices to avoid water well contamination.
- Although only one ratepayer requested Council consider a bylaw for chickens, it is a popular issue that must be considered at some point.
- Further discussion regarding the solicitation of public feedback is required.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER:

That Council postpones Item H1 'Clearwater County Hamlet Residential Chicken Bylaw to March 28, 2017 Regular Council Meeting to accommodate a scheduled delegation.

094/17

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

1. 10:00 am Stephen Bull, Assistant Deputy Minister, SuperNet Secretariat, Service Alberta – ‘SuperNet and Broadband Internet’

S. Bull presented a Power Point, ‘SuperNet & Broadband Internet’ that outlined the history and status of SuperNet, a network system of fibre optic cables and wireless towers to connect public sector facilities in rural communities. As the SuperNet Operator, Axia FibreNet (Axia) monitors and maintains infrastructure and electronics; delivers services directly to the public sector; and, sells wholesale services to rural internet service providers (ISP) to use in delivering internet to rural Albertans and businesses. With the operating agreement set to expire in 2018, the Provincial Government is reviewing SuperNet’s business model and operations with intentions of identifying the government’s role in advancing rural broadband.

S. Bull explained SuperNet’s priorities is to ensure service continuity, improve quality and support future growth to meet the needs of public sector facilities and support continued improvement of rural internet delivery. He noted current discussions to determine options, funding and opportunities in enhancing broadband services are underway. In the future, SuperNet intends to encourage growth and explore levels of support for ISP’s in areas that are currently underserved. S. Bull also suggested future Provincial policies may include a provincial broadband long term strategy and funding models.

S. Bull advised Council to consider the following when determining the municipality’s role in broadband internet services:

- Don’t rely on one consultant’s perspective.
- Be clear and concise in ISP partnership roles regarding the purchase of infrastructure to enable competition and provide options to purchase.
- Consider broadband internet at a regional level to reduce costs and encourage ISP growth.
- Think carefully before entering long-term ISP agreements until the future of SuperNet is known.
- Consider partnering with Telus for Canadian Radio and TeleCommunications funding.

Discussion followed and S. Bull responded to questions regarding Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS) reliability and capacity. S. Bull noted he will forward inquiries to Alberta Health Services.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council receives Stephen Bull, Assistant Deputy Minister, SuperNet Secretariat, Service Alberta – ‘SuperNet and Broadband Internet’ presentation for information as presented.

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

R. Leaf noted the Cities of Red Deer and Lacombe's decisions to withdraw from the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP). Discussion took place on the withdrawal notice and budgetary constraints as a possible explanation for the respective Cities' decisions. Administration will continue to monitor and advise Council of potential impacts to Clearwater County budgets or CAEP services.

3. Councillor's Verbal Report

Reeve Alexander reported on the Alberta Forestry at the Legislature event he attended on March 7. Alberta Forestry is concerned with a potential loss in Forest Management Areas due to federal guidelines for caribou; and, Alberta Forestry scheduled interviews to discuss the impact a pine beetle infestation may have on the community.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council receives the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Councillor Verbal Report, and Accounts Payable Listing as information.

096/17

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Item J1 – Third Party Interest – Harewaves Wireless Inc. and Item J2 – Administrative Report – Area Structure Plan in camera in accordance with: a) the Municipal Government Act, Section 197(2) and b) the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 16(1)(a) to (c) and Section 24(1)(c) at 11:47 am.

097/17

CARRIED 7/0

Tracy Haight left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 12:30 pm.

098/17

CARRIED 70

RECESS:

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:30 pm.

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm with the following people present: Councillors Graham, Duncan, Vandermeer, Laing, Maki and Greenwood; Ron Leaf, Rick Emmons and Keith McCrae.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Item Administrative Report – Area Structure Plan in camera in accordance with: a) the Municipal Government Act, Section 197(2) and b) the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 16(1)(a) to (c) and Section 24(1)(c) at 1:03 pm.

099/17

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 1:38 pm.

100/17

CARRIED 7/0

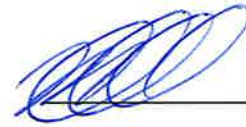
ADJOURNMENT:
1:38 pm

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the Meeting adjourns.

101/17

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER