

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held September 13, 2016, in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

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

Staff:
Chief Administrative Officer Ron Leaf
Recording Secretary Tracy Haight
Director, Public Works Marshall Morton
Director, Agriculture Services and Landcare Matt Martinson
Director, Corporate Services Rodney Boyko
Manager, Infrastructure Erik Hansen
Manager, Operations Kurt Magnus
Community Relations Coordinator Jerry Pratt
Communications Coordinator Christine Heggart

Member of the Legislative Assembly Jason Nixon

Media: Helge Nome
Keanna Nelson
Logan Schenk

Public: Cindy Taschuk
Michelle Swanson
Bob Haagsma

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

The September 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting agenda was amended as follows:

- Delivery of Council Agenda Packages as item F5.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the September 13, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

292/16

CARRIED 6/0

Reeve Alexander welcomed Keanna Nelson, News Correspondent for B94 Radio, to the meeting.

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting are adopted as circulated.

293/16

CARRIED 6/0

DELEGATIONS: 1. MLA Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre, Jason Nixon

Reeve Alexander welcomed MLA Jason Nixon to Council.

Discussion took place on the following issues of concern:

- Proposed MGA amendments regarding collaborative framework between municipalities with common borders.
- Role of the Alberta Ombudsman.
- Alberta First Responder Radio Communications System (AFRRCS).
- Phase 2 Federal Infrastructure Funding.
- Construction of a new hospital.
- West Country Management.

Mr. Nixon responded to questions and noted the following:

- Other municipalities have similar concerns with proposed MGA amendments. The provincial government indicated there will be opportunity for municipalities to review concerns before final passage of Bill 21.
- His position on the Legislative Offices Committee, which oversees the Ombudsman Office, provides opportunity to address concerns in the Legislative Assembly.
- He intends to question changes to the AFRRCS and forward the County's concerns regarding a segregated system.
- The provincial government has not indicated any municipal cost sharing plans for infrastructure.
- Minister Hoffman is scheduled to tour the hospital on October 24.
- West Country management is a very large issue that involves funding, parks designation, wildlife management and trail designation and management. He is interested in obtaining feedback from stakeholders and residents by way of a Town Hall meeting.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council receives the information as presented.

294/16

CARRIED 6/0

2. Clearwater Broadband Foundation, Michelle Swanson and Bob Haagsma

Michelle Swanson and Bob Haagsma, members of the Clearwater Broadband Foundation (CBF), explained CBF is a community based organization with a membership consisting of local residents and business owners that believe enhanced broadband high-speed internet service is important for social and economic development for community residents and businesses. CBF would like to pursue the development of a business model and pilot project to offer a broadband community service.

Ms. Swanson and Mr. Haagsma asked that Council consider supporting CBF's efforts by sharing Clearwater County's technical knowledge obtained from previous research and study on broadband high-speed internet. They also invited a member of Council to join CBF's board membership.

Discussion took place on challenges with providing a cost effective and affordable service and applicable business models for service supply. Reeve Alexander noted that a councillor appointment to CBF will be considered at Council's Organization Meeting on October 25.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council receives the information as presented.

295/16

CARRIED 6/0

Bruce Eckford, Greg and Kim Davin, Bob Pearce, Ivor Green, Alice Murray and Ryan d'Abadie joined the meeting. Matt Martinson, Jason Nixon, Michelle Swanson, Bob Haagsma left the meeting.

3. Shell Canada Ltd., Alice Murray, Community Affairs Associate and Ryan d'Abadie, Senior Surface Landman

Ryan d'Abadie stated that Shell Canada Ltd. (Shell) requests that Clearwater County assumes the maintenance and management of the privately owned egress road, Township Road 35-1A (Baker Street), that runs east and west on the quarter line of N ½ and SW ¼ 8 35 5 W5M.

Mr. d'Abadie noted the road was originally constructed by Shell, on land leased from the residents, to provide sufficient emergency egress from a sour gas plant facility that was developed in the area. The land lease expires in October 2016 and Shell does not wish to renew the lease as the economic end-of-life for the gas field is anticipated by 2018 thereby ending Shell's interest in the area.

Marshall Morton explained that this road, located on private property, does not currently meet County industrial or residential road standards. Costs to upgrade the road to residential standards are approximately \$160,000 and \$90,000 for industrial standards, not including wetland compensation. The road currently meets existing residents' needs however school bus access is a concern. Average maintenance costs are approximately \$3100/km/year.

Alice Murray added it is not economically feasible for Shell Canada to upgrade the road to County standards. Currently road maintenance is handled by an oil and gas company and residents are satisfied with current road conditions.

Discussion took place on policy direction for industry access and isolated access roads and possible options for the residents on Township Road 35-1A.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council receives the information as presented; and directs Administration to meet with Shell Canada and affected residents to discuss maintenance and management of Township Road 35-1A; and reports back to Council on anticipated outcomes.

296/16

CARRIED 6/0

Curran Chronik joined the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

1. Signing Authority for Rocky Regional Landfill EPEA Approval Renewal Application

Curran Chronik, Manager, Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority (RWA) requested that Council authorize RWA as the "duly authorized representative" for Alberta Environment and Parks renewal application to obtain Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) approval of RWA's landfill site for a 10-year term.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER:

That Council authorizes Curran Chronik, Manager, Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority, as the duly authorized representation for RWA's application for

renewal of EPEA Approval No. 10052-01-00.

297/16

CARRIED 6/0

Curran Chronik left the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Bylaw 1018/16 Highway Management

Marshall Morton presented the draft Bylaw 1018/16 for Highway Management and noted the bylaw:

- links current policy;
- manages and approves regulatory signage;
- replaces and rescinds individual regulatory sign bylaws;
- provides a detailed list of scheduled fees and specified penalties; and,
- authorizes the CAO administrative powers.

Mr. Morton responded to question and explained rational for including provisions for road allowance licences named as additional insured and noted theoretical road allowances are not included.

Discussion took place and Council requested that a definition for "highway" be included in "Part 2 – Definitions" section.

Christine Heggart joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council grants First Reading to Bylaw 1018/16 as amended.

298/16

CARRIED 6/0

2. Red Deer County Request for Resolution Endorsement

Ron Leaf presented Red Deer County's resolution "Alberta Environment Approvals for Construction Projects" requesting the provincial government consider supporting timely approvals for construction projects from Alberta Environment. Red Deer County asks that Clearwater County endorses the resolution at the upcoming Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (CAAMDC) District 2 meeting.

Mr. Leaf noted that upon Administration's review, it is recommended that the resolution should also include an operative clause asking for the provision of municipal exemptions relating to municipal roadways.

Marshall Morton provided a summary of events leading to the development of the resolution and noted current rules and existing legislation creates challenges and onerous methods for approvals. Clearwater County has experienced project delays, such as the Caroline Sand/Salt Storage facility, related to Alberta Environment's lengthy approval process especially when wetlands are involved.

Discussion followed on how current delays to road projects, pending government approval, increases costs and traffic safety concerns for municipalities. Discussion continued on how allowing municipal exemptions for straight forward, simple culvert projects would mitigate concerns and allow work to proceed in a timely manner.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council endorses Red Deer County's "Alberta Environment Approvals for Construction Projects" resolution.

299/16

CARRIED 6/0

3. Wheatland County Request for Resolution Endorsement

Ron Leaf presented Wheatland County's resolution "Borrowing Powers for Regional Library System Boards (RLS)" requesting the provincial government to develop necessary legislation, policy and procedures to enable Alberta's Library Systems borrowing powers for capital funding to repair, expand or replace facility headquarters. Wheatland County asks that Clearwater County endorses the resolution at the upcoming Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (CAAMDC) District 2 meeting.

Discussion took place on concerns with the resolution allowing for provincial downloading rather than taking responsibility for funding capital projects; and, the potential for increased requisition amounts to cover RLS capital loans.

It was noted that the resolution will be debated at the CAAMDC District 2 meeting once endorsed.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council endorses Wheatland County's "Borrowing Powers for Regional Library System Boards" resolution.

300/16

CARRIED 6/0

4. Clearwater Trails initiative letter – Letter of Support Request

Christine Heggart presented a draft letter, for Council's review, in support of Clearwater Trails Initiative's (CTI) application for a Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta grant (FRIAA).

The FRIAA grant supports projects that enhance Alberta's forest resources, and the CIT's proposed project includes a bridge installation near Swan Lake and some trail work to help alleviate overuse by off-highway vehicles.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council endorses a letter of support for the Clearwater Trails Initiative's application for a FRIAA grant.

301/16

CARRIED 6/0

5. Delivery of Council Agenda Packages

Councillor Laing asked that Council consider authorizing the delivery of council agenda packages on the Thursday prior to the council meeting.

Currently, as per The Procedures Bylaw 954/12, the agenda is delivered to council members on the Friday afternoon prior to the council meeting.

Councillor Laing noted advantages to receiving the agenda earlier as follows:

- extra time to review and consider agenda items; and,
- extra time to resolve network connectivity issues that grants electronic access to the agenda package.

Discussion took place on running the risk of not having important and/or emergent issues included in the agenda if delivery date is moved up.

Discussion took place on network connectivity issues and Ron Leaf noted Administration currently has an independent consultant reviewing the County's network and computer system to address the connectivity and operational issues being experienced by Council and staff..

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council postpones agenda item F5. Delivery of Council Agenda Packages to the September 27 meeting.

302/16

CARRIED 6/0

Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. Wilderness Village Request For Changes to 2016 Property Tax

Denniece Crout presented a request from Wilderness Village Campground Association for Council to phase in the 2016 tax increase for Roll 4008143001 over a period of time.

Ms. Crout noted Administration met with Wilderness Village administration and discussed the assessment value for the property. Ms. Crout stated Administration determined the assessment value and commercial property designation is accurate and that no complaint was filed with the Assessment Review Board.

Ms. Crout responded to questions and confirmed as per Section 347(1) and (2) of the Municipal Government Act, Council may adjust and/or phase in taxes if it considers it fair to do so.

Discussion took place on the property development and improvements undertaken by the Association since 2009.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council upholds the assessment and taxation as per Bylaw 1015/16 for Roll 4008143001.

303/16

CARRIED 6/0

RECESS: Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. with the following people present: Councillors Duncan, Maki, Vandermeer, Laing, and Greenwood; Ron Leaf, Jerry Pratt, and Tracy Haight.

COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

1. Digital Futures Symposium

Jerry Pratt provided information on the Digital Futures Symposium taking place in Lac La Biche on October 19 – 21, 2016.

Discussion took place regarding councillors availability to attend. Councillor Vandermeer indicated interest in attending and recommended another councillor also attends.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council authorizes Councillor Vandermeer's and one other councillor to attend the Digital Futures Symposium October 19 – 21, 2016.

304/16

CARRIED 6/0

INFORMATION: 1. CAO's Report

Ron Leaf noted upcoming dates for events and programs.

Discussion took place on provincial and federal updates, programs and initiatives that were reviewed at the Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators' Association conference that Mr. Leaf attended.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Councillor's Verbal Report, AAMDC Position Statements, Accounts Payable Listing, and the Councillor Remuneration as information.

305/16

CARRIED 6/0

IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Labour issue at 1:57 p.m.

306/16

CARRIED 6/0

Councillor Laing left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 4:13 P.M.

307/16

CARRIED 5/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the CAO Performance Evaluation as presented and authorizes the Reeve and Deputy Reeve to sign.

308/16

CARRIED 5/0

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILLOR MAKI:
4:15 P.M.

That the Meeting adjourns.

309/16

CARRIED 5/0


REEVE
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER