

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held February 09, 2016 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 10:56 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

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| Reeve: | Patrick Alexander |
| Councillors: | Curt Maki |
| | Jim Duncan |
| | John Vandermeer |
| | Kyle Greenwood |
| | Theresa Laing |
| CAO: | Ron Leaf |
| Director, Public Works: | Marshall Morton |
| Recording Secretary: | Tracy Haight |
| Staff: | Christine Heggart |
| | Michelle Meatheringham |
| Member of Parliament – Yellowhead: | Jim Eglinski |
| Media: | Jeff Medhurst |
| | Sylvana Crosby |

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Duncan added a verbal Committee Report, Clearwater Trails Initiative, as item G3.

Councillor Vandermeer added a verbal report, Broadband Communications Study, as an in camera item.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the February 09, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

043/16 CARRIED 6/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That the Minutes of the January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting be accepted.

044/16 CARRIED 6/0

MUNICIPAL:

1. Delegation: Jim Eglinski, Member of Parliament (MP)

Ron Leaf welcomed MP Jim Eglinski to Council.

Discussion took place regarding the tour of Bunch Welding Ltd., a local rural manufacturing plant that constructs facilities and pipelines for the oil and gas industry. Bunch Welding Ltd. depends on high speed internet access to conduct its business and remain competitive in the global market. This company, as well as other local businesses, would realize economic growth and development with enhanced internet service.

Mr. Eglinski responded to questions from Council and he confirmed that the lack of access to high speed internet in rural areas is an issue all across Canada. Currently, the Federal Government has not identified any program funding and/or grant funding to address this issue.

Discussion followed on several reasons for the lack of high speed internet service in rural areas, such as:

1. Internet Service Providers (ISP) have stated that supply costs are prohibitive in low density population areas.
2. Lack of a competitive data plans for ISPs.
3. Uncertainty in how to provide equal service to both urban and rural areas due to logistics and cost efficiency challenges.
4. The minimum standards for internet service, as set by the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), are inadequate and limit growth potential.

Members of Council suggested possible solutions to rectify this issue such as:

1. Recognition by the Federal Government of high speed internet service as an "essential utility" would support increased government funding which would allow rural Canada to be competitive.
2. Changes to CRTC regulations are required to allow local government with the ability to influence ISP in the provision of increased services.
3. A collaborative approach by all levels of government, along with public-private partnerships, would facilitate progress and sharing of existing infrastructure.

Mr. Eglinski responded to questions and noted his membership on various committees including the Agriculture and Agri-Food Committee and the Environment and Sustainable Development Committee.

Discussion took place on issues of concern regarding complicated regulations involving wetlands and lack of funding for aging wastewater facilities and infrastructure.

Mr. Eglinski provided information on his constituency office schedule and sitting days for the House of Commons.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council receives the information as presented.

045/16

CARRIED 6/0

MP Jim Eglinski left the meeting.

Christine Heggart introduced Michelle Meatheringham, Assistant Communications Coordinator, to Council.

2. Review of Clearwater County Council Lobby and Advocacy Campaigns

Council reviewed key messaging for Council's various lobby and advocacy topics that Council may raise with Ministers during the 2016 AAMDC Spring Convention. Specifically:

1. Construction of New Hospital
2. Linear Pooling
3. Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Grant
4. Broadband/High Speed Internet
5. Bridge and Resource Road Funding
6. West Country Management
7. Policing

Discussion took place on approaching the Minister of Municipal Affairs during the upcoming Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) conference to inquire on the date of release for the Provincial Government's decision on linear pooling.

Discussion took place on decreased staffing levels at the Rocky Mountain House RCMP Detachment and Ron Leaf noted that Administration is scheduled to meet with the Staff Sargent for an update.

Discussion took place on the Provincial Government's current legislative processes for passing new regulations, such as Bill 6, that does not allow for public consultation in a timely manner. Although the government is now considering public input after passing Bill 6, there are no processes in place to show how public input is considered in the development of regulations. Administration will investigate and research legislative and regulatory processes used by other provinces and provide information, along with an education session, to Council at first opportunity.

Discussion took place on the potential impact of the provincial carbon tax program on the agricultural industry. Administration will provide information at first opportunity.

Discussion followed on the various lobby groups that are pushing for more restrictions on land use that will effect recreation and forestry in the West Country.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented

046/16

CARRIED 6/0

3. High Speed Internet Report

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council tables Item E3 High Speed Internet Report.

047/16

CARRIED 6/0

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

Ron Leaf reviewed scheduled events and meetings taking place in February through March.

3. Councillors' Verbal Report

Councillor Duncan provided an update on the Clearwater Trails Initiative project and noted that the group is working on provincial trail designations and mapping. A forum is scheduled for February 25 to discuss enforcement and liability issues pertaining to trails on crown land. Councillor Duncan will provide information on the trail designation process at first opportunity.

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

048/16

CARRIED 6/0

RECESS: Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for a lunch break at 12:15 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:48 P.M. with the following people present: Councillors, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; and Ron Leaf.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the Broadband Communication Study item at 12:48 p.m.

049/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting 1:15 P.M.

050/16

CARRIED 6/0

RECESS: Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for two Public Hearings at 1:15 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:25 P.M. with the following people present: Councillors, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; Ron Leaf, Marshall Morton, Charlene Johnson, and Tracy Haight.

PUBLIC
HEARINGS:

1. Bylaw 1012/16 Road Allowance Permit Second & Third Readings

Council reviewed all information presented at the February 09, 2016 Public Hearing, for an application to allow Dusty and Branden Fay to lease a road allowance which lies between the NE 35-36-06 W5M and SE 02-37-06 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less) for cattle grazing purposes.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council grants Second Reading to the Bylaw 1012/16, to allow Dusty and Branden Fay to lease a road allowance which lies between the NE 35-36-06 W5M and SE 02-37-06 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less).

051/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council grants Third Reading to the Bylaw 1012/16, to allow Dusty and Branden Fay to lease a road allowance which lies between the NE 35-36-06 W5M and SE 02-37-06 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less).

052/16

CARRIED 6/0

6. Bylaw 1013/16 Road Allowance Permit Second & Third Readings

Council reviewed all information presented at the February 09, 2016 Public Hearing, for an application to allow Dwayne Bunch to lease a road allowance which lies between NW 21-39-04 W5M and NE 20-39-04 W5M (approximately 4 acres more or less).

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council grants Second Reading to the Bylaw 1013/16, to allow Dwayne Bunch to lease a road allowance which lies between NW 21-39-04 W5M and NE 20-39-04 W5M.

053/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council grants Third Reading to the Bylaw 1013/16, to allow Dwayne Bunch to lease a road allowance which lies between NW 21-39-04 W5M and NE 20-39-04 W5M.

054/16

CARRIED 6/0

Marshall Morton provided an update on the progress of policy changes for permitting of road allowances and noted anticipated changes include requirements for licensing, signage, and liability insurance. As per Council's direction, legal services are currently developing a new bylaw that will eliminate advertising requirements that results in cost savings of approximately \$500 per application.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Labour item at 1:32 p.m.

055/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting 2:24 P.M.

056/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the proposed amendment to the CAO contract and authorizes the Reeve and Deputy Reeve to sign.

057/16

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council raises Item E3 High Speed Internet Report from the table.

058/16

CARRIED 6/0

MUNCICIPAL: 3. High Speed Internet Report

Councillor Vandermeer indicated that the Rural Communications Committee intends to submit a detailed report to Council after the committee meeting scheduled for February 10, 2016.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council removes Item E3 High Speed Internet Report from the February 9, 2016 Council Agenda.

059/16

CARRIED 6/0

**ADJOURNMENT:
2:25 P.M.**

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the Meeting adjourns.

060/16

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER