

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held January 13, 2015 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in 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:	Patrick Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	Curt Maki
	Jim Duncan
	Theresa Laing
	Kyle Greenwood
	John Vandermeer
CAO:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, CPS:	Ted Hickey
Director, Corp Services:	Rudy Huisman
Director, Planning:	Rick Emmons
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	Erik Hansen
	Kurt Magnus
	Brad Welygan
	Taylor Harder
	Christine Heggart
	Rhonda Serhan
Media:	Dania Gravelle
	Laura Button

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Graham requested the addition of a verbal report as item J5; Councillor Laing requested the addition of a verbal report regarding a school and EMS services in Nordegg as item J6; Reeve Alexander requested the addition of two resolutions from Mountain View County as items G2 and G3; Ron Leaf requested the addition of RMRF Law Seminar as item G4; and Councillor Duncan request the addition of a request to attend a conference as item J7.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

**001/15**

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. December 09, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes**

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the December 09, 2014 Regular Meeting be accepted.

**002/15**

CARRIED 7/0

**2. December 09, 2014 Public Hearing Minutes**

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That the Minutes of the December 09, 2014 Public Hearing be accepted.

**003/15**

CARRIED 7/0

**PUBLIC  
WORKS:**

**1. 2015 Winter Gravel Program**

Kurt Magnus outlined the 2015 Winter Gravel Program and noted estimated cost is \$1,160,400 to re-gravel approximately 405km of road and will use approximately 79,000 tonnes of gravel from current inventory. Start date is scheduled for January 19, 2015, pending Council's approval and suitable weather conditions.

Staff responded to questions from Council and discussion followed.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves the 2015 Winter Gravel Program as presented.

**004/15**

CARRIED 7/0

**AG SERVICES  
& LANDCARE:**

**1. Call For Nominees: Alberta Water Council Lake Management Project Team**

Council discussed the request from the AAMDC for nominees to act as their representative on the Alberta Water Council (AWC) Lake Management Project Team.

Council noted the requirements of the program; the selection process; term of commitment; and the project's heavy workload.

Councillor Duncan recommended David Trew, Executive Director – North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, as a nominee submission.

Matt Martinson joined the meeting.

Matt Martinson noted Ag Services and Landcare is actively involved with this type of work and will keep Council informed of any new developments.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes the submission of David Trew's name as nominee for the AWC Lake Management Project Team.

**005/15**

CARRIED 7/0

Trish Bingham joined the meeting. Brad Welygan left the meeting.

**PLANNING:**

**1. Biodiversity Draft Policy Consultation**

Rick Emmons provided an overview of the Government of Alberta's draft Biodiversity Policy and stated the government is asking for input from the perspective of municipalities by way of an online survey.

Mr. Emmons stated with Council's direction, administration will complete the survey as per Council's mandate.

Discussion followed on the philosophy of biodiversity and management principles for species.

Dennis Ross joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council directs Administration to complete the survey.

**006/15**

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Subdivision/Development/Environmental Appeal Board Alternate Member At Large**

Rick Emmons stated Bob Bryant has applied for the Alternate Member at Large position on the Subdivision Development Appeal Board.

Mr. Emmons responded to questions from Council and noted the position was advertised previously in September in relation to Council's Organizational Meeting and that an insufficient number of applications were received to fill the "member at large" vacancies on the SDAB. The position was re-advertised prior to Christmas for two weeks and Mr. Bryant's application was the only one received.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council appoints Bob Bryant as an Alternate Member at Large on the Subdivision Development Appeal Board.

007/15

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

**2. Mountain View County Resolution "Resource Extraction within Municipal Boundaries"**

Ron Leaf identified that two resolutions were received on January 12 and the Mountain View County is requesting Clearwater's endorsement so that the resolutions can be presented at the February 6<sup>th</sup> District Two AAMD&C meeting.

Given the recent receipt neither Council or staff had opportunity to review the content of the resolutions however, Mr. Leaf suggested that Council's evaluation of the resolutions should be whether the issues identified in the resolutions are of regional or provincial significance and warrant debate.

If Council agrees that to second the motion, Mr. Leaf identified that councillors could provide amendments or arguments against the resolutions at the February 6, 2015 Zone 2 AAMD&C meeting. Mr. Leaf also identified that staff would provide an administrative recommendation on both resolutions at the January 27 regular council meeting, provided the resolution is approved by the District Two Resolution Committee.

Ron Leaf advised that Mountain View County is requesting Clearwater County's endorsement of their first resolution regarding resource extraction for the upcoming District 2 AAMDC meeting on February 6. Discussion followed on whether Council should endorse or second the resolution and whether the resolution merits debate and discussion at the District 2 meeting.

008/15

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council opposes the "Resource Extraction within Municipal Boundaries" resolution at the District 2 AAMDC meeting.

DEFEATED 5/2

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council seconds the "Resource Extraction within Municipal Boundaries" resolution.

009/15

CARRIED 7/0

**3. Mountain View County Resolution “Landowner Special License for Elk”**

Ron Leaf advised that Mountain View County also requests Clearwater County’s endorsement of the second resolution regarding landowner special license for elk for the upcoming District 2 AAMDC meeting on February 6. Mr. Leaf identified that Matt Martinson would provide an administrative recommendation on this resolution at the January 27 regular council meeting if the resolution is approved by the resolution committee.

Discussion followed and it was noted although the elk population is high and requires management; it is a small component of a larger issue of uncontrolled wildlife population thru out the province. The impact of increased wolf population on agriculture and recreation areas also needs to be considered.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:                    That Council seconds the “Landowner Special License for Elk” resolution.

010/15

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. 2015 Operating & Capital Budgets**

Rudy Huisman presented the proposed 2015 Operating and Capital Budget and noted the following administrative recommendations:

- allocate \$2,000,000 from 2014 Operations to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve
- rename the “High Speed Internet Tower Reserve” to “High Speed Internet Reserve”
- allocate \$2,000,000 from 2014 Operations to the High Speed Internet Reserve
- increase tax rates to 2% for residential; 8% for non-residential; and 4% for farmland; in order to balance the 2015 Capital and Operating Budgets
- approve the proposed 2015 Capital and Operating Budgets as presented.

Mr. Huisman and Rhonda Serhan responded to questions from Council on the provincial school tax requisition and linear assessments. Council noted the following:

- the final assessment for linear assessment are unknown at this time, a loss in revenue is anticipated when new the Well Drilling Equipment Tax (WDET) regulation comes into effect
- low oil prices are not likely to impact 2015 revenues, however there may be an impact in 2016, specifically related to the WDET.

Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

Mr. Huisman responded to questions from Council and explained the requisition increase from the Rocky Mountain Regional Solid Waste Authority (RWA). Council discussed the following:

- the increase has been phased over a six-year period and divided between the Town of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline, and Clearwater County
- RWA’s cost of operations have been subsidized in past years by contaminated soil revenue
- the RWA requisition includes funding for future capital costs for items such as heavy equipment, new cell development as well as post closure monitoring costs.

Ms. Serhan noted \$3.82 M in contribution to the Town of Rocky Mountain House for the arena is from the Operating Budget, not the Capital Budget.

Council noted replacement of salt storage sheds in Town of Rocky Mountain House and Village of Caroline are necessary to comply with federal and provincial regulations.

Council noted the importance of the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve due to the potential downturn in the economy related to decreased oil prices.

Ms. Serhan responded to questions from Council and it was noted that the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) contract expires in 2017.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council reallocates \$2,000,000 from 2014 Operations to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

011/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves renaming "High Speed Internet Tower Reserve" to "High Speed Internet Reserve".

012/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council reallocates \$2,000,000 from 2014 Operations to High Speed Internet Reserve.

013/15

CARRIED 7/0

Council discussed the recommendation to increase tax rates and noted the following:

- the proposed tax rate for farmland correlates to a very small dollar increase, approximately \$9200 in total revenue
- small tax rate increases over the years are preferred over the impact of a huge increase once every few years
- tax rates are affected by provincial downloading, increases in ratepayers' demands for services and services offered, cost increases for legislated health and safety requirements, and projects funded by the County.
- concern was expressed in setting tax rates before the actual linear assessment values are confirmed; .

Ms. Serhan responded to questions from Council and explained process for adopting the proposed 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets before approval of tax rates.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council tables the motion to approve a 2% Residential tax rate; 8% Non-Residential tax rate; and a 4% Farmland tax rate.

014/15

CARRIED 7/0

Cammie Laird joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council adopts the proposed 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets for calendar year 2015.

015/15

CARRIED 7/0

Trish Bingham, Dennis Ross, Rhonda Serhan, and Denniece Crout left the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**1. Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service – Service Level Review**

Cammie Laird, Fire Chief, presented an overview of services provided by Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service (CRFRS) and outlined applicable policies, bylaws, and legislation.

Ms. Laird outlined the CRFRS Service Level Review (SLR) Committee's Directive and stated the Committee accepts and supports the current level of service provided by the CRFRS.

Ms. Laird responded to questions from Council and discussion followed. Council noted the following:

- Council must continue to monitor Alberta Health Services' EMS model and service delivery within Clearwater County;
- the value and cost effectiveness of volunteer firefighters and CRFRS's unique programs to involve volunteers
- response coverage and resources in Clearwater County are not effected during training exercises
- future discussions are required thru the Intermunicipal Collaboration Committee to address challenges faced regarding replacement of facilities
- it was noted that the review document should have an Executive Summary as part of a public communication strategy future discussions are required to determine an effective method of measuring the public's expectations on the required level of service

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves the CRFRS SLR Directive as presented.

016/15

CARRIED 7/0

Cammie Laird left the meeting.

**2. Red Deer County Request for Support re Alberta Community Partnership Grant Application**

Ted Hickey presented Red Deer County's request for support of their Alberta Community Partnership grant application. Grant funds are for the purchase of three rescue vehicles.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Council and noted the mutual aid agreement between Clearwater County and Red Deer County.

Discussion followed and Council noted Red Deer County is a regional resource for emergency management access and first responder support if requested.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council supports Red Deer County's Alberta Community Partnership grant application.

017/15

CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan and Katie Lutz joined the meeting.

**3. Industry Canada Announcement Regarding changes to Utilization of 3500MHz Spectrum**

Ted Hickey provided Council with details of Industry Canada's decision not to reallocate the 3500MHz spectrum or establish rural or urban classification of Tier 4 service areas.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Council and discussion followed.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

018/15

CARRIED 7/0

**4. Additional Name Insured – Caroline & District Athletic & Ag Society**

Katie Lutz presented a request from the Caroline & District Athletic & Ag Society to be added to Clearwater County's Community Hall and Community Group Insurance policy in support of the service that this group provides to the County.

Rhonda Serhan responded to questions from Council regarding cost recovery. Ms. Serhan clarified the County will pay for the cost of insurance as outlined in the policy.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the addition of Caroline & District Athletic & Ag Society to the Clearwater County Community Hall and Community Group Insurance policy under "Other Community Groups"

019/15

CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan and Katie Lutz left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

**4. Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer LLP Municipal Law Seminar**

Ron Leaf provided information on municipal law seminars offered by Reynolds Mirth Richards & Farmer (RMRF) LLP in Edmonton, February 20 and Airdrie, February 27.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council authorizes any interested councilors' attendance at the RMRF municipal law seminars of their choice.

020/15

CARRIED 7/0

**INFORMATION:**

**7. Information as presented by Councillor Duncan**

Councillor Duncan requested authorization to attend a FireSmart Conference and provide greetings on behalf of Clearwater County. Council noted Councillor Duncan's attendance would fall under his committee appointments.

**5. Information as presented by Councillor Graham**

Councillor Graham provided statistics on the number of senior's waiting for accommodations at various lodges. He noted Westview Lodge is at full occupancy level of 80 with 41 single and 3 couples on the wait list.

Councillor Graham noted the Caroline Ambulance Service attained accreditation and that AHS adopted many of their policies for use by other ambulance services.

**6. Information as presented by Councillor Laing**

Councillor Laing provided a review of the Nordegg Health Care Working Group and noted ambulance service in Nordegg will be in effect for a one year trial basis starting February 2015.

Councillor Laing provided information on an upcoming meeting with an advocacy group from Nordegg, the provincial government, and the Wild Rose School Division to discuss the establishment of a school in Nordegg.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council accepts the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable Listing, Information as presented by Councillors Duncan, Graham, and Laing, and Councillor Remuneration as information.

**021/15**

CARRIED 7/0

Laura Button and Dania Gravelle left the meeting. Keith McCrae joined the meeting.

**IN CAMERA:**

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Legal and Land issues at 1:43 P.M.

**022/15**

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 3:21 P.M.

**023/15**

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council approves the purchase of the lands described as 112+/- acres in the NW 13-36-6-W5.

**024/15**

CARRIED 7/0



**ADJOURNMENT:  
3:23 P.M.**

**COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:**

That the Meeting adjourns.

**025/15**

CARRIED 7/0

  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops, positioned above a horizontal line.

REEVE

  
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Lee', positioned above a horizontal line.  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER