

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held November 24, 2015 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve: Patrick Alexander
Councillors: Earl Graham
Curt Maki

Jim Duncan
John Vandermeer
Kyle Greenwood
Theresa Laing
Rudy Huisman
Tracy Haight

Acting CAO:
Recording Secretary:
Staff:
Director, Public Works

Marshall Morton
Kurt Magnus
Kate Reglin
Mike Bell
Rhonda Serhan
Christine Heggart
Kris Johnson

Town of Rocky Mountain House Staff:

Media: Laura Button
Sylvana Crosby

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Maki added "Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act", the proposed legislation by the Provincial Government, as item G2.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the November 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

412/15 CARRIED 7/0

Ted Hickey, Keith McCrae, and Rick Emmons joined the meeting.

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted as circulated.

413/15 CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Kris Johnson, Director of Engineering & Operations, Town of Rocky Mountain House – Wastewater Facility Update, 2015

Kris Johnson, Director of Engineering and Operations with the Town of Rocky Mountain House presented the third quarter report on the town's wastewater treatment and septage receiving station's operations, compliance, usage and treatment capacity.

Mr. Johnson responded to questions on the increase in Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD) levels for May and June and he

explained this is a typical reaction to the spring weather. The CBOD levels are still below approved requirements. Mr. Johnson noted that assessment reports for receiving water quality and treatment capacity will be completed by year end so as to meet Alberta Environment's approval requirements.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

414/15

CARRIED 7/0

Kris Johnson and Kate Reglin left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

2. Response to Letter from Parkland County

Rudy Huismann stated that on November 13, Parkland County Mayor Roy Shaigec asked for Clearwater County's endorsement, by November 16, of an open letter to Premier Notley expressing concerns with the policy platform to accelerate the phase out of coal-fired generating stations.

Council did not have opportunity to discuss this request prior to the deadline, therefore Clearwater County did not participate in the open letter. However, should Council wish to send a letter to the Premier, it is recommended that Council requests that the Province identify details on the transition, implementation schedule, associated costs, and the impact on municipal taxation and electrical rates for this program.

Discussion followed on the Province's recent announcement to move forward with the decommissioning of coal-fired generating stations and the effects on the economy, municipal tax revenues, electricity costs for businesses and consumers, and costs to the rate payer.

Discussion followed on demonstrating Clearwater County's support of Parkland County's concerns by sending a letter to Parkland County.

Discussion continued on Administration obtaining further details and a financial perspective of the tax implications of this program.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council sends a letter of support to Parkland County and direct staff to provide further details and tax implications on the accelerated phase out of coal-fired generating stations at first opportunity.

415/15

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson, Sgt. Terri Miller, Kim Gilman, Keith McCrae, Rick Emmons, and Greg Somers joined the meeting.

1. Delegation: Greg Somers

Greg Somers expressed concerns with the loss of farmable land, particularly in Alberta, due to an increase in oil/gas industry activity, first-parcel out subdivisions, and rural multi-lot developments. He stated that it is increasingly difficult to locate a sufficient amount of prime agricultural land for purchase to sustain family farm operations.

He also expressed concerns with agricultural operations subject to animal, noise, and odor complaints from nearby acreage developments. He stated that eventually farm operators incur costs related to these complaints.

Mr. Somers requested that Council consider the preservation of farm land in Clearwater County as a priority.

Discussion followed on the purpose of the Municipal Development Plan, which considers public input and is subject to reviews, is to provide direction for land use zoning, subdivisions and development proposals.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

Greg Somers, Keith McCrae, Rick Emmons, Christine Heggart, Marshall Morton, and Kim Gilham left the meeting.

3. Alberta Land Institute – Land Use 2016 Conference

Tracy Haight provided information on the Alberta Land Institute *Land Use 2016 Conference* taking place in Edmonton May 4 – 5. The conference provides an opportunity to discuss land-use issues and solutions such as regional planning for ecosystem services, agriculture land use, governance and regional planning for sustainability.

Discussion followed regarding councillors attendance at the previous Land Use Conference in 2014. Reeve Alexander and Councillors Laing and Graham indicated interest in attending the conference. Councillor Duncan noted that he is able to attend thru his involvement with Clear Water Landcare.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes three Councillors attendance at the Land Use 2016 Conference.

CARRIED 7/0

417/15
S/Sgt Mark Groves, Sgt. Mike Numan, and Cst. Carmen Dutz joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

1. Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) Mark Groves, RCMP Rocky Mountain House Detachment – Quarterly Statistics and Sergeant (Sgt) Terri Miller, Clearwater County Highway Patrol – 2015 Quarterly Report

S/Sgt. Groves reported on criminal activity within Clearwater County and explained new initiatives, such as increased RCMP surveillance on known suspects involved in property/auto theft and drug related crimes, and increased communications between agencies, are successful in mitigating crime in the area.

He reported on the School Resource Officer program and noted the program continues to achieve results due to officer interactions with students.

Sgt. Mike Numan reported on recent events involving vehicle pursuit of suspects and noted that RCMP's primary concern is public safety.

S/Sgt. Groves noted that the successful partnerships with Clearwater County Highway Patrol Officers, provincial agencies, and other RCMP detachments continue to aid enforcement measures.

Constable Carmen Dutz, Acting Commander for the RCMP Rimby Detachment, reported on criminal activity within the Rimby area. He noted that partnerships with community agencies, communication between

detachments and other agencies are effective in identifying known criminals which is helpful in enforcement efforts.

Discussion took place on speeding on rural roads, rural policing issues, manpower and resources for policing, and the effectiveness of rural crime watch groups in the prevention of property theft.

S/Sgt. Groves responded to questions from Council regarding staff levels and noted that the real estate market effects the transferability of officers.

Cpl. Josh Matthies joined the meeting.

Corporal Josh Matthies, new RCMP member at the Rocky Mountain House Detachment, introduced himself to Council.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

418/15

CARRIED 7/0

S/Sgt. Mark Groves, Sgt. Mike Numan, Cst. Carmen Dutz, and Cpl. Josh Matthies left the meeting.

Sgt. Terri Miller presented the Clearwater County Highway Patrol third quarterly report. Sgt. Miller noted tickets issued for speeding, overload, and bridge overload violations. She noted that changing traffic court to once per month has created a backlog and delays court hearings by approximately one year.

Sgt. Miller responded to questions and explained that permits are withheld from companies in violation of road/traffic regulations.

Discussion followed on the value of public reporting on companies that are in violation of road/traffic laws to highway patrol officers and/or RCMP.

Sgt. Miller responded to questions and explained general procedures, as per provincial legislation, for ticketing overload violations.

Discussion followed on traffic violations on rural roads and the extensive amount of time required for processing the violation. Sgt. Miller stated that drivers failing to appear in court increases processing costs and currently there is no recourse for the department to recover these costs. Lobby efforts are required to change the current system.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council receives the information as presented.

419/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Integration to Support Search and Rescue – Rocky Mountain House within the Clearwater Community and Protective Services Division

Ted Hickey presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Clearwater County and Rocky Mountain House Search and Rescue (SAR) for the integration of SAR within Clearwater County's Community and Protective Services (CCCPS) Department. He noted that the intent of the MOU is to provide SAR with operational and capital support while maintaining SAR's independent non-profit society status with the provincial government, and remaining as a response agency under the direction of the RCMP and not a county provided service.

Mr. Hickey outlined the roles, responsibilities, reporting requirements, and compliance regulations for the two parties. He explained that the proposed financial arrangements will provide SAR with annual funding within the CCCPS

budgetary amounts. He noted that 2016 operational costs are estimated at \$14,000 - \$20,000 and that capital support costs will be reviewed during Council's upcoming 2016 budget deliberations.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions regarding SAR response and noted that SAR has an excellent reputation within the area and is not considered as emergency first responders.

Discussion followed regarding SAR rescue activities and that the focus of the organization is to support and assist policing agencies.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions and explained that SAR receives provincial grant funding and that volunteers contribute many hours for fundraising efforts. He stated that SAR is committed to maintaining its non-profit status and volunteer base.

Discussion followed on the requirement for specially trained individuals in the SAR organization and without operational support, the West Country would lose a valuable resource.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the Memorandum of Understanding with Rocky Mountain House Search and Rescue.

420/15

CARRIED 7/0

4. Cancellation of December 22 Regular Council Meeting

Rudy Huisman stated that Clearwater County's Procedural Bylaw authorizes Council to change or cancel regularly scheduled Council meetings. Council typically cancels the second regular meeting in December as it falls during the Christmas holiday schedule.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council cancels the December 22, 2015 regular meeting and directs staff to advertise the change.

421/15

CARRIED 7/0

5. Invitation from Chamber of Commerce

Rudy Huisman stated that Chamber of Commerce, Serving Clearwater County and the Town of Rocky Mountain House, extends an invitation with two complimentary tickets to attend the *Festival of Trees Sip & Savour Taste Festivity* event on November 26.

Councillors Duncan and Greenwood indicated their availability to attend.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the invitation to attend the *Festival of Trees Sip & Savour Taste Festivity* event on November 26.

422/15

CARRIED 7/0

**AG SERVICES
& LANDCARE:**

1. Draft Policy: Roadside Cleanup

Matt Martinson presented a draft policy to address Council's support of local youth groups' who volunteer to clean up trash along Clearwater County's roadsides as part of their fundraising efforts. He reviewed the policy definitions

and procedures and the groups that participated in the 2015 highway cleanup program.

Matt responded to questions and he explained that under-age supervision requirements are not addressed in the policy but are dealt with administratively.

Discussion followed on the policy's intent to provide opportunity for youth/youth groups to raise money for a worthy cause and/or event. The intent is to also include groups that raise funds for the betterment and enjoyment of community members and visitors.

Mr. Martinson responded to questions regarding the eligibility, under the new policy, of some of the groups that participated in the 2015 highway cleanup program. He explained that the majority of groups listed meet the new policy's intention. He stated that in the past, approximately 80% of County roadsides are cleaned by the groups listed and some of these roadsides are more suitable for cleanup by adult groups due to trash content.

Discussion took place on the main priorities of the policy is to non-profit youth/youth groups followed by non-profit groups that wish to promote the community and provide community benefits that enhance recreation, arts/culture, and social needs.

Discussion followed on the definitions and procedure sections as outlined in the policy. Administration will review and amend the policy to include the following: definitive wording regarding 'youth', 'non-profit' and 'community benefit'; wording that shows priority to youth/youth groups; and wording that considers other groups that raise funds for the benefit of the community.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives as information.

423/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Proposed Legislation - Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act

Discussion took place on the Provincial Government's proposed Bill 6: Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act legislation that was introduced on November 17. At this time the impacts of Bill 6 on agricultural operators in Clearwater County and all of Alberta are unknown. Matt Martinson stated that Administration will provide updates and feedback as information becomes available.

Discussion continued on what assistance can be provided to Clearwater County farmers from the Ag Services and Landcare Department if and when the legislation goes through. Administration, well versed in Occupational Health & Safety regulations and the Workers' Compensation Board, is able to provide general information, risk and hazard assessments, and resource tools to County farmers, if required.

Administration will attend the Provincial Government's Farm and Ranch Information Session on December 1 in Red Deer regarding this legislation and will provide updates at first opportunity

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council receives the information as presented.

424/15

CARRIED 7/0

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting at 12:25 P.M. for a lunch break.

Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with the following in attendance: Councillors Graham, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; Rudy Huismann, Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen and Tracy Haight.

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

Rudy Huismann reviewed upcoming events for December and January.

He noted the January 5 deadline for submitting resolutions to the Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. Currently there are no topics/issues for a resolution.

Councillor Duncan reported on his meeting with Minister Oneil Carlier, Agriculture and Forestry.

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

425/15

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Legal issue at 1:05 P.M.

426/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 1:43 P.M.

427/15

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:
1:43 P.M.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the Meeting adjourns.

428/15

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER