

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held November 10, 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
	John Vandermeer
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
CAO:	Ron Leaf
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	
Director, Corp Services	Rudy Huisman
Director, Public Works	Marshall Morton
Manager, Infrastructure	Erik Hansen
	Bradley Welygan
Media:	
	Laura Button
	Sylvana Crosby
	Helge Nome

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Laing requested the addition of an item under H3 for authorization to attend the Family and Community Support Services conference.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

393/15

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. October 27, 2015 Organizational Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the October 27, 2015 Organizational Meeting be accepted as circulated.

394/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. October 27, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That the Minutes of the October 27, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted as circulated.

395/15

CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Tender Award: 2016 Asphalt Overlay

Marshall Morton stated Administration tendered the 2016 Asphalt Overlay program which includes re-surfacing, side slope improvement and other work for approximately 19.7 km on the Buster Creek Road.

Seven bids were received at the November 5 tender opening in which Border Paving Ltd. was the low valid bidder at a cost of \$2,934,955. This amount is \$3,955 more than the engineer's estimated amount.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council and explained that the engineer's estimated project costs are reflective of the current economy. He noted that asphalt pricing is not effected by the current oil market.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council awards the 2016 Asphalt Overlay Program tender to Border Paving Ltd.

396/15

CARRIED 7/0

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council regarding contractor deficiencies on the Beaver Flat Roads. He explained that the contractor did not fulfill some of the required project specifications. He noted that the contractor will complete corrective measures in the spring of 2016. The County has applied payment holdback and any additional costs for work completed by the County will be deducted from the contractor's final payment.

Christine Heggart joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. 2016 – 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets

Rudy Huisman proposed that Council consider delaying the 2016 – 2018 Budget Review, originally scheduled for November 30 – December 3, 2015, and the adoption of the budget, until late January or early February 2016.

He explained that a decrease in linear assessment revenues may occur related to changes in the linear modifiers as assigned by the Provincial Government. Until the 2016 linear assessment modifiers are released early/mid-January, the effects of linear assessment revenue in the budgets are uncertain.

Discussion followed on delaying the budget review to allow for more certainty on the effects of decreased linear assessment revenues on the operating and capital budgets.

Discussion continued on staff presenting an interim operating budget for Council's consideration on December 8. Staff will also provide a shortlist of capital items that require approval and a revised schedule for the budget review at that time.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council reviews an interim operating budget on December 8, 2015.

397/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council removes Item 352/15 Red Deer College Request for Support from the table.

398/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Tabled Item: 352/15 Red Deer College Request for Support

Mr. Huisman provided background information on a request from Red Deer College (RDC) for Council to consider a \$1.4 million contribution for a new Health, Wellness and Sport Center.

Mr. Huisman reported on other municipalities' responses to similar funding requests from RDC as follows:

- Red Deer County approved a \$500,000 contribution in response to RDC's request for \$5,000,000 in funding.
- Lacombe County approved a \$1,000,000 contribution in response to RDC's request for \$1,275,000 in funding.

Discussion followed on RDC's request for funding and it was noted that although it is for a worthwhile cause, Clearwater County's priority is funding local initiatives. Also, the anticipated loss of linear assessment revenues limits availability of funds for any contribution to this project.

Discussion continued on the importance of advocacy for provincial funding for colleges in smaller urban centers, like RDC, so that provincial funding is comparable to what colleges and universities in larger urban centers receive.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council denies the request from Red Deer College for a \$1.4 million contribution for the Health, Wellness and Sport Center.

399/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council sends a letter to Red Deer College stating reasons for not contributing to the Health, Wellness and Sport Center and indicate Council's advocacy for provincial funding of the project.

400/15

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

1. Council Christmas Greeting Advertising - 2015

Christine Heggart provided information regarding previous "Christmas Greetings from Council" advertisements in the Mountaineer, Western Star and Sundre Round Up.

Ms. Heggart noted in the past, advertisements included a full colour photo of Council and a Christmas greeting. The ads ran for one week in all three papers. Ms. Heggart stated the total cost for the three Christmas Greeting advertisements in 2014 was \$900.00 and was equally divided and paid by Council.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council authorizes the publication of Christmas Greeting Advertisements, using the 2013 photo, with costs borne by Councillors.

401/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Subdivision Development Appeal Board Alternate Member At Large

Tracy Haight stated Lorissa Nafziger applied for the vacant Alternate Member at Large position on the Subdivision Development Appeal Board.

Discussion followed on the availability of training for newly appointed board members and Ron Leaf stated that the Planning Department will provide training for Ms. Nafziger at first opportunity.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council appoints Lorissa Nafziger as an Alternate Member at Large on the Subdivision Development Appeal Board.

402/15

CARRIED 7/0

3. Invitation December 3 Fundraiser – Central Alberta Pregnancy Center

Ron Leaf stated that Council received an invitation from Central Alberta Pregnancy Center to attend a fundraiser event on December 3. The Center is working towards offering services in Rocky Mountain House. The Center plans on making a formal presentation to Council in the new year.

Mr. Leaf responded to questions and explained that the Pregnancy Care organization offers counselling services; further information will be presented at the event.

Councillor Laing indicated her availability to attend the event.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes Councillor Laing's attendance at the Central Alberta Pregnancy Center event on December 3.

403/15

CARRIED 7/0

Jerry Pratt joined the meeting.

4. Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) 2015 Fall Resolutions

Ron Leaf provided background information and administrative comments on the AAMDC Fall 2015 Resolutions.

Reeve Alexander provided information on the AAMDC Resolution Committee's criteria for acceptance of resolutions.

Discussion followed on Resolution 1-15F and Council's role in lobby efforts for continued provincial funding support for municipalities.

Discussion followed on Resolution 7-15F regarding issues related to the recycling of agricultural plastics as follows:

- Costs for cleaning agricultural plastics, before recycling, are expensive for both farmers and recyclers.
- The response from the Agriculture Service Board indicates that recycling agricultural plastics is too onerous to develop at this time.
- At this time, costs for recycling agricultural plastics cannot be done economically without increased costs for the end user.
- Increased education on the detriments of burning agricultural plastics is needed.

Discussion followed on Resolution 10-15F and Ron Leaf noted that the Rocky Seniors Housing Association is currently reviewing forecast demands and that a report is anticipated in 2016.

Discussion followed on the wording of Resolution 14-15F. Councillor Greenwood indicated he will comment on this resolution at the AAMDC session.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the AAMDC Fall 2015 Resolutions Review as information.

404/15

CARRIED 7/0

Cindy Taschuk, Dan Burger, Marla Zapach, and Anil Walji joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

1. 10:30 A.M. Delegation: Rocky Mountain House, Caroline, and Nordegg Chambers of Commerce

Jerry Pratt, Community Relations Advisor, Community and Protective Services, introduced Chamber of Commerce, Serving Clearwater County and Town of Rocky Mountain House President Anil Walji and Executive Director, Cindy Taschuk; Nordegg Chamber of Commerce President, Marla Zapach; and Caroline Chamber of Commerce President, Dan Burger.

Mr. Walji stated that the three Chambers of Commerce (COC) support Clearwater County's Regional Economic Development Plan and thanked Council for the opportunity to work with and support Administration in the development of a regional tourism strategy.

Mr. Burger noted that the COC anticipates that collaborative efforts in the development of tourism will benefit the regional economy.

Ms. Zapach noted that the involvement of the three COC in economic development represents a strong link between communities and that the COC's want to support Council and facilitate communication between the parties involved.

Discussion followed regarding increased tourism activity in Clearwater County and that the use of statistics would be beneficial in determining how tourism operators can meet the required needs of tourists in the area.

Discussion continued on how the development of industrial/commercial areas in the County creates opportunity for growth and a viable economy which in turn creates opportunity for diverse business including tourism.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council receives the information as presented.

405/15

CARRIED 7/0

Dan Burger, Marla Zapach, Cindy Taschuk, Anil Walji, and Jerry Pratt left the meeting.

5. 2015/16 Provincial Budget Analysis

Ron Leaf provided an overview of 2015/16 Provincial Budget Analysis reports written by Impact Consulting and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA).

Mr. Leaf noted items from the Provincial Budget that will potentially impact Clearwater County programs and/or projects for 2015/16 as follows:

- The taxation increase on insurance premiums will impact County operational costs with respect to vehicle and liability programs.
- Although the Provincial Government is funding the Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) in 2015/16, specifics of how the funding will be allocated are not known at this time.
- The Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) component funding increased by \$7 million.
- The Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital funding increased by \$50 million over the next five years.
- The Alberta Community Partnership funding decreased by 18%.
- Municipal water/wastewater funding significantly increased with \$706 million dedicated from 2015-16 to 2019-20, which includes \$160 million for 2016-17.
- Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) provincial funding increased by 33%.

Discussion followed regarding Clearwater Regional FCSS and the probability of increased County funding related to increased provincial funding.

Discussion followed regarding concerns with the lack of capital funding criteria and program details from the Provincial Government. Mr. Leaf stated that Staff will continue to evaluate County programs and projects eligibility for provincial funding, however it is anticipated that there will be no changes to provincial programs or funding until the end of the Province's 2015/16 fiscal year.

Discussion followed regarding concerns with the Province not releasing the 2016/17 Budget details until April/May of 2017. If this should occur, it would be difficult to incorporate 2016/17 grant funding into the County's 2016 capital projects.

Discussion followed regarding opportunities for Councillors to discuss these concerns with Ministers and NDP MLAs and to encourage the government to release program criteria and details as soon as possible.

Discussion followed regarding the STIP and the amount of competition between municipalities, effects on pricing and work projects, timing of the release of funds by government, and criteria effecting Council's priorities.

Mr. Leaf responded to questions and stated that Administration will provide further information regarding the Province's \$178 million budgeted amount for job creation incentive grants as noted on the AUMA report, at first opportunity.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:	That Council receives the 2015-16 Provincial Budget Analysis Report as presented.
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406/15

CARRIED 7/0

Paul Bradley, Paul Hostin, and Tom Daniels joined the meeting.

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

Ron Leaf reviewed upcoming events and programs for November. He noted that Administration requires Council's direction on the scheduling of the December 22 regular meeting date at the November 24 regular Council meeting.

Discussion followed regarding attendance at the "Diversity Tree" event and Councillor Duncan indicated his availability to attend.

Councillor Laing requested authorization to attend the FCSS annual conference.

Discussion followed and it was noted that Council authorization is not required as it is covered under Councillor Laing's membership on the FCSS board. Travel expenses and per diem rates are covered as per County policy.

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

407/15

CARRIED 7/0

6. 11:30 a.m. Delegation: West Fraser LVL, Paul Bradley, General Manager

Ron Leaf introduced Paul Bradley, General Manager; Paul Hostin, Production Superintendent; and Tom Daniels, Forestry Superintendent, from West Fraser LVL.

Mr. Bradley provided a PowerPoint presentation "About West Fraser". He explained West Fraser's operating philosophy and sustainable forest management plan and reviewed operation statistics for the Rocky Mountain House and Sundre plants.

Mr. Bradley responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on the forestry market and the forestry industry activity in Clearwater County.

Councillor Duncan thanked Mr. Bradley for West Fraser's support and participation in the Clearwater Trails Initiative.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

408/15

CARRIED 7/0

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting at 11:54 a.m. for a lunch break.

Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:33 P.M. with the following in attendance: Councillors Graham, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; Ron Leaf, Paul Bradley, Paul Hostin, Tom Daniels, and Tracy Haight.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Third Party Interest, Labour, Legal, and an Administrative Report at 12:33 P.M.

409/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That the meeting reverts to an
Meeting at 4:45 P.M.

Open

410/15

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:
4:45 P.M.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the Meeting adjourns.

411/15

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER