

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held March 22, 2016 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
	Curt Maki
Chief Administrative Officer:	Ron Leaf
Director, Planning:	Rick Emmons
Manager, Planning:	Keith McCrae
Director, Community Services:	Ted Hickey
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	Dustin Bisson
	Brad Welygan
Media:	Laura Button
	Sylvana Crosby
	Helge Nome
Public:	Derry Armstrong

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Graham added a verbal report as Item H3.  
Councillor Vandermeer added a verbal report as Item H3.  
Reeve Alexander added Invitation from the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services as Item E2.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

105/16

CARRIED 6/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

1. March 08, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR LAING: That the Minutes of the March 08, 2016 Regular Meeting are accepted as circulated.

106/16

CARRIED 6/0

**PLANNING:**

1. 9:05 A.M. Delegation: Derry Armstrong, Armstrong Consulting Services – Nordegg and Area Trail System

Councillor Jim Duncan joined the meeting.

Rick Emmons stated that Administration completed the public consultation phase concerning the concept plan for a motorized and non-motorized trail system in Nordegg and the West Country area.

Derry Armstrong, Armstrong Consulting Services, presented a slide show that outlined the consultation process and methods used to obtain public feedback. He noted that public input identified concerns regarding highway crossing safety, proximity of trails to residential property, noise, dust control, and enforcement. Consequently, the concept plan was revised so as to address these concerns.

Mr. Emmons responded to questions and explained that 60% of the survey responses supported trail development in Nordegg's north subdivision.

Discussion took place on factors influencing costs for trail development in the West Country, such as terrain type and flood mitigation.

Mr. Emmons responded to questions on the availability of grant funding for trail development and he explained that based on research conducted by Administration, the project does not meet provincial funding criteria. Discussion took place on investigating funding opportunities from the federal government as currently, recreational trails are zero funded by the provincial government.

Discussion took place on public concerns with highway crossing safety and Mr. Emmons noted that Alberta Transportation did not place any restrictions on the proposed crossing. The concept plan proposes increased signage and improved visibility at highway crossings for trail users.

Discussion continued on the benefits of developed multi-use trails in Clearwater County, particularly in the West Country, for tourism and regional economic development.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the "Nordegg Trail Plan – Clearwater County" as presented.

107/16

CARRIED 7/0

Helen Willigar and Diane Dobson joined the meeting. Rick Emmons, Keith McCrae, Dustin Bisson, and Derry Armstrong left the meeting.

**COMMUNITY  
& PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**1. 9:45 A.M. Delegation: Caroline Legion #177 – Grant Request**

Ted Hickey presented a request from the Royal Canadian Legion - Caroline Branch #177 (Legion) for approximately \$24,210.00 to replace the roof on the Legion building.

Helen Willigar, Legion Past President, responded to questions and explained that the roof has been repaired, however an inspection determined that a new roof is required. She noted that the Legion requested funding from various sources, including the Village of Caroline, however the requests were denied. A loan was obtained from The Royal Canadian Legion Provincial Association and the amount is reflected in the Legion's financial statement. The Legion's revenue sources include venue rental, raffles/draws, special events, and liquor sales. Clearwater County residents, some of who hold memberships, attend events.

Discussion took place on the Legion's eligibility for grant funding as per Clearwater County's current policy. The policy does not address requests from halls/associations located in other municipalities. Currently, funding for this program comes from County ratepayers and there is question as to whether a portion of funding should also come from community resources. The 2016 budget for this program is \$35,000 and with anticipated requests from 5

or more county community halls, there are not enough funds to meet the anticipated needs.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council postpones the Legion's funding request pending Council's review of the Community Halls/Association Capital Grant Funding policy.

108/16

CARRIED 7/0

Helen Willigar and Diane Dobson left the meeting. Rudy Huisman joined the meeting.

**2. Invitation from the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS)**

Reeve Alexander provided information on the invitation from AASAS to attend a presentation from the Rocky Mountain House Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) on April 20.

Discussion took place on Councillors' availability to attend.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council authorizes two Councillors to attend the SART presentation on April 20.

109/16

CARRIED 7/0

Cam Sorenson and Chris Montgomery joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE SERVICES:**

**1. Verbal Report: Clearwater County Technology and Information Management Systems (TIMS)**

Brad Welygan, Manager, TIMS, provided an update on the progress of data migration to the new server system. He noted completion is delayed due to a failed database cluster. Several software programs and applications are affected, however the department anticipates full restoration.

All external connectivity issues with County phones, emails and website have been resolved and operations are back to normal. Internal connectivity issues and processing speeds will stabilize once a failed switch, currently on backorder, is replaced.

Rudy Huisman noted that the annual audited financial statements are delayed due to the data migration issues. As per Section 605 of the Municipal Government Act, Administration will request a ministerial order to extend the filing deadline for the financial information return.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

110/16

CARRIED 7/0

Brad Welygan left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. Tri-Council Meeting Date**

Ron Leaf inquired on Councillors' availability to attend a Tri-Council meeting on either June 16 or June 17.

Discussion followed and based on councillors' availability June 13 was proposed as the date for the Tri-Council meeting. Administration will confirm Town and Village Councils availability to attend and report to Council.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council proposes June 13, 2016 for a Tri-Council meeting.

111/16

CARRIED 7/0

Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

**2. 10:30 A.M. Delegation: Chris Montgomery, Manager of Exploration & Production (E&P) Communications, and Cam Sorenson – Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)**

Chris Montgomery, Manager of E&P Communications, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), presented a slide show that illustrated the impact of declining oil and gas commodity prices on the industry and the effect on capital investment in Canada, number of wells drilled in Western Canada, and unemployment rates in Alberta.

Discussion took place and Mr. Montgomery noted that industry operating costs, including municipal assessment of linear, machinery, and equipment taxes, are close to 100% of revenue as a result of low commodity prices. Unfortunately, some companies are defaulting on municipal tax payments and while the municipal portion may be uncollectable, municipalities are required to pay the education portion on the company's behalf. He noted that CAPP is advocating for municipal policy to decrease the current assessment year modifier, cap the mill rate ratio, and for the non-distribution of the linear assessment base with large urban centres.

Mr. Montgomery responded to questions and he stated that Clearwater County's non-residential/residential tax ratio is favorable at less than 3:1 however, CAPP is advocating for a ratio of 2:1 to allow oil and gas companies to be more competitive within Canada. Discussion followed regarding municipal costs associated with maintaining road and bridge infrastructures and other services that support oil and gas companies and their employees. Council also noted that the provincial tax to municipal tax ratio is approximately 8:1.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

112/16

CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION:

**1. CAO's Reports**

Ron Leaf reviewed upcoming events and programs and noted the Agenda and Priorities meeting is scheduled for April 18. He noted that in the March edition of 'Explore' magazine, Nordegg received recognition as one of the top 10 adventure towns in Canada.

**3. Councillor's Verbal Report**

Councillor Graham reported on a community meeting in Sundre, facilitated by Wildrose MLA Jason Nixon and staff, to discuss Alberta Health Service's announcement to close 15 long-term care beds at the Sundre Hospital and Care Centre.

Councillor Vandermeer reported on the Digital Futures Symposium that he attended and provided an overview of a presentation by the City of Calgary on sustainable and cost effective communications infrastructure.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council receives the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Councillor's Verbal Report, and the Accounts Payable listing as information.

113/16

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss an item of Third Party Interest and BR2 Architecture at 11:39 A.M.

114/16

CARRIED 7/0

RECESS:

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:09 P.M.

Reeve Alexander reconvened the meeting at 12:40 P.M. with the following people present: Councillors Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, Graham and Laing; and Ron Leaf.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 3:30 P.M.

115/16

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:  
3:30 P.M.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the Meeting adjourns.

116/16

CARRIED 7/0

  
REEVE

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER