

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held March 24, 2015 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: Patrick Alexander  
Councillors: Earl Graham  
Curt Maki

Jim Duncan  
John Vandermeer  
Kyle Greenwood  
Theresa Laing  
Ron Leaf  
Marshall Morton

CAO: Director, Public Works:  
Director, Community & Protective Service: Ted Hickey  
Recording Secretary: Tracy Haight  
Staff: Erik Hansen  
Kurt Magnus  
Kate Unwin  
Ryan Thompson  
Brad Welygan

Media: Denia Gravelle

Public: Laura Button  
Don Johnston  
Dennis Ross

AGENDA  
APPROVAL:

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the March 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted.

089/15 CARRIED 7/0

CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:

1. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted.

090/15 CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC  
WORKS:

1. 2015 Culvert Tender

Erik Hansen introduced new staff member, Ryan Thompson. Mr. Morton noted Mr. Thompson will fill the Construction Foreman position vacated by staff retirement.

Kurt Magnus stated Clearwater County tendered 2015 culvert requirements and received three bids, with Frontier Construction Products Ltd. as the low valid bidder at \$94,173.83.

Discussion followed and administration responded to questions from Council.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council awards the 2015 Culvert Tender to Frontier Construction Products Ltd. in the amount of \$94,173.83.

091/15

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Grader Maintenance Tender Award – Grader Beat #507**

Kurt Magnus stated five bids were received in response for a tender on Grader Beat #507, maintenance of approximately 162 km of gravel road, which is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2015. Mr. Magnus noted Jomad Industries Ltd. as the low valid bidder at \$88.00 per hour.

Mr. Morton stated the contract for Grader Beat #507 is for a five year period and that this beat has had four different contractors over the past few years.

Mr. Morton noted that Jomad Industries Ltd. currently holds two other grader beat contracts with Clearwater County.

Council members questioned whether there was any policy limiting the number of grader beat contracts that any one contractor may hold with Clearwater County. Mr. Morton responded stating that the current “Hiring of Equipment” policy does not specify a number. He explained that he and his staff had a similar concern and requested a legal opinion on whether Council could impose a limitation with the purpose of avoiding a monopoly on County contracts.

Discussion continued and Council noted some owner/operators have held contracts with Clearwater County for over twenty years. Mr. Morton noted that the current contract price, which averages \$85.40, is an excellent rate.

Council requested that staff amend the “Hiring of Equipment” policy to include a limitation on the number of contracts and present a draft policy for Council’s review as soon as possible.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council awards the Grader Beat #507 maintenance contract to Jomad Industries Ltd.

092/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council requests Administration to amend the “Hiring of Equipment” policy and present to Council at first opportunity.

093/15

CARRIED 7/0

**3. Small Communities Funding (SCF) Application by the Town of Rocky Mountain House for Regional Waste Cell Development**

Marshall Morton outlined the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (SCF) program and noted the program offers a total of \$188 million to small municipalities to fund eligible infrastructure projects.

Mr. Morton explained the application process, reviewed the criteria for eligible projects, and noted that applications from municipalities for inter-municipal projects may receive a higher ranking. Consequently, Administration suggests partnering with the Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Village of Caroline in the application for a new solid waste cell infrastructure project

for the Regional Waste Authority. Mr. Morton also recommended partnering with the Village of Caroline and apply for water/wastewater infrastructure improvements and for servicing of Clearwater County's parcel to facilitate commercial development along Highway 54.

Administration responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on the program, application deadline, and expectations of approval of the applications.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER:

That Council supports the Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House, and the Village of Caroline's joint application for the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund program for the Rocky Mountain Regional Waste Authority's new solid waste cell infrastructure project.

094/15

CARRIED 7/0

**4. Small Communities Funding Application by the Village of Caroline for Hwy 54 and Water/Wastewater Upgrades**

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council supports the Clearwater County and the Village of Caroline's joint application for the Canada-Alberta Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund program for improvements to water/wastewater infrastructure beneath Highway 54 and for the servicing of the Clearwater County Phase Two Highway 54 commercial development infrastructure project.

095/15

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen, Ryan Thompson, and Kate Unwin left the meeting

**COMMUNITY  
& PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**1. School Resource Officer - Information**

Ted Hickey provided a summary of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and noted the cost sharing formula, as per the SRO Agreement between the Town of Rocky Mountain House, Clearwater County, and the Wildrose School Division.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on Section 4(13) of the agreement.

Council requested clarification if the SRO position was vacant at any time during 2014 and if so, for how long. Council requested further information on the following:

- If a SRO position was vacant was there an overpayment and, if so how much ;

- what funding, if any, is received from the provincial and federal governments for the SRO positions;

Discussion followed with Council noting that the SRO Committee has not met in the past year or so and that Council wished to see the Town, County and various school partners start meeting again to ensure the effectiveness of program delivery as well as increased accountability. Administration is to investigate further and provide Council with details.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council accepts the information as presented.

Rudy Huisman joined the meeting.

096/15

CARRIED 7/0

**2. Final Report from the Rural Health Services Review Committee**

Ted Hickey advised Council of the recent release of the Provincial Government's Rural Health Services Review. Mr. Hickey also included a synopsis of Clearwater County's lobby efforts regarding rural health services which included Council's participation in a meeting with the provincial government's Rural Health Services Review Committee.

Discussion followed on the findings and recommendations including reinstatement of Health Region Boards.

Council noted that the County's current project to increase high speed internet connection may support the recommendation in the report for increased tele-health services. Council noted the importance of a renewed focus on lobby strategies in order to influence the provincial government's decisions regarding rural health services.

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council continues its advocacy and lobby efforts to effectively address access to health services in rural and remote areas in Clearwater County.

097/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER:

That Council continues its advocacy and lobby efforts to support economic development endeavours to effectively address access to health services thru tele-connections by rural and remote areas in Clearwater County.

098/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council forwards a letter to the Minister of Health acknowledging the release of the "Rural Health Services Review Final Report".

099/15

CARRIED 7/0

**CORPORATE  
SERVICES:**

**1. Council Cellular Services**

Rudy Huisman presented a proposal for councillors to use County supplied standard cell phones, instead of their personal cell phones, to conduct county business.

Mr. Huisman explained the use of a standard cell phone platform would provide the following:

- more efficient and effective technical support
- compatibility of peripherals
- low rates and favourable usage terms.

Mr. Huisman stated that administration recommends the Samsung Galaxy S5 cell phone which would initially cost \$700 for equipment, with an annual cost of approximately \$6,720 for service.

Brad Welygan stated that the Technology & Information Management Systems (TIMS) staff recently completed testing of data transfer thru the cell phone connection. Test results showed increased productivity and increased reliability of connection than the currently supplied aircards. He explained the level of security provided by different types of cell phones and challenges faced by TIMS regarding managing the range of security profiles associated with Android, Blackberry, and Apple products. Mr. Welygan noted that unlimited text and voicemail is included in the service package with no additional charges for these services.

Mr. Welygan responded to questions and Council discussed the disadvantages and advantages of using a standard cell phone versus a smart phone. Council discussed the advantages of new technology and consistency for staff and Council. Council also discussed the increased cost for the County given that councillors were extending the use of their private phones. Discussion also occurred regarding the inconvenience of carrying two phones. TIMS staff explained that "call forwarding" could be set up so that only one cell phone would need to be carried.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council authorizes Councillors' use of a County supplied standard cell phone platform to conduct County business.

**100/15**

**CARRIED 5/2**

**INFORMATION:**

Ron Leaf stated that a meeting between Alberta Rural Communication Alliance (ARCA) and a Deputy Minister from Services AB is scheduled for April 17 to discuss how the Province might improve rural municipal access to SuperNet which could facilitate better access to high speed internet in rural Alberta.

Discussion took place on Brazeau County's recent by-election and Ron Leaf noted he will delay discussions with Drayton Valley Administration regarding a joint meeting involving the respective Towns, Villages and Counties. Mr. Leaf suggested that the meeting may be scheduled sometime late May/June; by consensus Council agreed.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council accepts the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable Listing, and Councillor Remuneration as information.

101/15

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Land, Third Party Interest, and Legal issues at 10:43 A.M.

102/15

CARRIED 7/0

Denia Gravelle, Laura Button, Don Johnston, Brad Welygan, and Dennis Ross left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting 12:12 P.M.

103/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD:

That Council approves the purchase of 0.88 acres of additional Right-of-Way to accommodate the replacement of Bridge File BF77533.

104/15


ADJOURNMENT:  
12:13 P.M.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That the Meeting adjourns.

105/15

CARRIED 7/0

  
REEVE

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER