

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held April 12, 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
	Jim Duncan
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
	Curt Maki
Chief Administrative Officer:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, Community Services:	Ted Hickey
Manager,	Kurt Magnus
Community Peace Officer:	Terri Miller
Communications Coordinator:	Christine Heggart
TIMS:	Mike Bell
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Media:	Laura Button
	Sylvana Crosby

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Laing added a Nordegg Community Update - Verbal Report under Item H3. Reeve Alexander added West Country Family Services Volunteer Appreciation – Verbal Report under H3. Councillor Maki added an Inquiry – Clubroot Policy as H6.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

117/16

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR LAING: That the Minutes of the March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting are accepted as circulated.

118/16

CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Second Draft Review – Hiring of Equipment Policy

Kurt Magnus outlined amendments to the Hiring of Equipment Policy as per Council’s review on March 08.

Marshall Morton noted amendments were reviewed by Ag Services & Landcare.

That Council approves the Hiring of Equipment Policy as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

Mathew Christie joined the meeting.

2. Second Draft Review – Grader Maintenance Contracts Policy

Kurt Magnus outlined amendments to the draft Grader Maintenance Contracts Policy, as per Council's review on March 08.

Discussion took place on stipulating a grace period in procedure item #7 so as to allow a grader operator opportunity to apply for a different route.

Mr. Magnus noted expiration dates are staggered for grader beats up to 2020 and that a sufficient grace period should allow opportunity for operators to reapply. Any grader beats up for renewal will have the expiration date changed so that they will all expire in the same month.

That Council accepts the draft Grader Maintenance Contracts Policy with amendments as discussed.

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton responded to question on if it is feasible for the dust control program to start earlier this year due to the dry weather conditions. Administration will review road conditions and dust control product to determine viability.

Cammie Laird joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY
& PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

2. Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service & Alberta Agriculture and Forestry 2016 Mutual Aid Agreement & 2016 Annual Fire Control Plan

Cammie Laird, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services (CRFRS) Fire Chief, presented a draft Mutual Aid Fire Control Agreement between Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), CRFRS, and the municipalities of Clearwater County, Town of Rocky Mountain House, Village of Caroline, and Summer Village of Burnstick Lake. The agreement, authorized by the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, includes a Mutual Aid Fire Control plan that defines operating procedures and responsibilities for the prevention and control of wildfires within the boundaries of the municipalities and the Forest Protection Area. The plan also provides cost recovery for services rendered by CRFRS and will be reviewed annually.

Ms. Laird noted that the Town of Rocky Mountain and Village of Caroline Councils have approved the agreement.

Mathew Christie, Provincial Wildfire Prevention Officer, responded to questions and confirmed that this agreement supports the current positive relationship between all parties.

Discussion took place on the agreement's goal to clearly define existing roles and responsibilities for CRFRS and AAF and, establish and expedite fair cost

recovery for the County when assisting AAF in the control of wildfires in the Forest Protection Area.

Rhonda Serhan joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council approves the 2016 Mutual Aid Agreement with the 2016 Annual Fire Control Plan between Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and directs the Reeve and CAO to sign.

121/16

CARRIED 7/0

Mathew Christie left the meeting.

4. Yellowhead County and Clearwater County Emergency Management Extended Mutual Aid Agreement and Mutual Aid Fire Agreement

Ted Hickey presented draft agreements between Yellowhead County and Clearwater County for Emergency Management Extended Mutual Aid and Mutual Aid Fire. The Emergency Management Extended Mutual Aid agreement outlines protocol and procedures for assisting and supporting either party in the event of a disaster. The Mutual Aid Fire Agreement outlines protocol and procedures for the provision of fire protection services by either party.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council approves the Emergency Management Extended Mutual Aid Agreement and Mutual Aid Fire Agreement between Yellowhead County and Clearwater County and directs the Reeve and CAO to sign.

122/16

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson and Jerry Pratt joined the meeting.

1. Administrative Review of Replacement Highway Patrol Fleet Vehicles

Sergeant (Sgt.) Terri Miller presented cost and vehicle specification comparisons between a Tahoe sport utility vehicle (SUV) and pickup vehicle, as per Council's request on March 8, in consideration for the replacement of a Clearwater County highway patrol vehicle.

Sgt. Miller noted the SUV purchase price of \$43,300 includes specifications for an enforcement vehicle. The cost of a pickup with the addition of enforcement specifications is \$43,550. Sgt. Miller reviewed the differences in safety and operational features between a pickup and SUV and noted the use of an SUV allows for flexibility in fleet changeover as equipment on hand can be installed without incurring additional costs.

Sgt. Miller responded to questions and explained enforcement specifications, which are required by regulation, include speed rated tires and brakes and rear doors/windows lockout.

Discussion took place on vehicles used for commercial vehicle enforcement by other municipalities and whether enforcement specifications are necessary for commercial vehicle enforcement. Currently, Clearwater County highway patrol officers provide traffic enforcement as well as commercial vehicle

enforcements and the Tahoe SUV meets the regulations for a traffic enforcement vehicle.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council approves the replacement of a highway patrol vehicle from the Community and Protective Services Department with a Tahoe SUV.

123/16

CARRIED 6/1

Duane Vivenneau joined the meeting.

INFORMATION: 6. Inquiry – Clubroot Policy

Matt Martinson responded to questions from Councillor Maki and explained Clearwater County’s policy, as well as the provincial legislated process, for controlling and mitigating the spread of clubroot.

Discussion followed on the County’s Agriculture Service Board (ASB) goal to protect the ability to grow canola within the County, through a science-based basis for the policy, and the effects of the policy on canola producers. Mr. Martinson confirmed that a clubroot infestation falls under the provincial Pest Act which legislates the requirement of an order of council before a crop is destroyed.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

3. Tour of Alberta Sponsorship Request

Duane Vienneau, Tour of Alberta President and CEO, presented a slide show, “Partner Proposal – Tour of Alberta”. He stated that Tour of Alberta, an annual professional road race for cyclists, requests \$10,000 in sponsorship from Clearwater County to jointly host the third stage of the race with the Town of Rocky Mountain House. He noted the regular price for sponsoring the start of a stage is \$100,000.

Mr. Vienneau explained that sponsorship benefits include national and international broadcast exposure through television, radio, printed publications, and social media.

Discussion took place on the economic benefits that the event could provide through media exposure and public attendance. This is an opportunity to showcase the region so as to promote tourism and regional economic development.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council sponsors the start of the Tour of Alberta stage three race in the amount of \$10,000.

124/16

CARRIED 6/1

Duane Vivenneau, Ted Hickey, and Jerry Pratt left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL: 1. Clearwater Council Input – Provincial Stakeholder Process

Ron Leaf stated that as part of the stakeholders relations process, the Premier’s Office invited Reeve Alexander and himself to talk with Rick Pollard, Stakeholders Relations Manager, about concerns or perspectives specific to Clearwater County.

Mr. Leaf outlined the following topics for Council's consideration and suggested that Council consider the following items for discussion:

- 1. Funding for water, wastewater and bridge infrastructure;
- 2. Provincial recognition of broadband service in rural Alberta as an essential utility service and fund appropriately;
- 3. Support for geothermal energy;
- 4. Recognition or reinstatement of the David Thompson Development Plan
- 5. Recognition of County as 'government' relating to securing long term leases on crownland, particularly with respect to gravel supply;
- 6. Full cost recover for municipal emergency services associated with Provincial highway incidents and when assisting ambulance service.

Councillor Graham confirmed that none of the above topics conflict with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) mandate.

Discussion took place on promoting partnership, collaboration, and focusing on policy initiatives with the provincial government when discussing topic #4 and #5. Discussion continued on including the status and viability of Howse Pass and also indicating Council's support of energy pipelines.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council approves the items as amended for submission to the Province's Stakeholder Relations Process.

125/16

CARRIED 7/0

Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. Centralization of Industrial Property Assessment

Denniece Crout stated that during last year's consultation process on the Municipal Government Act, the Stakeholders Advisory Committee was asked to consider a centralized authority for the preparation of industrial assessments. Ms. Crout noted that Administration recommends non-support of centralized assessment for industrial property. Currently, the provincial government system for industrial assessment is based on 15 year old legislation, insufficient data, outdated manuals, and vague guidelines. This results in incorrect rates and non-assessment of property.

Discussion took place on Clearwater County's practice of conducting in-house industrial assessments for the past four years which has resulted in increased cost efficiencies and assessment values, local autonomy, an accurate database and historical records. Although industry is encouraging a centralized system there is concern with the achievable quality and cost effectiveness of centralized assessments. It is uncertain if a centralized system could provide accurate assessments and/or correct the current issues with the provincial government's system. There is also a lack of detail and information from the provincial government on what a centralized assessment system would entail.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council directs Administration to draft a letter indicating non-support of a centralized industrial assessment system.

126/16

CARRIED 7/0

Denniece Crout left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

2. RCMP Review Services Unit – Rocky Mountain House (RMH) Detachment

Ron Leaf stated that as part of the RCMP K-Division Review Services Unit's mandate, Reeve Alexander and he will meet with Sergeant Knopp on April 19 to discuss RMH RCMP Detachment performance goals and programs for 2016.

He suggested that Council comment on or support the RMH RCMP's current goals, as identified by Staff Sergeant Groves' March 08 presentation to Council, as follows:

- 1. Continuation of the repeat offender program;
- 2. Community education and enforcement relating to property crime;
- 3. Community education and enforcement regarding person crimes;
- 4. Continued involvement as the police of jurisdiction in west country enforcement in partnership with other government and municipal agencies;
- 5. Maintain compliment of officers in detachment, which was increased 2 years ago; and,
- 6. Indicated support for the SRO program, and quality of service provided through the RMH detachment

Mr. Leaf also noted that K-Division extends the meeting invitation to any other Councillor that wishes to attend.

Discussion followed on including RMH RCMP staff levels and that although the number of positions has increased, staff are physically absent due to leaves, transfers, etc. 'Rovers' may be useful in maintaining a physical presence in the area.

Councillor Greenwood and Laing indicated interest in attending the April 19 meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:	That Council accepts the above mentioned items, with amendments as discussed, for discussion with Sergeant Knopp and agrees to Councillor Greenwood and Laing's attendance at the meeting.
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127/16

CARRIED 7/0

3. 2016 Open House Meeting Dates

Ron Leaf stated that for the past couple of years Council has scheduled open house meetings in April/May and Administration wishes to know Council's preferred date(s) for this year.

Administration suggests this year's open house focus on the development of the salt/sand storage and operation facilities on the property north of Rocky Mountain House. Consequently, Administration proposes scheduling the open house for the week of May 30 so that plan designs and engineered estimates are available for presentation.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That Council tables Item G3 2016 Open House Meeting Dates pending information from Public Works Department.
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128/16

CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Reports

Ron Leaf reviewed events and meetings scheduled for April and June.

Mr. Leaf noted that the Province declined the County, Town, and Village Alberta Community Partnership grant application to assist in regional economic development studies. He also provided an update on the University of Alberta's Geothermal study and noted the research team identified 11 potential reservoir sources to support viable geothermal energy production. The next phase to take place will involve mapping the reservoirs and assessing power production.

3. Councillor's Verbal Report

Councillor Laing provided an update on Nordegg Community activity and noted that the school is closing next year due to low enrollment. The Nordegg Community Association received provincial grant funding for the playground project and also thanks Council for its support.

Reeve Alexander stated he is unable to attend West Country Family Services Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, scheduled for April 13, and inquired on a council member's availability to attend as Council's representative. Councillor Greenwood indicated his availability.

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

129/16

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council authorizes Councillor Greenwood's attendance at West Country Family Services Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 13.

130/16

CARRIED 7/0

RECESS:

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:00 P.M.

Reeve Alexander reconvened the meeting at 12:25 P.M. with the following people present: Councillors Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, Graham and Laing; Ron Leaf, Erik Hansen, Marshall Morton, Dan Paulson, Ted Hickey, and Cammie Laird.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council lifts Item G3 2016 Open House Meeting Dates from the table.

131/16

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

3. 2016 Open House Meeting Dates

Discussion took place on suitable dates, time, and location for Council's open house event.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council schedules an Open House for May 30, 7:00 p.m., at the Dovercourt Community Hall.

132/16

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss at 12:38 P.M.

133/16

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 2:09 P.M.

134/16

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:
2:09 P.M.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the Meeting adjourns.

135/16

CARRIED 7/0


REEVE


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER