

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held April 09, 2013 in the County Office at Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 8:56 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Dick Wymenga
	John Vandermeer
	Bob Bryant
	Jim Duncan
	Case Korver
	Earl Graham
Chief Administration Officer:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Manager, Infrastructure:	Erik Hansen
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
TIMS:	Darrell Philip
	Brad Welygan
	Christine Heggart

**AGENDA:** Ron Leaf requested the addition of a road allowance request as D2; and two in camera additions regarding the Kurt Browning Arena, as I6 and the Rocky Curling Club, as I7. Councillor Jim Duncan requested the addition of a committee report regarding the ACE Community Committee.

EARL GRAHAM:	That the April 09, 2013 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.
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115/13	CARRIED 7/0
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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:** 1. March 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

JIM DUNCAN:	That the Minutes of the March 26, 2013 Regular Meeting be accepted as presented.
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116/13	CARRIED 7/0
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Brad Welygan and Darrell Philip left the meeting. Murray Hagan, Rhonda Serhan, Denniece Crout joined the meeting.

**IN CAMERA:** 1. Draft Tax Rate Bylaw

JOHN VANDERMEER:	That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing the Draft Tax Rate Bylaw at 9:00 A.M.
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117/13	CARRIED 7/0
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BOB BRYANT:	That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 9:26 A.M.
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118/13	CARRIED 7/0
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Brian Bilawchuk, Michelle Marshall, Helge Nome, Sarah Maetche, and Jenny Oatway joined the meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Amended First Reading of Bylaw 971/13 – Application for Road Allowance Permit - Elliot**

Michelle Marshall presented an amendment to the First Reading of Bylaw 971/13 – Application for Road Allowance Permit on behalf of Todd Elliot which was presented to Council February 26, 2013. Mr. Elliot requested the use of the road allowance which lies south of Range Road 8-3 between NE-16-40-8 W5M and NW-15-40-8 W5M (approximately 100 meter/0.50 acres more or less) for the purpose of grazing for donkeys.

DICK WYMENGA:

That Council grants amended First Reading to Bylaw 971/13 and schedules a Public Hearing for May 14, 2013.

119/13

CARRIED 7/0

## **2. First Reading of Bylaw 973/13 – Application for Road Allowance Permit - Rissi**

Michelle Marshall presented an application from Hans and Kathy Rissi for a road allowance permit which lies between NE-16-40-8 W5M and NW-15-40-8 W5M (approximately 124 meters/0.61 acres more or less) to run cattle between their two quarters (NE-16-40-8 W5M and NW-15-40-8 W5M).

BOB BRYANT:

That Council grants First Reading to Bylaw 973/13 and schedules a Public Hearing for May 14, 2013.

120/13

CARRIED 7/0

Michelle Marshall and Brian Bilawchuk left the meeting.

## AG SERVICES & LANDCARE:

## 1. Update

Matt Martinson reported that the 2012 riparian health assessment on the Medicine River Watershed has been completed by the Alberta Riparian Habitat Management Society (Cows and Fish). Mr. Martinson stated staff is currently reviewing the report which shows significant improvements in the watershed in comparison to the 2004 assessment. The report will be available on Clearwater County's website after the final phase of the project is completed. Mr. Martinson noted the Alberta Stewardship Network Grant and "Cows and Fish" equally funded the 2012 assessments and that a grant has been received to fund the 2013 assessment within the Prairie Creek Watershed. Mr. Martinson stated future plans for landcare programs include hard wood cutting trials to assess the value and viability of planting native aspen and willow species from cuttings.

Discussion followed on accreditation of riparian health assessments and tree planting in riparian areas attracting beavers and causing floods.

Mr. Martinson reported the spring brushing program is underway. He stated that as per Section 6 of the Brush Clearing Policy, affected land owners have been sent the first written notification for the long term brushing plan. Efforts have and will continue to be undertaken to inform the public of the new brushing policy utilizing the website, local newspapers, and the future county newsletter.

Councillor Korver indicated he would like staff to conduct site and resident visits, along with written notification, to inform landowners of any intended work plan for brushing prior to commencement. Mr. Martinson indicated that staff will review the long term brushing program with the residents that are directly affected the most, and every opportunity to inform these residents in a timely

manner, will be taken. Discussion followed regarding the progressive process of the three-year notification plan in order to meet the intent of the policy.

Mr. Martinson reported staff is currently overhauling the custom spraying equipment and water truck in preparation for the weed and pest program. Staff has also completed the construction of a new community pasture sprayer bringing the fleet to six units. The new sprayer will be located in the James River community. Mr. Martinson stated the position of Vegetation Management Co-ordinator has been filled by Brian Hawkings.

Discussion followed on sharing information on weed control with other counties, community driven efforts in weed control, and tools and services available for weed control enforcement.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

121/13 CARRIED 7/0

Mike Haugen joined the meeting

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. First Reading Tax Rate Bylaw 974/13

Denniece Crout presented the 2013 Tax Rate and Minimum Tax Bylaw 974/13. The Bylaw sets the 2013 tax rates as follows:

- Residential municipal tax rate at .0024557
- Farmland municipal tax rate at .0038516 and
- Non-residential, machinery and equipment, and linear rates at .0067618

Ms. Crout noted the Provincial Education live tax rates:

- Residential and Farmland – .0027297 Tax Rate 2013
- Non-residential and Linear – .0036303 Tax Rate 2013
- Uncollectible School Tax Rate - .0000019 Tax Rate 2013

The West view Lodge Tax Rate is .0000687 Tax Rate 2013.

Ms. Crout stated overall, County assessments saw a net increase primarily due to the oil and gas sector which saw growth above the provincial average. The Provincial education requisition for 2013 has increased by \$930,856 to \$16,247,543 from \$15,316,687 and this has had an effect on the net tax rate. The non-residential and the machinery and equipment rates include the highway levy. Ms. Crout noted taxes will be levied beginning April 24, 2013 and distribution of the notices by mail completed by May 17, 2013. The public will then have sixty (60) days after mailing to submit appeals pertaining to the assessed value, ending the appeal period approximately on July 17, 2013.

CASE KORVER: That Council grants First Reading to Bylaw 974/13 2013 Tax Rate Bylaw.

122/13 CARRIED 7/0

JIM DUNCAN: That Council grants Second Reading to Bylaw 974/13 2013 Tax Rate Bylaw.

123/13 CARRIED 7/0

BOB BRYANT:

That Council grants permission for Third Reading to Bylaw 974/13 2013 Tax Rate Bylaw.

124/13

DEFEATED 6/1

Denniece Crout asked if it is Council's intention to defer the due date for farmland assessed property taxes to December 16, 2013.

Councillor Dick Wymenga noted that farmland taxes should be deferred to December 16.

Councillor Bob Bryant noted the tax payment deadline should be the same for all rate payers.

Reeve Pat Alexander noted the farmland tax relaxation was initially put in place to temporarily assist farmers thru difficult times associated with BSE and drought and these circumstances no longer apply. Reeve Alexander stated it is hard for Council to determine which business or industry is having financial difficulties and who isn't, therefore the tax payment date should be the same for all rate payers.

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes deferral of the due date for farmland assessed property taxes to December 16, 2013.

125/13

DEFEATED 4/3

Denniece Crout, Rhonda Serhan, Murray Hagan, and Christine Heggart left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. M.D. Bighorn Joint Council Meeting**

Ron Leaf presented recommended discussion topics for the upcoming joint council meeting with the M.D. Bighorn as follows:

- 1) An update on the Chief Administrative Officers meeting with the Assistant Deputy Ministers of: ESRD, Solicitor General and, Tourism, Parks & Recreation; including a summary of discussions and the anticipated direction of the three departments in relation to management of recreational use on crown land.
- 2) Provincial policies impact on municipal operations (e.g. requirements for obtaining crown leases, environmental assessments on road disturbances within road allowances within crown properties, etc.) and whether there is merit in jointly requesting clarification or, potentially, lobbying provincial departments together or submitting a resolution for consideration by the AAMDC membership.
- 3) Views and concerns on the challenges that arise from municipal taxation policies/assessment base.

Councillor Bob Bryant suggested adding discussion on green area enforcement and management.

Councillor Jim Duncan suggested adding discussion on comparison of tax rates for linear and non-residential.

Mr. Leaf suggested adding discussion on regional government process and plans for watersheds. Mr. Leaf noted the agenda will be available April 12.

EARL GRAHAM:

That Council accepts the three (3) topics as presented and the three (3) additional topics for discussion at the April 15, 2013 Joint Council Meeting.

126/13

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMUNITY &  
PROTECTIVE  
SERVICES:**

**1. Discussion Issues For Canadian Association Of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)**

Mike Haugen presented an invitation from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) for Council to attend a roundtable discussion on April 19 from 12:00 – 2:00 P.M. in Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Haugen noted several recommended items for discussion as: Industry impacts on community (e.g. weights, dust, quantity of trips, impact public safety, etc); and coordination of operations between different companies in terms of drilling and operational activities.

Marshall Morton noted Public Works Department is currently reviewing the road use policy and will be making changes that will affect industry operations.

Discussion followed on CAPP's role and relationship with the community and the purpose for the roundtable discussion. Council noted topics for discussion could include industry's understanding of their role in communities, their need for disclosure of future plans in order to coordinate operations, and the importance of communication with contractors.

DICK WYMENGA:

That Council authorizes all Councillors attendance at the CAPP Roundtable Discussion on April 19.

127/13

CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM:

That Council accepts the recommended items for discussion as presented.

128/13

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton and Erik Hansen left the meeting.

**2. Use of Firearms Policy**

Mike Haugen presented the Clearwater County Use of Firearms Policy and stated the policy was approved by Council in October of 2002 and to date has not been enacted within the Community Peace Officer program. Mr. Haugen requested that this policy be rescinded by Council as it is not the intention of staff to pursue the use of firearms at this time.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That Council rescinds the Clearwater County Use of Firearms Policy effective immediately.

129/13

CARRIED 7/0

**3. Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas Grant**

Mike Haugen stated Clearwater County administration has been advised that The Province of Alberta funding for the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation was decreased by \$2 million in the 2013 Provincial budget. As a result, the Foundation will no longer provide Municipal Recreation/Tourism Areas (MR/TA) grant for the maintenance and operations of campgrounds that have reached their 25 year anniversary of funding.

Open Creek Dam and Burnstick Lake campgrounds have reached their 25 year term, therefore they will no longer receive annual funding from this source. Cow Lake campground funding will be reduced by 50% for 2013 and then funding will be terminated.

Mr. Haugen noted representatives from the three campgrounds have been advised and were asked to submit their final grant reporting documents to satisfy the Province's grant reporting requirements. He stated that staff will continue to provide Council with impacts of the Provincial budget as they become known.

Discussion followed on the impact of cancelled funding on the campgrounds.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

130/13

CARRIED 7/0

**4. Clearwater County/Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) Wildfire Exercise**

Mike Haugen provided information on a simulated wildfire exercise, jointly hosted with ESRD on April 4, 2013. He stated the event was designed to test both County and ESRD emergency response plans as well as focus on how well participants were able to communicate and collaborate to deal with the event. Mr. Haugen stated the event went very well and staff will be meeting to conduct a more detailed assessment of the event and make recommendations. He noted ESRD will also be compiling a report which will be presented to the CREMA committee at a future meeting.

Councillor Case Korver asked how long since the last exercise. Mr. Haugen responded that it had been awhile and that the exercise may become an annual event.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

131/13

CARRIED 7/0

**INFORMATION: 1. Information Items**

DICK WYMENGA: That Council authorizes all Councillors attendance at the Good Samaritan Reception on April 23.

132/13

CARRIED 6/1

DICK WYMENGA: That the CAO's Report, Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable listing as of April 09 2013, and Councillor remuneration be accepted as information.

133/13 CARRIED 7/0

COMMITTEE  
REPORT:

1. ACE Community Committee

Councillor Jim Duncan reported that the ACE Community Committee is working on an initiative to erect signage in the West Country area for public education. Signage would include artwork/logo at a cost of \$1500 and each sign will cost \$1100. Councillor Duncan noted the committee did not qualify for funding. He stated that requests for partnerships with Industry have been made in order to assist with costs and asked that Staff discuss with Council possibilities for the same.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the Committee Report as presented.

134/13 CARRIED 7/0

Tracy Haight, Helge Nome, Jenny Oatway, and Sarah Maetche left the meeting. Murray Hagan, Rhonda Serhan, Rick Emmons, Amanda Wilson, and Keith McCrae joined the meeting.

- IN CAMERA:
- 2. Wetaskiwin Revenue Sharing Negotiations
  - 3. Reserve Transfers
  - 4. Nordegg Historical Society
  - 5. Nordegg Land Development
  - 6. Kurt Browning Arena
  - 7. Rocky Curling Club

BOB BRYANT: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing Wetaskiwin Revenue Sharing Negotiations, Reserve Transfers, Nordegg Historical Society, Nordegg Land Development, Kurt Browning Complex, and Rocky Curling Club, at 10:55 A.M.

135/13 CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 12:04 P.M.

136/13 CARRIED 7/0

PAT ALEXANDER: That the meeting recess at 12:05 P.M.

137/13 CARRIED 7/0

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 1:10 P.M. by Reeve Alexander

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing Kurt Browning Complex, Draft Tax Rate Bylaw, and Land Development proposal at 1:11 P.M.

**138/13** CARRIED 7/0

DICK WYMENGA: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 2:30 P.M.

**139/13** CARRIED 7/0

BOB BRYANT: That Council accepts the Offer to Purchase from Azonic Constructors Inc. with respect to Lot 5;Blk 1;Plan 1124526 and that staff be directed to develop a sales agreement with the developer for the lands for Council's review and consideration.

**140/13** CARRIED 7/0

**ADJOURNMENT:** JOHN VANDERMEER: That the Meeting adjourns.  
**2:35 P.M.** CARRIED 7/0

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REEVE

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER