

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held March 13, 2012 in the County Office at 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:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Jim Duncan
	Robert Bryant
	Dick Wymenga
	Case Korver
Municipal Manager:	Ron Leaf
Public Works Manager:	Marshall Morton
Public Works Assistant Manager:	Rick Emmons
Corporate Services:	Murray Hagan
Recording Secretary:	Christine Heggart
Mountaineer:	Stu Salkeld
Mountaineer:	Sarah Maetche
TIMS:	Darrell Philip
Gravel Roads Supervisor:	Danny Setterlund
Construction Supervisor:	Erik Hansen
	Helge Nome

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Jim Duncan added I-1 – Committee Reports  
Bob Bryant added I-2 – Committee Report  
Ron Leaf added F6c – Infrastructure In Camera

BOB BRYANT: That the March 13, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

088/12

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**1. February 14, 2012 Public Hearing Minutes**

JIM DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the February 14, 2012 Public Hearing be confirmed as circulated.

089/12

CARRIED 7/0

**2. February 28, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

DICK WYMENGA: That the Minutes of the February 28, 2012 Regular Meeting be confirmed as circulated.

090/12

CARRIED 7/0

**3. February 28, 2012 Public Hearing Minutes - Heimbecker**

CASE KORVER: That the Minutes of the February 28, 2012 Public Hearing be confirmed as circulated.

091/12

CARRIED 7/0

**4. February 28, 2012 Public Hearing Minutes- Muzzo**

EARL GRAHAM: That the Minutes of the February 28, 2012 Public Hearing be confirmed as circulated.

092/12

CARRIED 7/0

**5. February 29, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes**

CASE KORVER: That the Minutes of the February 29, 2012 Special Meeting be confirmed as circulated.

093/12

CARRIED 7/0

Diane Fingler joined the meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Snow Plowing Philosophy**

Marshall Morton noted many concerns received from the public regarding the recent snow event in which the County received 18 inches of snowfall over two days. The three primary concerns that surfaced were: the time in which the snowplowing is being completed; some approaches being blocked by the snowplowing and receipt or delivery of mail.

Mr. Morton discussed the existing snow plowing policy and asked whether Council considers the 96 hour time frame for opening up roadways after a snow event a suitable level of service. He also asked that Council clarify when the 96 hour time frame begins.

Mr. Morton noted that under normal circumstances meeting the 96 hour vision is not a problem, but stated that it is still a challenge to meet the 96 hour standard for a snow event such as the recent storm.

Mr. Morton stated that the present priority is to clear the public roadways. A second pass, which may occur after 96 hours, is required to clean up all of the roads and driveways and mailbox access is improved at this time.

Mr. Morton responded to question regarding the clearing of mailboxes and stated that the current administrative practice is that the responsibility to clear mailbox access lies with Canada Post and the affected property owner.

Mr. Morton responded to question regarding the equipment need to increase response time for snow clearing stating that when the event is blanketed across the County it is not possible to contract more equipment due to their full utilization by industry. Mr. Morton added the only option available to increase the 96 hour timeframe is for the County to own additional pieces of equipment and have additional staff on hand year round – which would significantly impact budgets.

Councillor Bryant stated that the County should continue to clear snow during storms and that the 96 hour clearance timeframe is appropriate and that the time starts when the snow stops falling. He further noted that residents need to clear their own driveways and approaches in order to access the public roads.

Councillor Duncan agreed that the 96 hour clearance is appropriate and that the County should continue to do the best they can with the resources given.

Councillor Graham noted the need for public education on the 96 hour timeframe for snow removal.

Councillor Korver passed along kudos received from the public for the job well done by grader operators.

Councillor Alexander reiterated the grader program is being subsidized by industry and the public education on the actual costs to run grader program is needed.

Mr. Morton noted the grader operators are doing a good job of minimizing impact on driveways by slowing down to lift their wings for driveways. He noted that this procedure does slow down the clearing of the main roadways.

Councillor Vandermeer noted that it is most important that main roadways are plowed first and it is not financially reasonable to have equipment and staff on hand to double response times for unusual snow events.

Councillor Duncan noted that coordination with oilfield graders may help out with plowing of some municipal roads as well.

Ron Leaf noted some concerns received included the thought that due to the low snow fall prior to the major snow event, the budget should have allowed for better service during the major event. Mr. Leaf reiterated the need for education and for people to understand the 96 hour clearance goals and the costs associated with contracting additional equipment.

Mr. Morton noted that additional graders are hired when needed and available.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That the current snowplowing policy be updated to clarify the current philosophy in regards to snow plowing practices and service standards.

094/12

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton, Rick Emmons, Darrell Philip, Erik Hansen and Danny Setterlund left the meeting. Mike Haugen and Tyler McKinnon joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. Joint Councils Meeting – Town of Rocky Mountain House**

Ron Leaf discussed Council's strategic plan goal to meet with the Town of Rocky Mountain House at least twice annually to discuss issues of mutual benefit or concern and noted his discussion with Town CAO Todd Becker regarding similarities the Town's and County's strategic plans.

Mr. Leaf recommended meeting to discuss and prioritize areas of mutual benefit and the Reeve, Mayor and CAOs meet to establish an agenda for the joint Council meeting.

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council meets with the Town Council on April 25, 2012 for a Joint Council meeting.

095/12

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL:**

**2. K- Division Meeting**

Ron Leaf provided background regarding the meeting with the RCMP K-Division the previous day and noted the tone was positive, although the RCMP admitted they may not be able to commit the same resources as seen in the past.

Mr. Leaf recommended the option to continue to lobby for a highway patrol (HP) detachment out of Rocky Mountain House (RMH).

Mr. Leaf further recommended three topics for the Spring Convention meeting with D/Comm. McGowan:

- Rural policing – Mr. Leaf noted the Province committed to adding 90 officers and 55 sheriffs by 2014, and as RMH continues to be among the top 15 busiest stations in the Province, there is a need to increase member numbers in the area. Mr. Leaf noted that given the Province's indication that it will be requiring all municipalities to pay for policing in the near future and given the increasing level of officer involvement required in the Suncild & O'Chiese First Nations communities, Council may wish to inquire as to the merit of a detachment being established for this area.
- West Country policing – Mr. Leaf noted that during this past week's RCMP management review the need for an increased police presence in the West Country during the spring & summer was raised. Mr. Leaf noted it is worth noting that the County Community Peace Officers (CPOs) may have to reduce their assistance to the RCMP with West Country policing due to increased industrial activity.
- Highway Patrol – Mr. Leaf suggested that a summary be provided from the March 12 meeting with Supt. Eaton, reiterating the three Councils' perspective on the need for an enhanced HP unit in RMH.

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council confirms the agenda for the Spring Convention meeting with representatives from K Division and the Solicitor General.

096/12

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

**3. Visitor Information Centre Contract**

Tyler McKinnon presented background information on the Clearwater County, the Town of Rocky Mountain House and the Rocky Mountain House and District Chamber of Commerce three party agreement regarding the operation of the local Visitor's Information Centre (VIC).

Mr. McKinnon noted the VIC is managed by the Chamber of Commerce and funded jointly by the Town and County.

Mr. McKinnon discussed the terms of the contract and that under the terms of the VICs lease agreement, the Visitor information Centre can sell maps and guide books but cannot operate a formal gift shop.

Mr. McKinnon responded to question regarding the leaseholder and the operator of the Visitor Information Centre.

DICK WYMENGA:

That Council authorizes the Reeve and CAO to sign the proposed contract.

097/12

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

**4. Cartier Creek – Wimbeldon Waste Removal Contract**

Tyler McKinnon provided a background of the waste removal service to the Cartier Creek-Wimbeldon subdivision due to the distance to the closest waste transfer stations (the nearest waste transfer station is located at Crammond, which is approximately a 160 km round trip).

Mr. McKinnon noted Howard Larsen currently provides waste removal service and that the contract has come up for renewal and that Mr. Larsen stated that he does not desire that any changes be made to the contract.

Mr. McKinnon responded to questions regarding type of equipment used and the type of insurance required.

CASE KORVER: That Council authorizes the Reeve and CAO to sign the proposed contract between Clearwater County and Mr. Howard Larsen for the provision of waste removal services in the Cartier Creek – Wimbledon area.

098/12

CARRIED 7/0

Tyler McKinnon left the meeting. Matt Martinson joined the meeting.

**AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES:**

**1. Ag Services and Landcare Provincial Legislative Appointments**

Matt Martinson provided an overview of the required legislative appointments for the Agricultural Services and Landcare department and recommended appointments for County Weed Inspectors, Pest Inspectors and Conservation Inspectors.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council appoints Matthew Martinson, Martin Winchell and Steve Maki, Agricultural Services and Landcare Permanent Staff members, as Clearwater County Weed Inspectors for the duration of their employment with Clearwater County.

099/12

CARRIED 7/0

DICK WYMENGA: That Council appoints Martin Winchell, Gary Lewis and Steve Maki, Agricultural Services and Landcare permanent staff members, as Clearwater County Pest Inspectors for the duration of their employment with Clearwater County.

100/12

CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM: That Council appoints Martin Winchell and Gary Lewis, Agricultural Services and Landcare permanent staff members as Clearwater County Soil Conservation Inspectors for the duration of their employment with Clearwater County.

101/12

CARRIED 7/0

Mr. Martinson responded to questions regarding seasonal staff appointments and the weed inspection protocols, and protocols for hawkweed.

Councillor Duncan noted that a provincial grant application for a hawkweed program was declined.

Mr. Martinson noted additional provincial dollars may be available for the eradicable weeds program in the 2013.

**AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES:**

**2. 2012 Work Plan Highlights**

Matt Martinson provided highlights of the new initiatives in Landcare and Agricultural Services; including: an increased aggressiveness with Ox-Eye Daisy (OED) Strategy to stop the increase of current infestations and establishment of new infestations and reduce the levels of current infestations to ensure that this invasive species does not become wide spread throughout the County.

Mr. Martinson noted that currently OED infests an estimated 250 – 500 acres of land in 6 communities within Clearwater County and that commencing in 2012, the Agricultural Services department will propose administering a significantly scaled down version of our Priority Area Weed Compliance (P.A.W.C.) model in the most impacted area in the Ricinus community.

Mr. Martinson discussed the Arbutus / Alhambra PAWC program, the third and final year of the PAWC pilot program and the significant reduction in Tall Buttercup in this community.

Mr. Martinson provided an update on clubroot which has been found in two neighbouring municipalities and the planned increase in surveillance (visual field inspections) to focused field sampling inspections. Mr. Martinson responded to questions of how the infestations are occurring and introduction into new areas through farm management practices and industrial equipment movement.

Councillor Alexander referred industry practice of steaming equipment before moving onto farmers' fields.

Mr. Martinson responded to question of Clearwater County's equipment cleaning and management plan noting that sanitizing equipment is something they should be doing all the time. He further noted that increased surveillance for clubroot is required to maintain the zero infestations in the County, through pulling roots in nearly all canola fields in the County at the appropriate time during growth cycle.

Mr. Martinson added clubroot's significant impact on farms and the policy should clubroot be found, to ban canola crops for four years to prevent infestation.

Mr. Martinson discussed the potential for Clear Water Landcare to work with Cows and Fish Agency for proposed Riparian Health Assessments to be completed throughout the County. Mr. Martinson discussed the values of the inventories would have to the County's environmental stewardship programs.

Councillor Alexander noted recent infestations of grasshoppers and Mr. Martinson noted there is extra help available for producers should this occur.

EARL GRAHAM:

That Council accepts the  
Agricultural Services and  
Landcare 2012 work plan  
highlights as information  
CARRIED 7/0

102/12

**AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES:**

**3. Agricultural Programs Coordinator**

Matt Martinson presented an overview of staffing changes that occurred in the previous year and the Agricultural Services Board recommendations to shuffle some program lead job descriptions and dissolve the Assistant Manager of Agricultural Services position while adding an Agricultural

Programs Coordinator position. A job description of the new position was presented.

Mr. Martinson responded to question regarding existing budget.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council approves the hiring of an Agricultural Programs Coordinator.

**103/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Matt Martinson left the meeting. Marshall Morton and Rick Emmons joined the meeting.

**INFORMATION: 1. Manager's Reports**

Marshall Morton responded to questions regarding bridge funding.

BOB BRYANT: That the Accounts Payable listing, the Municipal Manager's Report and Public Works Manager's Report of March 13, 2012 be accepted as information.

**104/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS:**

Councillor Bryant noted his attendance at the Chamber of Commerce awards banquet, award winners and a discussion with Jerry Pratt regarding the County's involvement in the banquet program. Mr. Bryant noted the Chamber is looking for the County to provide additional awards ideas such as innovative farmer, corporate citizen, or tourism.

Ron Leaf noted that the Mike Haugen and Tyler McKinnon will review other municipal awards examples and report back for last meeting in March or the first meeting in April.

Councillor Duncen noted the FCSS project occurring and that Rocky, Caroline and Clearwater County have been selected an ACE Community for 2012-2013 and qualified for \$10,000 grant and in kind leadership and administrative support valued at \$45,000. The project is intended to help enhance the communities' quality of life and capacity for diversity.

Councillor Duncan provided information regarding the Rocky Recreation Board arena expansion plans, the current request for proposal and the development of an Arena Expansion Concept Committee.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council appoints Councillor Jim Duncan to the Arena Expansion Concept Committee.

**105/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL: 5. Fire Season Prevention Report**

Mike Haugen presented background information regarding a change to the Province's fire season which started one month early due to dry winter and predictions of a dry summer.

Mr. Haugen noted that Provincial Fire Season normally runs from April 1 – October 31 and that this year the Provincial start of The Forest and Prairie Protection Act will come into force on March 1, 2012 due to the lack of moisture during the winter.

BOB BRYANT:

That Council approves the Fire Season  
Prevention Report as presented.

**106/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Sarah Maetche, Diane Fingler and Stu Salkeld left the meeting.

**IN CAMERA:**        **6.     In Camera**

BOB BRYANT:

That Council meets as a Committee of  
the Whole for the purpose of discussing a  
legal issue, draft revenue agreement and  
infrastructure.  
10:45 A.M.

**107/12**

CARRIED 7/0

Christine Heggart left the meeting.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That the meeting reverts to an Open  
Meeting at 12:10 P.M.

**108/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**ADJOURNMENT:**    JIM DUNCAN:  
**12:11 P.M.**

That the Meeting adjourns.

CARRIED 7/0

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REEVE

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MUNICIPAL MANAGER