

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held September 11, 2012 in the County Office at Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 9:01 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	Dick Wymenga
	Case Korver
	John Vandermeer
	Bob Bryant
	Jim Duncan
Municipal Manager:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, Ag Services:	Matt Martinson
Director, CPS:	Mike Haugen
Recording Secretary:	Christine Heggart
TIMS:	Darrell Philip
	Sarah Maetche
	Helge Nome
	Trevor Duley
	Erik Hansen

**AGENDA:** Councillor Duncan added a committee report for Provincial ASB.  
Reeve Alexander added E7 – Seniors Housing.

CASE KORVER: That the September 11, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

328/12 CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. August 28, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

JIM DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the August 28, 2012 Regular Meeting be confirmed as circulated.

329/12 CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. August 28, 2012 Public Hearing Minutes**

DICK WYMENAGA: That the Minutes of the August 28, 2012 Public Hearing be confirmed as circulated.

330/12 CARRIED 7/0

**PUBLIC WORKS/  
AG SERVICES:**

**1. Road Tour/ Brushing Discussion**

Marshall Morton and Matt Martinson discussed the maintenance brushing program history, noting that the brushing program includes the mechanical removal and multi-year herbicide applications to control regrowth.

Mr. Martinson noted that the current brushing policy no longer meets the road and right of way maintenance needs and recommended that significant changes to the policy are needed to ensure a higher level of safety, road

integrity, drainage facilitation, snow storage, efficiency in regrowth control, and result in a considerable reduction in road maintenance costs.

Mr. Martinson proposed a road tour to view the challenges and impacts around maintenance brushing will help council understand the issues and provide direction to administration in the formation of a new brushing policy that better reflects strategic plan relating to infrastructure and asset protection.

Mr. Morton noted that amendments to the brushing policy also mean impacts on the fencing policy, budgets and other programs and noted that additional time with Council is needed to discuss the policy in depth.

Council discussed proposed dates for the tour and by consensus chose September 25, following the regular Council meeting.

Mr. Martinson also noted the issue with trees holding up landowner fences and that brushing in the winter means fence replacement at a difficult time of year and recommended that a communications program to give people several years notice of tree removal would allow them to construct fences and plant shelterbelt trees on private property.

Mr. Morton discussed roadside mowing and recommended that all County roads be mowed to provide a better product and reduce the need for grader maintenance on the road shoulders.

Ron Leaf discussed the public's sentiment on the aesthetics of trees in road allowance and the need for future planning.

Mr. Morton added that notification and understanding is needed so that residents have the tools to get tree buffers on their own side of property lines.

Councillor Korver noted the dust suppression of trees and the need to review the current policy keeping in mind the advantages to residents of a dust buffer.

EARL GRAHAM: That Council meets with administration for a road tour following the regular Council meeting at noon on September 25, 2012.

331/12

CARRIED 7/0

Darrell Philip, Marshall Morton, Mike Haugen, Trevor Duley, Erik Hansen and Matt Martinson left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. Proposed Date Change and Cancellation for Council Meetings**

Christine Heggart noted that the AAMDC convention is scheduled for November 13 – 15, which conflicts with a regular Council Meeting and recommended that Council reschedule its November 13 meeting to November 6. Ms. Heggart also noted that the second regular meeting in December is scheduled on December 25, that Council typically cancels its second meeting in December and recommended Council cancel its second meeting in December.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council changes the date of their first meeting in November to November 6, 2012 and directs staff to advertise the change.

332/12

CARRIED 7/0

EARL GRAHAM: That Council cancels their second meeting in December, December 25, due to the statutory holiday and directs staff to advertise the cancellation.

333/12

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL: 2. Collaborative Governance Initiative – Terms of Reference**

Ron Leaf presented background information on the Collaborative Governance Initiative (CGI) Committee and the Terms of Reference (ToR) to govern the actions of the Committee and its functions. Mr. Leaf added that the CGI application submitted by the Town, the Village and the County has been approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the amount of \$35,000.

Mr. Leaf noted that the CGI Committee recently met with representatives from Alberta Municipal Affairs to discuss approaches and projects undertaken by other municipalities and based on the review the Committee established a budget of \$50,000 for the CGI review and is requesting that the Town, County and Village Council's contribute \$15,000. He added that based on the cost sharing formula of 47.5% (County), 47.5% (Town) and 5% (Village) the County's contribution would be \$7125.

Mr. Leaf added that the Committee is recommending Council's approval that the Committee proceeds with the following three projects:

- 1) Development of a Regional Collaboration framework - This document, would be similar to the Ranche House Accord between the Rocky View County and the Town of Cochrane, which may provide a set of guidelines, protocols and/or principles to guide the current Council and future Councils in the development of regional partnerships or programs.
- 2) Regional Wastewater review - The Committee has identified that the management of wastewater is of significance to all three municipalities. The Committee identified that all three municipalities have identified management of wastewater or upgrade of wastewater infrastructure as key issues in their respective strategic plans or long term capital plans and that this project is a high priority.
- 3) Regional Economic Development Partnership – With the conclusion of the current revenue sharing programs the Committee is recommending that the Committee be authorized to consider other options to revenue sharing and the potential development of a regional economic development model.

BOB BRYANT: That Council reviews and approves the CGI Terms of Reference.

334/12

CARRIED 7/0

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council approves contributing \$7125, from Contingency towards the CGI's committee budget.

335/12

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL: 3. CGI – Regional Wastewater Treatment Feasibility Study**

Rick Emmons presented background information on the Collaborative Governance Initiative (CGI) Committee and the availability of a provincial grant (of up to \$50,000.00) for municipalities to complete a feasibility study for the purpose of assessing the status of wastewater treatments systems and potential upgrades.

Mr. Emmons noted that the feasibility study will evaluate the viability of implementing a regional but will not be detailed enough to direct a regional project. He added that the study is meant to compliment the study that the Town of Rocky is required to complete as a condition of their Alberta Environmental Approval.

Mr. Emmons responded to questions regarding provincial funding noting that criteria is based on population and design components and that a regional partnership enhances the opportunity for eligibility and dollars funded.

Trevor Duley joined the meeting.

Mr. Emmons added that the Province's funding criteria does not take into account rural systems unless there is a tie-in to an urban system.

Mr. Emmons responded to questions regarding the County's investigation of a waste water treatment facility site west of the Town and noted that Council's criteria included a quick timeframe with a minimally invasive location. He added that crown land was the best option to meet the agenda of the day and the proposed site was within a distance where pipeline could be run to the Town, keeping open the possibility of the potential for future partnerships opportunities.

BOB BRYANT:	That Council supports the CGI Committee recommendation for the completion of a study to investigate a regional concept in comparison to individual wastewater treatment plant upgrades.
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336/12

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL:        7.       Senior's Housing**

Council discussed the Elected Officials Education Program (EOEP) Affordable Housing Conference, September 24 at the Shaw Convention Centre in Edmonton.

Councillors Graham and Bryant noted their interest in attending the conference for information regarding senior's housing.

Councillor Bryant discussed the "life lease" option and the potential for the Westview Lodge to consider this type of housing development.

CASE KORVER:	That Council authorizes Councillor Graham and Councillor Bryant to attend the Affordable Housing seminar on September 24 in Edmonton.
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337/12

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMITTEE  
REPORT:**

Councillor Duncan noted his attendance at the Provincial Agricultural Services Board (ASB) meeting and that the review of the ASB legislation has been cancelled but the administration review will move forward.

Councillor Duncan noted that Clearwater County's ASB has provided input into the changes regarding the Weed Act and Pest Control Act and that the data is being analyzed and that they will meet again in Edmonton to formulate a new policy.

Discussion took place on merit based funding, that the Province provides \$150,000 to municipalities as well as project specific funding and cutbacks in agricultural programming, such as the *Growing Forward* program.

S.Sgt. Bill Laidlaw, Mike Haugen, Matt Martinson and Marshall Morton joined the meeting.

**INFORMATION:** 1. Information Items

Councillor Duncan noted that an accounts payable listing for \$7000.00 transfer to Cows and Fish was part of the funding from Epcor who donated \$10,000.00 for riparian health assessments.

**JIM DUNCAN:** That the Accounts Payable listing, the CAO's Report and the Public Works Director's Report of September 11, 2012 be accepted as information.

338/12

CARRIED 7/0

**MUNICIPAL: 4. RCMP Quarterly Report**

S.Sgt. Bill Laidlaw discussed the RCMP's Quarter Two statistics for Clearwater County and noted that the Quarter Three statistics are not completed as of yet, and that data listed on handouts does not reflect to complete Q3.

S.Sgt. Laidlaw noted that RCMP are seeing the typical seasonal trends, with an increase in mischief reports and provincial ticketing due to the added enforcement over the summer. He noted that incidents of fatal motor vehicle collisions and injury motor collisions have both seen an increase.

S.Sgt. Laidlaw responded to questions regarding incidents of impaired driving and impaired enforcement patterns and noted that numbers of impaired driving charges are increasing due to enforcement and legislation changes lowering the blood alcohol limit and 30 day vehicle seizures. He added that RCMP is seeing an increase in oil field vandalism reporting and copper wire theft.

S.Sgt. Laidlaw responded to questions regarding West Country enforcement noting that off highway vehicle collisions are required to be reported under the Traffic Safety Act.

S. Sgt. Laidlaw noted that the Rocky detachment is busy, and are fielding increasing more violent and heavier files, such as assaults, sexual assaults, break and enters, crimes against persons, fuel theft and trailer/quad theft.

S.Sgt. Laidlaw noted concerns with the Solicitor General removing enforcement from Provincial departments such as Environment Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) and that the RCMP don't have Land Use Act experience or the time to conduct land use enforcement.

S.Sgt. Laidlaw responded to question regarding victim services, highway patrol and staff resourcing noting that more resources are needed to service the Rocky Mountain House/Clearwater County area as well as the need for a full time unit on the Sunchild and O'Chiese reserves.

CASE KORVER: That Council accepts the RCMP Q2 report as presented.

339/12

CARRIED 7/0

**IN CAMERA:            6.       In Camera**

BOB BRYANT:                                That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing labour and land acquisition matters.  
10:33 A.M.

**340/12**

**CARRIED 7/0**

S.Sgt. Bill Laidlaw, Mike Haugen, Christine Heggart, Helge Nome and Sarah Maetche left the meeting.

DICK WYMENGA:                                That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 11:04 A.M.

**341/12**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Marshall Morton left the meeting. Christine Heggart, Mike Haugen, Helge Nome, Sarah Maetche and Calvin Rakach joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:            5.       Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association – Letter of Support**

Mike Haugen presented a request from the Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Association (AOHVA) for a letter of support and background on AOHVA's recent meeting with Ministers McQueen (Environment and Sustainable Resource Development) and Cusanelli (Tourism Parks and Recreation) regarding the development of a Designated Administrative Organization (DAO) regarding trails.

Mr. Haugen explained that a DAO would be an organization tasked with developing and maintaining recreational trails, be responsible for accessing/distributing the funds and take on liability for the trails, so that the Province, municipalities or industry would not have to.

Mr. Haugen recommended Council submit a letter of support for the enabling of the creation of a DAO, but not support any specific group to fulfill that role at this point in time.

Cal Rakach provided background information on his experience with sustainable trail development in the West Country and discussed existing initiatives such as Bighorn and Clearwater Trails.

Mr. Rakach noted that liability has been the biggest stumbling block in moving forward with industry and the province to build trail systems.

Mr. Rakach noted that the land use framework intends to minimize environmental footprints and that there are currently no mechanisms in place to take over infrastructure, liability and keep with the random use.

Mr. Rakach noted that trail or user fees are most easily applied to motorized users and that monies would be directed into dedicated trail development. .

Mr. Rakach responded to questions regarding managed trails in the Bighorn (100), Ghost (300), Crowsnest Pass (1500) and Iron Horse and that new legislation exists that can now keep people out of creeks.

Reeve Alexander noted the lack of enforcement to go along with the new legislation.

Mr. Rakach responded to questions regarding use of industry trails, logging roads and liability mitigation.

Ron Leaf noted that a DAO is a legal framework providing an agreement with the provincial government for an arm's length group to take on the responsibility of trail management.

Mr. Haugen noted that industry does not want to give up trails and roadways indefinitely, and that a trail network and management plan would be required.

Councillor Vandermeer noted that the ability for industry to defer abandonment costs or transferring lands to other user groups would be appealing.

Mr. Rakach noted the need for monies collected for trails to go into a dedicated pot to ensure that dollars make it onto the ground and that a managed trail system will require a long term education to move people from the sentiment "it is public land and I can go where I want to".

Mr. Rakach noted that provincially there will be a spectrum of management, as different parts of the province will have different management schemes.

Councillor Vandermeer noted restrictions are heavier in southern areas and the need to keep some randomness in this area as an economic driver, with enhanced enforcement.

Mr. Rakach noted the need to inventory trails provincially and develop a management strategy.

Councillor Korver noted the importance of a public education process and suggested that education begin in urban centres and within the school system.

Mr. Rakach noted that the AOHVA hosts a school program and provides information at trade shows to promote stewardship education.

Mr. Rakach responded to questions of how the DAO would assume liability, noting that the DAO would hold the trail insurance and implement a complete maintenance program.

Reeve Alexander noted the need for the DAO to be transparent and accountable and Mr. Rakach noted that DAO's would be accountable to the province and that appropriate bylaws, governance models and MOU for service provisions would be developed.

EARL GRAHAM:	That Council direct staff to submit a letter of supporting the concept of a DAO.
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342/12	CARRIED 7/0
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IN CAMERA:        6.     In Camera

JOHN VANDERMEER:	That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing labour and land acquisition matters. 11:45 A.M.
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343/12	CARRIED 7/0
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Cal Rakach, Mike Haugen, Christine Heggart, Helge Nome and Sarah Maetche left the meeting.

BOB BYRANT: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 1:05 P.M.

**344/12**

CARRIED 7/0

By consensus Council accepted the CAO evaluation as presented.

BOB BRYANT: That Council authorizes the CAO contract be amended to reflect a 24 month severance clause.

CARRIED 4/3

**ADJOURNMENT:** EARL GRAHAM:  
**1:06 P.M.**

That the Meeting adjourns.

CARRIED 7/0

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REEVE

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MUNICIPAL MANAGER