

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held October 11, 2016, in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in 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
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
	Curt Maki

Staff:	
Chief Administrative Officer	Ron Leaf
Recording Secretary	Tracy Haight
Director, Community and Protective Services:	Ted Hickey
Director, Corporate Services	Rodney Boyko
Director, Public Works	Marshall Morton
Manager, Finance	Rhonda Serhan

Public:	
Director, Parkland Regional Library	Ron Sheppard

Media:	Helge Nome
	Laura Button

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

The October 11, 2016 Regular Council Meeting agenda was amended as follows:
- Councillor's Verbal Report: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Convention as item G3.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That the October 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda be adopted as amended.
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326/16	CARRIED 7/0
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**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. September 27, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:	That the Minutes of the September 27, 2016 Regular Meeting are adopted as circulated.
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327/16	CARRIED 7/0
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**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. Outstanding Tax Revenue for 2016

Rhonda Serhan reported a total of \$1,740,640 remains outstanding for municipal, seniors, and provincial school tax requisitions which includes \$1,373,994 for 2016. It is anticipated that this amount will decrease once reminder letters are received. Typically, 98% of current year taxes are collected by December 31.

Ms. Serhan compared penalties applied to outstanding taxes for the last four years and noted there is very little difference between the current year, \$144,638 and last year, \$143,512.

Ms. Serhan noted unpaid education taxes on linear properties in Clearwater County is \$35,645. Ms. Serhan responded to questions and confirmed this amount is for 2016 only. There is a small amount of uncollected machinery and equipment taxes, however ratepayers were contacted and confirmation received that school taxes will be paid.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

328/16

CARRIED 7/0

2. Penalty Waiver Request

Rhonda Serhan stated that Clearwater County received a request to waive the tax penalty on Roll 3808264001. She explained the property owner suggests the penalty should be waived as the property owner maintained a portion of county roadway leading to the property.

Marshall Morton responded to questions and explained maintenance for the road right of way is currently on the grader beat for the area.

Ms. Serhan responded to questions and explained legislative requirements were met in the mail-out of assessment and tax notices, including advertising and notification.

Discussion took place on the advertisement of the September 15 deadline date in local newspapers, on local radio stations, online, and as specified on the tax assessment notice, as well as numerous payment options, provides fair opportunity for all ratepayers to pay taxes on time without penalty.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council upholds the penalty provisions of the tax rate bylaw and denies the request to waive the tax penalty on Roll 3808264001.

329/16

CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan left the meeting. Kendra Reap and Ashley Johnson-Campbell joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

2. Rocky Organization for Animal Rescue (ROAR) Society

Kendra Reap, ROAR Society President, provided a Power Point presentation that explained the non-profit Society's mandate to provide care for stray and abandoned dogs and cats in Clearwater County.

Ms. Reap requested that Council consider funding ROAR, in the amount of \$10,000, for 2017 operations.

Ms. Reap responded to questions and explained the volunteer run Society, although not contractually obligated to provide services, operates with the intent to provide sustainable kenneling for animals and support for animal control services contracted by the County.

Ted Hickey responded to questions and noted ROAR provides a local solution for handling/housing stray and abandoned animals and does not enforce bylaws. The County annually contracts Animal Control Services to enforce bylaws and handle dog-only complaints. Costs for services are approximately \$300-400 per dog.

Keanna Nelson joined the meeting.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council considers the funding request, in the amount of \$10,000 for the ROAR Society's 2017 operations, during budget deliberations.

330/16

CARRIED 7/0

Kendra Reap and Ashley Johnson-Campbell left the meeting. Andrea Vassallo joined the meeting.

3. Family Community Support Services

Andrea Vassallo, Manager, Clearwater Regional Family Community Support Services (FCSS), provided information on programs and services provided by FCSS. Ms. Vassallo noted currently the province funds 80% of FCSS programs and the remaining 20% is provided by a regional partnership between the Town, County, and Village of Caroline. In the last year, FCSS received bonus funding from the Province which resulted in lower contributions from the regional partnership. It is anticipated that the regional partnership will contribute the full 20% in 2017.

In the coming year, FCSS anticipates a decrease in industry donations as a result of the economic downturn in the oil and gas industry, however FCSS will continue to meet its directive to fund community programs and services that are offered by over 20 agencies.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

331/16

CARRIED 7/0

Andrea Vassallo left the meeting.

1. Parkland Regional Library Proposed 2017 Budget

Ted Hickey presented Parkland Regional Library's (PRL) proposed 2017 budget and noted PRL requests Council's approval of a 2% increase to the per capita requisition. The total estimated amount for Clearwater County's 2017 budget allocation is \$98,687. He noted PRL requires a 2/3 majority of member municipalities to pass the budget. To date, a few municipalities have requested that PRL adjust the budget to reflect either a 0% or less than a 2% increase to the per capita requisition amount.

Ron Sheppard, PRL Director, reviewed budget notes on income and expenditures and provided details on cost of services increases.

Mr. Sheppard responded to questions and noted the decision to revert to a one-year budget forecast from a three-year forecast was made by the PRL Board. He also explained PRL wages and salaries are the lowest among all of the library systems in Alberta and proposed increases were based on a comparative analysis.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council approves Parkland Regional Library's 2017 proposed budget as presented.

332/16

CARRIED 4/3

Sgt. Terri Miller, Chad Cumberland, Sgt. Kurtis Pillipow and Sgt. Jim Lank joined the meeting

Sgt. Miller introduced new staff member Chad Cumberland, Community Peace Officer.

4. Rimbey/Sundre RCMP Detachments – Quarterly Reporting

Sgt. Jim Lank, RCMP Sundre Detachment Commander, presented statistics on rural policing and noted the significant increase in property crime and traffic related offences. The total volume of calls for service within Clearwater County are approximately 8% which is similar to last year.

Discussion took place on the increase in property crimes, crimes committed by repeat offenders, and the presence of organized crime in the area.

Sgt. Lank responded to questions and explained it is too early to assess the success of a provincial program for habitual offenders.

Sgt. Kurtis Phillipow, RCMP Rimbey Detachment Commander, presented statistics on policing in the Rimbey area and also noted the increase in property crimes, especially thefts from oil/gas industry sites.

Discussion followed on the RCMP's collaborative efforts in working with rural crime watch groups that include information sharing and educational initiatives. Concerns with potential vigilantism and risks to property owners is a topic the RCMP would like to address with rural crime watch groups.

Sgt. Lank noted concerns, such as public safety, environmental, noise, and wildfires, with the use of binary explosives i.e. tannerite, and requested Council considers prohibiting the use of binary explosives in the County.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council receives the information as presented.

333/16

CARRIED 7/0

5. Clearwater County Highway Patrol Interim Report

Sgt. Terri Miller, Clearwater County Highway Patrol , provided a summary of the 2016 May Long Weekend Multi-Agency Taskforce Report to Council and noted that although the operation was successful, the program is still experiencing challenges with manpower levels.

Sgt. Miller presented the Clearwater County Highway Patrol Interim Report ending September 2016 and noted the vacant highway patrol position was filled in May and appointment took place in September. She explained appointments cannot be made until training is completed. Ted Hickey noted the County's highway patrol officers require specialized training for the protection of infrastructure.

Sgt. Miller provided statistics and fines collected on ticketed violations for bridge overload restrictions and noted violations are increasing, particularly on the James River Bridge.

Sgt. Miller responded to questions and confirmed Mountain View and Clearwater County do not have a memorandum of understanding for the enforcement of bridge overloads on the James River Bridge.

Sgt. Miller noted joint force operations with government agencies and bordering municipalities are realizing continued success in traffic and off highway vehicle safety during the summer long weekends.

Sgt. Miller noted the department is currently working with the Officer of Traffic Safety and the Clearwater County Police Advisory Council in the implementation of the Rural Report Impaired Drivers (RID 911) program in Clearwater County and area.

Discussion took place on challenges with the current court system backlog and the lack of Crown prosecutor and commissioner availability to handle cases in a timely manner.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

RECESS: Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:17 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. with the following people present: Councillors Graham, Duncan, Maki, Vandermeer, Laing, and Greenwood; Ron Leaf and Tracy Haight, Rodney Boyko, Ted Hickey, and Logan Schenk.

MUNICIPAL: 1. Revised Procedure Bylaw 954/12

Ron Leaf presented the revised Procedure Bylaw 954/12 and noted Administration anticipates additional changes to the bylaw when the Province's Bill 21: Modernized Municipal Government Act regulations come into effect in 2017.

Mr. Leaf noted amendments to Section 10.2 that address delivery of Council's agenda package and the addition of Section 10.5 to address late additions to the agenda.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council adopts the revised Procedure Bylaw 954/12 as presented.

CARRIED 5/2

INFORMATION: 1. CAO's Report

Ron Leaf noted upcoming dates for events and programs.

Discussion took place on the invitation from Rocky Curling Club to attend the grand opening of its new facility. Councillor Vandermeer indicated interest in attending.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council authorizes Councillor Vandermeer and Reeve Alexander's attendance at the Rocky Curling Club Grand Opening.

CARRIED 7/0

3. Councillor Verbal Reports

Councillor Laing and Councillor Graham reported on sessions and activities that they attended at the AUMA 2016 Convention.

Discussion took place on lack of consistent messaging from the Provincial Government on the continuation of Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding.

Reeve Alexander suggested that Rural Crime Watch make a presentation to Council.

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

337/16 CARRIED 7/0

Logan Schenk left the meeting.

IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Labour item at 1:28 pm .

338/16 CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 2:00 pm

339/16 CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council reconsiders Motion 332/16 to approve Parkland Regional Library's proposed 2017 budget as presented, as per Procedure Bylaw 954/12 Section 14.23 c).

340/16 CARRIED 7/0

Councillor Laing expressed concerns with Parkland Regional Library's 2% budget increase and indicated a need for fiscal restraints during the current economic downturn.

Discussion took place on PRL proposed increase for wages and salaries expense, which is to be expected as a result of the province's increase to minimum wage. Council requested clarity on PRL's budget notes regarding reserves and First Nation revenues and expenses.

Discussion followed on the anticipated impact on Clearwater County's budget from increased grant requests from local organizations.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council approves Parkland Regional Library's 2017 proposed budget as presented.

341/16

DEFEATED 6/1

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council requests that Parkland Regional Library amends the proposed 2017 budget to reflect a zero percent (0%) increase to the municipal per capita requisition.

342/16

CARRIED 6/1

ADJOURNMENT: COUNCILLOR MAKI:
2:26 pm

That the Meeting adjourns.

343/16

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE


CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER