

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held August 11, 2015 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:	Patrick Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	Curt Maki
	Jim Duncan
	John Vandermeer
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
Acting CAO:	Rudy Huisman
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	Brad Welygan

Media:	Laura Button
	Sylvana Crosby
	Helge Nome

Public:	Mike Maki
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**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Marshall Morton requested the addition of a verbal report on the Beaver Flats Bridge as Item D2.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That the August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.
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285/15

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. July 28, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:	That the Minutes of the July 28, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted.
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286/15

CARRIED 7/0

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Town of Rocky Mountain House Wastewater Facility Update Q2, 2015

Marshall Morton presented the second *2015 Quarterly Report* from the Town of Rocky Mountain House on the wastewater treatment results and septage receiving station's wastewater volumes as of June 30, 2015.

Mr. Morton asked if Council wishes to continue to receive quarterly reports or if an annual report is sufficient.

Discussion followed and Council confirmed that only annual reporting is required. Administration will continue to receive the quarterly reports and will make Council aware of any exceptions and/or anomalies.

Mr. Morton confirmed that Kris Johnson, Director of Engineering & Operations, Town of Rocky Mountain House, will provide annual reports.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council on volumes received and the life expectancy of the cell.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

287/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Verbal Report – Beaver Flats Bridge

Marshall Morton stated that the engineer's report on the Beaver Flats Bridge recommends a 3 tonne weight restriction or closure. Although the bridge is scheduled for closure in the next three weeks for repairs, Administration recommends the immediate closure of the bridge as enforcement of a weight restriction on this bridge is difficult and costly.

Discussion followed and Mr. Morton explained that drivers' disregard of previous weight restrictions have resulted in significant structural damage which includes cap deterioration and a sunken girder. If the bridge remains open, public safety is at risk.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council and noted that the detour route is along Bingley Road and that affected residents will be notified face-to-face. Permit agencies and haul route operators have been notified.

Discussion continued and Mr. Morton noted that the early closure will not affect the completion date for the scheduled repair work.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council authorizes the closure of Beaver Flats Bridge, effective immediately.

288/15

CARRIED 7/0

Ted Hickey and Jereld Pratt joined the meeting.

COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES:

1. Creation of a Standing Committee of Council – High Speed Internet Terms of Reference

As per Council's direction from July 28, 2015, Ted Hickey presented the draft Terms of Reference for the "Clearwater County High Speed Internet Standing Committee of Council" for review.

He explained the parameters and guidelines for the proposed committee and noted the committee's purpose is to provide information and recommendations on the supply of high speed internet services by either the County, a joint venture, or the private sector.

Discussion took place and Council noted the following:

- Current private sector internet providers are unable to meet the growing demands for service;
- Implications and the interpretation of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC) regulatory policy are not fully understood at this time.
- The provision of high speed internet service is integral to economic growth and development in rural municipalities; and,
- It is apparent that municipal government involvement is required, whether thru advocacy and lobby efforts, or thru other measures.

Council discussed the proposed committee membership and noted the following:

- County representation should be limited to two councillors.
- Technical advisors and/or associate members may be beneficial.
- Smaller committees are more effective and productive than larger committees.

Councillors Vandermeer and Duncan indicated their interest as committee members. It was determined that Administration will work with Councillors Vandermeer and Duncan on further details regarding the committee's terms of reference, membership/associate membership criteria, qualifications, and honorariums, and advertisement for members at large. Administration will present the final draft of the terms of reference at the next regular council meeting.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council appoints Councillor Vandermeer and Duncan to the *High Speed Internet Standing Committee of Council*.

289/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council adopts the *High Speed Internet Standing Committee of Council* Terms of Reference in principle.

290/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Delegation: Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS)

Glenda Farnden, STARS Sr. Municipal Relations Liaison thanked Council for Clearwater County's past contributions totaling \$73,000 since 1989.

Ms. Farnden provided information on the air ambulance and patient critical care services that STARS, a non-profit charitable organization, provides within Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Ms. Farnden noted that STARS responded to a total of 219 calls within Clearwater County from 2010 – 2015, which averages out to three to four missions per month.

Ms. Farnden stated that the municipal partnerships and commitment is appreciated and important to the continued service provided by STARS and asked that Council consider contributing \$2 per capita for a three year term, starting in 2016.

Discussion followed and Ms. Farnden responded to questions from Council and stated that the average cost per 90 minute mission is approximately \$5400.

Council noted that STARS request for increased funding will be discussed at the upcoming A&P meeting in September.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council receives the information as presented and considers the STARS request for increased funding at the next scheduled A&P meeting.

291/15

CARRIED 7/0

3. Delegation: Rocky Mountain House Search & Rescue (SAR) – Integration to Support SAR within the Clearwater County Community & Protective Services Department.

Ted Hickey provided background information on the SAR volunteer non-profit charitable organization that provides assistance, as required, to the RCMP, Clearwater County Highway Patrol, Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Service (CRFRS), and Clearwater Regional Emergency Management Agency (CREMA).

Mr. Hickey introduced Ed Van Heerhan, President, SAR and Kevin Gagne.

Mr. Van Heerhan explained the organization's mission statement and activities. He noted the challenges faced by the organization in fund raising efforts, training of volunteers, and provisions of equipment and vehicles for missions.

Mr. Van Heerhan provided information on the SAR 2015 Strategic Plan and an overview of potential opportunities in joining with Clearwater County's Community and Protective Services (CPS) department.

Mr. Hickey presented three options regarding long-term planning and the future sustainability of the SAR organization as follows:

1. SAR continues as an autonomous organization with current County funding.
2. SAR integrates into the CRFRS' organizational structure and service delivery model.
3. SAR continues as an autonomous organization and enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with Clearwater County's CPS department that addresses integration with CPS's organizational structure, annual budgetary requisition requests, and administrative support.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Council and noted although SAR provides services similar to CRFRS, mountain rescue services are unique to SAR and CRFRS does not provide search services. Mr. Hickey also noted that currently, SAR is jointly supported by the Town of Rocky Mountain House and Clearwater County and also receives support from local businesses and residents through donations and fund raising efforts.

Mr. Van Heerhan responded to questions from Council and noted that the volunteer base is shrinking and it is increasingly difficult to carry out fund raising efforts.

Mr. Hickey responded to questions from Council and explained the proposed integration with Clearwater County's CPS department may mitigate potential duplication of services and equipment.

Discussion followed and Council noted the importance of maintaining SAR's non-profit status and eligibility for provincial grants.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Administration completes the analysis of SAR integration within Clearwater County CPS while ensuring SAR's registered society status.

292/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Administration drafts a Memorandum of Understanding between Clearwater County and SAR.

293/15

CARRIED 7/0

Denniece Crout and Steve White joined the meeting.

Ted Hickey, Edward Van Heerhan, Kevin Gagne, Marshall Morton left the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

1. Rocky Rod and Gun Club

Denniece Crout introduced Mike Maki and Steve White, Executive Board Members of the Rocky Rod and Gun Club.

Mike Maki provided information on the club's history, location, recreational and competitive activities, and objectives. He noted that there are approximately 1000 members.

Mike Maki responded to questions from Council and explained that club revenue sources are membership fees and range rentals. The club is a non-profit organization that relies heavily on donations of time and equipment. He explained that, as per legislation, the club is not open to the general public. Steve White also noted that liability costs and insurance fees are paid out of the membership fees.

Mike Maki stated that for the past 45 years, the club received tax exempt status until this year. Consequently, the Board is requesting that Council consider the continuation of the club's tax-free exemption status.

Ms. Crout noted that the Rocky Rod and Gun Club has filed an appeal of the County's decision to remove the club's exempt status with the Regional Assessment Review Board for the 2015 assessment year.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council receives the information as presented.

294/15

CARRIED 7/0

Councillor Vandermeer left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Councillor Vandermeer joined the meeting at 11:35 am.

Denniece Crout, Mike Maki, and Steve White left the meeting.

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

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

295/15

CARRIED 7/0

RECESS:

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting at 11:45 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 12:33 P.M. with the following people present: Councillors Graham, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; Rudy Huisman, Tracy Haight, Lisa Novchek, Laura Button, Slyvana Crosby, Marshall Morton, Al Kemmere, Gerald Rhodes, and Wyatt Skovron.

MUNICIPAL:

2. Delegation: AAMDC Executive Board

Al Kemmere, President AAMDC Executive Board, introduced Gerald Rhodes, AAMDC Executive Director, and Wyatt Skovron, AAMDC Policy Analyst, to Council.

Discussion took place on the following:

- The provincial government's level of engagement with rural municipalities and the AAMDC;
- MLA interaction with rural municipalities;
- AAMDC's position on Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) proposal for rural municipalities to share linear assessment revenue with urban centres;
- Rural internet communications; and
- Provincial programs, such as Water for Life and Local Roads and Bridges, remain zero-funded.

Mr. Kemmere provided an overview on the status of the MGA review and noted that not all amendments have passed as of yet and there is no change to the June 2016 projected completion date.

Discussion continued on issues of concern regarding land use planning for medical marijuana producers and agriculture drought disasters in Alberta.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council receives the information as presented.

296/15

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss a Third Party Interest at 1:38 P.M. .

297/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting 2:54 P.M.

298/15

CARRIED 7/0

**ADJOURNMENT:
2:54 P.M.**

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That the Meeting adjourns.

299/15

CARRIED 7/0



REEVE



ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER