

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held January 24, 2012 in the County Office at Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	John Vandermeer
	Jim Duncan
	Robert Bryant
Municipal Manager:	Ron Leaf
Public Works Assistant Manager:	Rick Emmons
Recording Secretary:	Christine Heggart
Mountaineer:	Jessica Jones
IT:	Darrell Philip
Corporate Services Manager:	Murray Hagan
Maintenance Supervisor:	Frank McBride

Ron Leaf requested the addition of January and February Upcoming Meetings as F9 and In Camera - Provincial Trail Systems as F8b.

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL:**

BOB BRYANT: That the January 24, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

**026/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. January 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Councillor Bryant provided amendments to several delegates names.

JIM DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the January 10, 2012 Regular Meeting be confirmed as amended.

**027/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Winter Gravel Program 2012**

Frank McBride presented the 2012 Winter Gravel Program which will re-gravel approximately 383 kms (240 miles) of road, and use approximately 75,337 tonnes of gravel from inventory at a cost of \$1,098,926.00.

The intended start date of the Winter Gravel Program is January 30, 2012, pending Council's approval, suitable snow and weather conditions.

Staff responded to question regarding winter gravelling and road gravelling frequency, which is dependent on usage.

BOB BYRANT: That Council approves the 2012 Winter Gravel Program as submitted.

**028/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

Rick Emmons and Frank McBride left the meeting. Diane Fingler joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE  
SERVICES:**

**1. County Operating Report**

Murray Hagan presented the operating report for the County to December 31, 2011 and noted that results are subject to yearend audit adjustments.

Mr. Hagan noted that operating revenue was \$511,000 higher than budget for the year and this favourable variance is mainly represented by higher than expected oil well drilling taxes, offset by lower than anticipated lot sales in Nordegg. Total operating expenses were \$2,278,000 less than budget. Operational savings, staffing vacancies and unused contingency funds contributed to this difference.

The overall (unadjusted) surplus for the year is \$2,789,000.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the Operating Report to December 31, 2011 as information.

**029/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**MUNICIPAL:**

**3. 2012-2014 Strategic Plan**

Ron Leaf presented the a background on the development of the 2012-2014 Clearwater County Strategic Plan and requested Council review, amend as required and adopt in principle.

Once adopted in principle, Staff will place the plan on the website for public review and request input via email or written comment. The Plan will also be circulated to various Committees of Council for their views and comments. Input shall be received for six weeks, after which point staff will provide Council any recommended amendments to the plan, if required, and present for Council's formal adoption of the plan in April or May.

Staff responded to questions regarding anticipated feedback, the use of the SP for a public education component.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council reviews, amends if required, and adopts in principle the 2012-2014 Strategic Plan.

**030/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

Mike Haugen and Tyler McKinnon joined the meeting. Darrell Philip left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**6. Alberta Property Rights Task Force**

Ron Leaf presented the Alberta Property Rights Task Force survey questions and asked whether Councillors wish to respond as private landowners or as an elected body.

Mr. Leaf noted staff reviewed various Council policies (e.g. MDP, LUB, etc.) and can find no policies providing specific direction relevant to the question areas.

Council Duncan discussed his personal responses to the survey. Social media discussion. Input on mega projects.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council direct Councillors to complete the survey as individuals should they so choose.

**031/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**MUNICIPAL:           1.       Community Hall Grants Requests**

Tyler McKinnon presented two requests for funding from Buster Creek and Dovercourt Community halls.

1) The Buster Creek - Crimson Lake Community Hall submitted a proposed project that includes replacing the existing dance floor as well as replacing picnic tables at the hall. Hall representatives note that they plan on purchasing the materials for the picnic tables and having them assembled by volunteers. The total estimated cost for this work is \$16,004.87, and 50% of the estimated project cost is \$8,002.44.

Buster Creek Hall previously accessed the Community Halls Grant in 2009 in the amount of \$2,340.45 for the retroactive purchase of a shed.

2) The Dovercourt Community Hall Club has submitted a request for funding towards the replacement of their existing kitchen refrigeration system. imated cost is \$3,404.60 and the Club is requesting \$1,702.30 funding, which is 50% of the estimated cost. Dovercourt Community Hall Club previously accessed this grant in 2009, when Council approved \$5,000.00 funding towards new tables, replacement of flooring in the storage room and the addition of a snow pile shed over one of the hall exits.

Staff responded to questions re terms of Buster Creek – Crimson Lake Community Hall membership participation and usage.

BOB BRYANT:                               That Council approves \$8,002.44 funding for the Buster Creek – Crimson Lake Community Hall, from the Community Hall / Association Capital Grant, to be used towards the replacement of the hall's existing dance floor and picnic tables.

**032/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

Staff responded to question regarding other halls applying for funding, the funds available from the Dovercourt Hall.

JOHN VANDERMEER:                       That Council approves \$1,702.30 funding for the Dovercourt Community Hall Club, from the Community Hall / Association Capital Grant, to be used towards the replacement of the hall's refrigeration system.

**033/12**

**CARRIED 4/0**

**MUNICIPAL:           2.       Community Futures Survey**

Tyler McKinnon provided a background on Community Futures Central Alberta and the region covered. Mr. McKinnon noted Community Futures Central Alberta staff are working on their annual operating plan for 2012 and have requested that Council complete a questionnaire about businesses and services in our community to aid in their planning.

Staff reviewed the questionnaire with Chamber of Commerce representatives and recommended responses. Council directed staff to change question one be changed to a number 4 response; to change question three to reflect chambers of commerce in Nordegg and Caroline; to add Rimbey, Innisfail, Eckville and Sundre to question four; to combine ladies and children's wear and add agricultural machinery dealerships as a third; to add Alberta Farm Credit to question 6. (a); to answer yes and that a

Councillor sits on board and provides information updates to Council; to add a branch in Rocky.

BOB BRYANT:

That Council directs staff to submit survey responses to Community Futures Central Alberta as amended.

034/12

CARRIED 4/0

**MUNICIPAL:      4.      Hall Sustainability**

Mike Haugen noted that Council recently discussed the issue of community hall sustainability asked to confirm Council's current practice regarding the 22 community halls. Currently, the County acts as a funder of last resort for capital upgrades/replacements and the philosophy has been to allow "market forces" to determine which halls are viable, with money going only to active halls.

Long-term planning, budgeting and maintenance are left to the individual halls to plan for and budget themselves. As the age of many of the halls increases, more of these issues are coming forward and the resources of some halls are being challenged as is the ability for effective long-term planning. This may lead to the closure of some halls in the future, which is accepted by Council's current philosophy.

Council discussed an anticipated larger request from one hall and whether it falls outside the Community Hall capital policy. By consensus, Council agreed applications of larger scope will be considered as one offs and that halls usage and support will determine their viability.

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council confirms Council's current philosophy regarding Community Halls as presented.

035/12

CARRIED 4/0

Diane Fingler left the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:      5.      Rocky Performing Arts Centre Request**

Mike Haugen presented a letter from Edward Medeiros, on behalf of Northern Crossing Music and Drama Society noting he collected funds from private donations as well as the Town of Rocky Mountain House for the purposes of conducting a study assessing the need and feasibility of constructing a performing arts facility for the Rocky Mountain House community.

The first phase of the project is to assess the need and potential partners (other arts/sports groups, etc.) that would be involved and benefit from the facility. A professional architect will be engaged for this process. It is estimated that \$25,000.00 will be required to complete this study.

The second phase will be the actual design and engineering of a building and is expected to cost around \$75,000.00. Staff recommended matching the Town's funding of \$5,000.00.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That Council provides Northern Crossing Music and Drama Society \$5,000.00 of funding from the Community Services budget to assist with a feasibility study for a performing arts centre.

036/12

CARRIED

4/0



Mr. Leaf updated Council on an additional meeting with the RCMP, the retirement of Inspector Brine and his replacement to meet with staff for the to discuss Community Peace Officer.

JIM DUNCAN:

That Council directs staff to

**038/12**

CARRIED 4/0

**PLANNING:**

**1. First Reading of Bylaw 955/12**

Marilyn Sanders presented an application to cancel a plan of subdivision Plan 942-3432, Block 1, Lot 1, PT NE 01-35-05-W5 owned by Dante Muzzo for the purpose of consolidation of the first parcel with the original quarter section to an un-subdivided quarter section.

The subject lands lie approximately 14 miles southeast of the Village of Caroline. The residents of the dwelling are renters and provide security services for the children's camp on the balance of the quarter.

The remainder of the quarter section contains a farmhouse and outbuildings and there is a children's camp operating from the land including a building used as a classroom, washroom facilities and barn for the camp.

Ms. Sanders noted applicable sections of the Municipal Government Act pertaining to consolidation of an existing acreage.

Staff responded to questions regarding location of the subject property and the use of the

FIRST READING of Bylaw 955/12 to cancel Plan 942-3432, Block 1, Lot 1, NE 01-35-05-W5 in whole, was moved by Councillor DUNCAN.

**039/12**

CARRIED 4/0

Mike Haugan joined the meeting.

**INFORMATION:**

**1. Committee Reports**

Councillor Jim Duncan discussed Powwow Committee Reports and ASB Provincial Committee Report.

BOB BRYANT:

That the Powwow Committee Report and the ASB Provincial Committee Report be accepted as information.

**040/12**

CARRIED 4/0

**INFORMATION:**

**1. Manager's Reports**

Staff discussed the auditor and presentations to take place in April.

JIM DUNCAN:

That the Accounts Payable listing, the Municipal Manager's Report and the Disaster Recovery Program Resident Application Process reports of January 24, 2012 be accepted as information.

**041/12**

CARRIED 4/0

**IN CAMERA:        6.       In Camera**

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing a Primary Care Network and Potential Trail Grant Funding.  
10:59 A.M.

**042/12**

CARRIED 4/0

Christine Heggart and Jessica Jones left the meeting.

BOB BRYANT:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 11:45 A.M.

**043/12**

CARRIED 4/0

**ADJOURNMENT:**    JIM DUNCAN:  
**11:46 A.M.**

That the Meeting adjourns.

CARRIED 4/0

\_\_\_\_\_  
REEVE

\_\_\_\_\_  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER