

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held March 28, 2017, in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

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| Reeve: | Pat Alexander |
| Councillors: | Earl Graham |
| | John Vandermeer |
| | Kyle Greenwood |
| | Theresa Laing |
| | Jim Duncan |
| | Curt Maki |

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| Staff: | |
| Chief Administrative Officer | Ron Leaf |
| Recording Secretary | Tracy Haight |
| Manager, Legislative Services | Christine Heggart |
| Director, Corporate Services | Rodney Boyko |

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| Media: | Laura Button |
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**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

‘Rural Caucus Meeting’ was added to Item F3 – Councillor’s Verbal Report.

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| COUNCILLOR MAKI: | That the March 28, 2017 Regular Meeting Agenda is adopted as amended. |
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106/17

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. March 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

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| COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: | That the Minutes of the March 14, 2017 Regular Meeting are adopted as circulated. |
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107/17

CARRIED 7/0

1. March 14, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes

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| COUNCILLOR LAING: | That the Minutes of the March 14, 2017 Special Meeting are adopted as circulated. |
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108/17

CARRIED 7/0

Keanna Nelson joined the meeting.

**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. 2017-18 Provincial Budget Update

R. Boyko provided a summary of the Alberta 2017-18 Provincial Budget and noted the Province is maintaining the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) grant funding for the next four years with a small reduction of \$24 million to the Basic Municipal Transportation grant. The Province allocates MSI funding to municipalities based on a fixed provincial budget figure and a formula that is calculated on each municipality's previous year's statistics for population, education tax requisition and kilometer of road. As a result, Clearwater County's MSI funding for 2017 budget year is reduced by \$84,555.

R. Boyko noted during the County's budget deliberations in December, there was uncertainty on the continuation of the MSI program. Therefore, Administration conservatively budgeted components of MSI funding at prior year allocations and other components at zero for the County's 2017 budget. Now that actual dollar amounts are known, the overall impact to the County's revenue budget is an increase of \$117,366.

R. Boyko noted because of an increase in the Province's growth average and provincial changes to the education tax requisition formula, Clearwater County's education tax requisition amount, collected by the County on behalf of the Province, increased by 4.5%. Administration intends to provide further analysis when discussing the tax rate bylaw at upcoming meetings.

Discussion followed and it was noted the federal budget may impact provincial and municipal budgets, particularly with the reevaluation of the Building Canada Fund to possibly include provisions for broadband infrastructure.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That Council receives the 2017-18 Provincial Budget Update for information as presented.

109/17

CARRIED 7/0

MUNICIPAL:

1. Municipal Affairs Action Plan Update

R. Boyko presented Municipal Affairs' revised action plan for approving regulation changes to the Municipal Government Act. The revised timelines anticipate the release of amendment bills by the end of April 2017, followed by a 60-day period for review and comments. For planning purposes, Municipal Affairs is using July 1, 2017 as an anticipated proclamation date, subject to change, with final proclamation of the Modernized Municipal Government Act (MMGA) by October 1, 2017.

In September 2016, Administration anticipated, based on the previous MMGA action plan, presenting new and/or amended County policies to Council during the first quarter of 2017. However, given the revised action plan and incomplete amendment bills, Administration intends to finalize draft policies after proposed regulations become available and present to Council during the second quarter of 2017.

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| | COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: | That Council receives the Municipal Affairs Action Plan Update for information as presented. |
| 110/17 | | CARRIED 7/0 |

2. Proposed Date Change & Cancellation for Regular Council Meetings in November/December

C. Heggart stated elections preparations and prospective candidates' material development are currently underway and Administration intends to develop a calendar of key post-election dates (6-month period). The calendar dates will include: in-house and external new Councillor orientation, Regular Council meeting, Agenda and Priorities Meeting, budget meetings, strategic planning meetings and Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) conventions.

As part of this process it was identified that the coming fall AAMDC convention, starting on November 14 with 'New Councillor Orientation' training, conflicts with Council's regular meeting. Given there are three weeks between the October 24 Regular Council Meeting and the first regularly scheduled meeting in November, Administration recommends Council reschedule its November 14 meeting to November 7.

C. Heggart noted Council's December 26 regular meeting falls during the Christmas holiday schedule. Council typically cancels the second regular Council meeting in December and Administration recommends Council again follows this practice.

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| | COUNCILLOR MAKI: | That Council reschedules the November 14, 2017 Regular Council Meeting to November 7, 2017 and directs Administration to advertise the change as per Procedure Bylaw 954/12 Section 4.9. |
| 111/17 | | CARRIED 7/0 |

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| | COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: | That Council cancels the December 26, 2017 Regular Council Meeting due to the statutory holiday and directs Administration to advertise the cancellation as per Procedure Bylaw 954/12 Section 4.9 and 4.10. |
| 112/17 | | CARRIED 7/0 |

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| INFORMATION: | <u>1. CAO's Report</u> |
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R. Leaf advised Council of various events scheduled in the upcoming months and provided updates as follows:

- Clearwater County's Alberta Community Partnership grant application for the 'Joint Development Initiative' with the Town received approval for \$200,000 in funding.
- The legal component of the administrative review on Clearwater Broadband Foundation's (CBF) proposal begins March 29 followed by the business/financial component after April 12. Dates for the technical review are to be determined.

He also reported information received at the AAMDC Ministerial Forum on provincial and federal government funding for broadband that indicated Provincial and Federal governments intend to support construction of fibre 'backbones' including fibre to tower projects but not fiber to the premise projects. Administration will provide updates on provincial and federal government broadband plans as details are provided.

3. Councillor's Verbal Report

Councillor Duncan reported that he attended a Rural Caucus meeting on March 27 with Reeve Alexander and representatives from West Fraser and Clearwater Trails Initiative (CTI). Presentations on the County's Sasquatch and Partners Program, CTI's pilot project for trails, and West Fraser's Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) were made to demonstrate responsible management of activities on Public Land Use Zones (PLUZ) as an effective management tool for conservation and protection of land in the West Country. The Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) received the presentations well and expressed interest in visiting to learn of ongoing regional programs for watershed and headwater protection and May Long weekend task force activities in the West Country.

Discussion took place and the following points were noted:

- Currently there are no provincial regulations in place to manage recreational activity on crown land.
- The Federal government recognizes caribou as a 'species at risk'. Without a provincial protection plan for species at risk, the Federal government may impose protected areas that may result in a loss of farmland.
- A PLUZ designation could work as an effective alternative to wildland/park designation.
- Council would like to hear West Fraser's SFI presentation.
- A wildland/park designation would have significant economic impact to the community.
- MP Eglinski suggested Clearwater County continue with strong lobby efforts for strategic planning and management of the West Country.

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

113/17

CARRIED 7/0

Kevin Warren joined the meeting.

3. Parkland Air Management Zone Annual Report

K. Warren, Executive Director of Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ) thanked Council for their past and continued support and presented a Power Point, 'Clearwater County & PAMZ' detailing PAMZ activities.

He provided details on PAMZ partnership with Clearwater County and noted Councillor Laing is a board representative and Administration assists with bookkeeping duties.

He noted Clearwater County's 2017 membership fee, based on per capita, provides for air quality monitoring in the area. This year, along with the

permanent continuous monitoring site southeast of Caroline, a temporary site is planned for Nordegg during the summer months.

K. Warren responded to questions and discussion followed.

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| 114/17 | COUNCILLOR LAING: | That Council receives Parkland Air Management Zone Municipal Annual Report for information as presented. |
| | | CARRIED 7/0 |

IN CAMERA:

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| 115/17 | COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: | That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss Item G1 – Labour and Item G2 – Legal in camera in accordance with: a) the Municipal Government Act, Section 197(2) and b) the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 17(1) and Section 24(1)(a) at 10:18 am. |
| | | CARRIED 7/0 |

Laura Button, Keanna Nelson, Christine Heggart and Tracy Haight left the meeting.

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| 116/17 | COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: | That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 11:15 am. |
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| 117/17 | COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: | That Council acknowledges receipt of Shirley Marshall's letter, received February 22, 2017 and requests that the Reeve responds. |
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| ADJOURNMENT: 11:16 am | COUNCILLOR MAKI: | That the Meeting adjourns. |
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| 118/17 | | CARRIED 7/0 |
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REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER