

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held January 27, 2015 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in 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:	Patrick Alexander
Councillors:	Curt Maki
	Jim Duncan
	Theresa Laing
	Kyle Greenwood
	John Vandermeer
CAO:	Ron Leaf
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Director, CPS:	Ted Hickey
Director, Corp Services:	Rudy Huisman
Director, Ag Services & Landcare	Matt Martinson
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	Erik Hansen
	Kurt Magnus
	Brad Welygan
Media:	Dania Gravelle
	Laura Button
	Helge Nome
Public:	Dennis Ross
	Michelle Swanson

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Laing requested the addition of two items as J4 – verbal update on lobby efforts for a school in Nordegg and a verbal update on the Parkland Air Management Zone (PAMZ) committee meeting.

Councillor Duncan requested the addition of item J5 – Verbal Update on the Clearwater Trails Initiative Project.

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the January 27, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

026/15 CARRIED 6/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted.

027/15 CARRIED 6/0

**PUBLIC
WORKS:**

1. Request for Input: Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation

Marshall Morton stated the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) requested input from municipalities on the Community Aggregate Payment Levy (CAPL) Regulation.

Kurt Magnus provided background information on the CAPL and reviewed Administration’s response to the questions from AAMDC pertaining to the CAPL Regulation.

Mr. Morton explained Clearwater County has not participated in this regulation due to the following concerns:

- 1. The regulation only applies to the gravel industry,
- 2. The current levy rate would not be sufficient to cover infrastructure maintenance and potential damage; and
- 3. The regulation limits the current use of road use agreements, which is a fair and equitable agreement that applies to all industry in the area.

Mr. Morton and Mr. Magnus responded to questions from Council and explained the differences between Clearwater County’s road use policy for commercial/industrial truck hauls and the CAPL regulation. Mr. Morton explained the rationale behind municipalities that charge a levy rather than implementing a road use agreement and noted the levy targets local gravel haulers whereas the road use agreement applies to all industry haulers and provides the County with the ability to control the amount of damage to roads.

Discussion followed on the estimated amount of revenue gained from the levy and Council noted the amount would not cover the amount of potential damage and that the levy does not hold the hauler accountable whereas the road use agreement does.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council and noted the Winter Gravel Program is delayed due to an insufficient amount of snow and warm temperatures.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council approves the Community Aggregate Payment Levy Regulation Survey comments as presented.

028/15

CARRIED 6/0

Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen, and Kurt Magnus, and Michelle Swanson left the meeting.

**AG SERVICES
& LANDCARE:**

1, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Annual Report

Matt Martinson provided an overview of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA) 2013-2014 Annual Report and outlined the program’s activities, key initiatives, and achievements over the past year.

Mr. Martinson noted Clearwater County Council and the Ag Services & Landcare Department are actively involved with the NSWA and works collaboratively with other municipalities in the planning and management of the watershed basin.

Mr. Martinson responded to questions from Council and explained Clearwater County’s per capita funding contribution is based on residents within the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers watershed. He noted Clearwater County also budgets funds for special projects on an individual basis of which he will provide further details to Council at first opportunity.

Discussion followed and Council indicated interest in receiving a delegation from the NSWA later in the year.

Ron Leaf noted that David Trews, NSWA Executive Director, was nominated to the Alberta Water Council (AWC) Lake Management Project Team.

Brad Welygan left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That Council approves the information as presented.

029/15

CARRIED 6/0

2. North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance Headwaters Forum Invitation

Matt Martinson stated the NSWA is holding an education forum on watershed management issues in the North Saskatchewan River headwaters on February 5 in Drayton Valley, Alberta. Mr. Martinson noted the value in attending the forum considering Council and Ag Services & Landcare's extensive involvement in the Headwaters Partnership Steering Committee and the Clearwater Trails Initiative.

Mr. Martinson noted items of interest listed on the event's agenda and stated the event provides an opportunity to gain understanding of the issues facing municipalities regarding headwater management.

Discussion followed and Council indicated interest in receiving a delegation from Dr. Brad Stelfox at first opportunity.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:

That Council authorizes interested councillors' attendance at the NSWA Education Forum on February 5.

030/15

CARRIED 6/0

3. Committee Appointment – Red Deer River Municipal User Group

Matt Martinson stated that Councillor Earl Graham stepped down from his appointment to the Red Deer River Municipal User Group (RDRMUG) as it conflicts with his recent elected position on the AAMDC Board of Directors. Consequently, it is recommended that Council appoint a new member to the RDRMUG.

Mr. Martinson explained the group's mandate and noted membership is limited to rural and urban municipal elected officials and communities within the Red Deer River Basin that use water from the Red Deer River.

Ron Leaf responded to questions from Council and noted Administration will confirm if a member at large appointment to the group is permissible.

Discussion followed on the focus of the RDRMUG and Council noted although Clearwater County does not use water from the Red Deer River, there is value in maintaining membership in the group as this provides opportunity for involvement in any future scenario planning or forecasting that may effect the County.

Meeting dates were noted and Councillor Maki and Vandermeer indicated their interest dependent on their respective schedules.

COUNCILLOR LAING:

That Council appoints Councillor Vandermeer and Councillor Maki as alternate to the RDRMUG.

031/15

CARRIED 6/0

Rick Emmons and Keith McCrae joined the meeting.

4. Mountain View County Proposed Resolution: Landowner Special License for Elk

Matt Martinson provided an administrative perspective on the proposed resolution from Mountain View County regarding special licensing for landowners to hunt elk.

Discussion followed and Council noted agriculture losses and damages from elk are only a small part of the issue and that special licensing may not have the intended impact due to the nature of elk behaviour. Council noted that the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) has processes in place to assist landowners in providing opportunity for First Nations to hunt elk on private land. Council also noted that ESRD indicates that an extended hunting season for elk may alleviate overpopulation.

Council noted the over population of elk, along with other wildlife, is a prevalent issue with agriculture service boards as well. It was noted the proposed resolution provides a short-term solution to address agriculture losses due to elk overpopulation, however it does not take into consideration agriculture losses from other wildlife.

Council noted that a comprehensive resolution that: includes a proactive approach to wildlife management; addresses funding requirements for research and study on how to manage wildlife; and includes specific goals, would be of value.

Administration noted Ag Services & Landcare will present a draft resolution, at first opportunity, for Council's discussion to determine if there is value in presenting it at the Central Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (CAAMDC) meeting in the fall.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

032/15

CARRIED 6/0

Matt Martinson left the meeting.

PLANNING:

1. Mountain View County Proposed Resolution: Resource Extraction within Municipal Boundaries

Rick Emmons provided an administrative perspective on the proposed resolution from Mountain View County regarding resource extraction within municipal boundaries and outlined several concerns with the proposed resolution as follows:

1. This resolution only focuses on one type of industry application even though Section 618 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) includes other applications, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB), that effect municipal development.
2. Municipalities do not have the technical expertise or the resources to provide rulings that balance the needs and wants of landowners with industry applications.
3. Including municipalities in the approval process may lead to duplication thus complicating environmental and philosophical opposition and politicizing the installation of oil infrastructure.

Keith McCrae provided examples of how the NRCB grants approval for confined feeding development within Clearwater County and referenced applicable sections of the municipal development plan. Mr. McCrae noted the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) operates in a similar manner and both boards have procedures in place to include full communication with the municipality involved.

Discussion followed and Council noted energy resource extraction is heavily regulated within Alberta by AER, which has a proven process that is heavily supported with scientific expertise. The regulatory board has the expertise, resources, and processes in place to handle applications. Council noted that it does not want to be in the position of opposition with the landowner and what the landowner wants to do with his own land.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the information as presented.

033/15

CARRIED 6/0

Keith McCrae and Rick Emmons left the meeting.

COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:

1. Physician Recruitment and Retention Society Request for Additional Funds

Ted Hickey stated the Physician Recruitment and Retention Society does not require additional funding as stated in the agenda item. Mr. Hickey explained Council previously allocated \$20,000 in the 2014 budget, however a misunderstanding regarding the distribution of funds and recipients resulted due to mislabeling of the detailed budget line.

Mr. Leaf explained the Caroline Chamber of Commerce receives funding, as part of the agreement with the Caroline Ag Society, for operations of the Caroline Wellness Centre, and does not require additional funding. Administration will review the agreement and report to Council at first opportunity.

Mr. Hickey noted corrections to the detailed budget line have been completed.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council accepts the information as presented.

034/15

CARRIED 6/0

MUNICIPAL:

1. Invitation: Visions West Outreach School Grand Opening

Council discussed an invitation that Reeve Alexander received from Visions West Outreach School to share a congratulatory message at the grand opening on February 6.

Reeve Alexander noted he is unable to attend as he is chairing the CAAMDC District 2 General Meeting in Three Hills on that day.

Councillor Laing indicated her interest in attending and speaking on behalf of Reeve Alexander and Clearwater County.

035/15	COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That Council authorizes Councillor Laing's attendance at the Visions West Outreach School's grand opening on February 6.
		CARRIED 6/0

2. Alberta Order of Excellence

Council discussed the invitation from the Alberta Order of Excellence to nominate a candidate to become a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Council suggested Dwight Oliver as a candidate and requested that Administration present a draft letter of nomination to Council at first opportunity.

036/15	COUNCILLOR DUNCAN:	That Council nominates Dwight Oliver for consideration for the Alberta Order of Excellence.
		CARRIED 6/0

3. CAAMDC District 2 FCM Committee Appointment

Ron Leaf explained the proposal from Mountain View County for CAAMDC District 2 member municipalities to cost share travel expenses for a CAAMDC District 2 representative, if appointed, to a Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) committee (s).

Mr. Leaf noted the CAAMDC District 2 Directors requested that the municipal members be advised that nominations for appointment to a FCM committee will be considered at the February 6, 2015 General Meeting and if a Council member is interested, to submit their name for consideration at the upcoming meeting.

Mr. Leaf responded to questions from Council and noted that the elected candidate's municipality would be responsible for the council member's per diem.

037/15	COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That Council accepts the information as presented.
		CARRIED 6/0

Marshall Morton, Matt Martinson, Bonnie Perreault, Ellen Bonde, Niels Bonde, Art Terpsma, Jim Terpsma, Allan Sunde, and Steve Slawuta joined the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Ron Leaf stated that the provincial government is hosting a speaking engagement in Red Deer on February 2 with Frank Oberle, Energy Minister. Minister Oberle will provide information on the government's fiscal situation

and actions being taken in advance of Budget 2015. Reeve Alexander indicated his interest in attending.

Council also discussed the tentative concepts for the AAMDC Member Visit and noted a tour concept highlighting collaborative initiatives that demonstrate the “Stronger Together” Agreement in action, may be of interest.

Administration will present tour suggestions and further details to Council at first opportunity.

Council discussed an invitation received from Friends Of the Easter Slope Association (FOESA) to attend their annual banquet on February 21, 2015.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council authorizes Councillor Duncan’s attendance at the FOESA’s annual banquet on February 21, 2015.

038/15

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the CAO Report, Public Works Director’s Report, and Accounts Payable Listing as information.

039/15

CARRIED 6/0

Laura Button, Denia Gravelle, Dennis Ross, and Helge Nome left the meeting.

IN CAMERA:

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss RC Strategies – Preliminary Report at 11:03 A.M.

040/15

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 12:46 P.M.

041/15

CARRIED 6/0

Reeve Alexander recessed the Council meeting for lunch at 12:46 P.M.

Reeve Alexander reconvened the Council meeting at 1:15 P.M. with the following present: Councillors Duncan, Laing, Vandermeer, Maki, and Greenwood; Ron Leaf, Tracy Haight, Laura Button, Matt Martinson, Sarah Cox, Helge Nome, Denia Gravelle, and Kurt Magnus.

DELEGATION:

1. Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

A presentation was made by Sarah Cox, Senior Conservation Program Manager, from the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) regarding the organization’s perspective on the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan (NSRP).

Ms. Cox noted Y2Y is interested in the planning process concerning headwaters protection as headwaters provide habitat for wildlife and ecosystems that mitigate floods.

Ms. Cox responded to questions from Council and discussion followed on trail management in the Bighorn Backcounty; protection of wild land areas; and wildlife management issues.

Council noted the lack of provincial funding and resources presents challenges for municipalities in the protection and monitoring of recreation use in wild land areas. Council also noted that educating the public on respectful use of recreation areas is extremely important.

COUNCILLOR LAING: That Council accepts the information as presented.

CARRIED 6/0

4. Information as presented by Councillor Laing

Councillor Laing provided a verbal update on the Parkland Air Management Zone's (PAMZ) activities and noted the progress of programs to increase air shed monitoring.

Councillor Laing reported on a recent meeting she attended with Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Nordegg School Lobby Committee. Councillor Laing noted the meeting was positive and encouraging and that the Minister suggested to continue lobby efforts with Alberta Service and Alberta Agriculture thru the Rural Economic Development Action Plan.

5. Information as presented by Councillor Duncan

Councillor Duncan provided a verbal update on the Clearwater Trails Initiative Pilot Project. Councillor Duncan noted proposed trail routes and indicated locations of proposed signage.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council accepts the information as presented.

CARRIED 6/0

Marshall Morton, Matt Martinson, and Erik Hansen joined the meeting. Laura Button, Denia Gravelle, Helge Nome and Tracy Haight left the meeting.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole to discuss RC Strategies – Preliminary Report at 2:15 P.M.

CARRIED 6/0

COUNCILLOR MAKI: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 4:00 P.M.

CARRIED 6/0

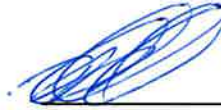
**ADJOURNMENT:
4:00 P.M.**

COUNCILLOR MAKI:

That the Meeting adjourns.

046/15

CARRIED 6/0

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Reeve", written over a horizontal line.

REEVE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Lef", written over a horizontal line.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER