

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held July 23, 2013 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:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	John Vandermeer
	Bob Bryant
	Jim Duncan
	Case Korver
	Earl Graham
	Dick Wymenga
Director, Corp Services/Acting CAO:	Murray Hagan
Director, Public Works:	Marshall Morton
Manager, Infrastructure:	Erik Hansen
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
	Brad Welygan
	Kurt Magnus
	Michelle Marshall
	Rhonda Serhan
	Sarah Maetche
	Helge Nome

AGENDA:

JIM DUNCAN:	That the July 23, 2013 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted.
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267/13	CARRIED 7/0
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**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. July 09, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

CASE KORVER:	That the Minutes of the July 09, 2013 Regular Meeting be accepted.
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268/13	CARRIED 7/0
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2. July 09, 2013 Public Hearing Minutes

DICK WYMENGA:	That the Minutes of the July 09, 2013 Public Hearing Meeting be accepted.
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269/13	CARRIED 7/0
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PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Isolated Access Road Use Request - Ahlstrom

Jenny Oatway and Dennis Ross joined the meeting.

Michelle Marshall presented the request from Chris and Wayne Ahlstrom to utilize the road allowance which lies between the NE 7-37-7 W5M and NW 8-37-7 W5M (approximately 800 meters) to gain access to their grazing lease.

Ms. Marshall noted the road allowance was developed and maintained by ConocoPhillips Canada to access a wellsite within SE 7-37-7 W5M. ConocoPhillips issued a notice of abandonment and reclamation for this wellsite and informed County staff they have no concerns with Chris and Wayne Ahlstrom’s application for use of this road allowance.

Marshall Morton noted the primary use of this road allowance falls under the provisions of the Isolated Access Roads on Right-of-Way policy.

Mr. Morton responded to questions from Council and stated the wellsite is on leased crown land and if required, the removal of the wellhead will be completed as per requirements of Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Alberta Environment.

CASE KORVER:

That Council approves the use and maintenance of 800 meters of road allowance between NE 7-37-7W5M and NW 8-37-7W5M under the provisions of the Isolated Access Roads on Right-of-Way policy to Chris and Wayne Ahlstrom.

270/13

CARRIED 7/0

2. Leslieville Lagoon Access

Marshall Morton presented a request from Mr. Ron Webster, Managing Director of Wilderness Village to extend the hours of operation at the Leslieville Lagoon.

Mr. Morton noted on July 12, 2011, as per a request from Mr. Webster, Council extended Leslieville Lagoon's hours of operation to include a half day on Saturdays.

Mr. Morton stated in order to accommodate Mr. Webster's current request, staff would be required to work overtime or additional staff would be required, along with on-call staff as per the Working Alone policy.

BOB BRYANT:

That Council denies the request to extend Leslieville Lagoon hours of operation.

271/13

CARRIED 7/0

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

CORPORATE SERVICES:

1. County Operating Report to June 30, 2013

Rhonda Serhan presented the Clearwater County Operating Report to June 30, 2013 and noted the following:

- There will be little change in user fees and sale of goods revenue until the sale of Nordegg lots on August 16, 2013.
- Oil well drilling taxes continue to be strong and reflect most of the revenue earned in the first quarter.

Rhonda Serhan stated operating expenses are still on target and noted the following:

- Substantial increases are expected in emergency services as a result of the June flood and the Nordegg fire. Mike Haugen will submit Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) applications for each, which should offset most of the costs.
- ASB weed and pest control expenses are low due to costs incurred in June not posted until July.

Rhonda Serhan presented the Clearwater County Capital Report to June 30, 2013 and noted the following:

- There is still a grant from Alberta Transportation to be received, along with bridge funding, for capital revenue. Bridge funding will not be issued until expenses have been incurred.
- The majority of capital equipment purchases have been made. Most capital programs for 2013 have been postponed due to flooding repair projects which is reflected in the Public Works Capital umbrella.

EARL GRAHAM: That Council accepts the information as presented.

272/13

CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan left the meeting. Steve Maki joined the meeting.

PLANNING &

WEST COUNTRY: 1. Incident Reporting to Council Policy Review – Final Draft

Steve Maki presented the Incident Reporting to Council policy with amendments as recommended by Council at the July 09, 2013 regular meeting.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council approves the Incident Reporting To Council policy as amended.

273/13

CARRIED 7/0

Steve Maki left the meeting. Trevor Duley and Mike Hagan joined the meeting.

**COMMUNITY
& PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

3. EARN Advertising Funding Request

Trevor Duley provided background information on the Employee Attraction Retention Network (EARN).

Mr. Duley stated EARN is requesting \$500 in advertising funds for events that are planned for October, February and April.

Murray Hagan added Janice Anderson, Human Resources Manager, is actively involved as representative for Clearwater County on the EARN Committee and strongly supports EARN's function in the community.

Council questioned if EARN was receiving financial contributions from other sources; who would be attending the events; and if this was a one-time request. Mr. Duley responded EARN is funded thru grants from Alberta Works with expectation of municipalities and community matching and/or providing in-kind donations; attendees would include local retailers, general business owners and representatives from various industries; and there may be future requests for funding. Mr. Duley noted funds are available within the Economic Development budget for miscellaneous advertising, should Council approve this request.

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council authorizes \$500 in advertising funds for the EARN Committee.

274/13

CARRIED 7/0

IN CAMERA: 1. In Camera

EARL GRAHAM: That Council meets as a Committee of
the Whole to discuss Nordegg Public
Services Building at 9:33 A.M.

275/13 CARRIED 7/0

Helge Nome, Sarah Maetche, Jenny Oatway, and Dennis Ross left the meeting.

BOB BRYANT: That the meeting reverts to an Open
Meeting at 9:50 P.M.

276/13 CARRIED 7/0

RECESS: Reeve Alexander recessed the Council meeting for a Public Hearing at 10:14
A.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 10:21 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the
same people present as at the beginning of the meeting with the exclusion of
Brad Welygan, Kurt Magnus, Michelle Marshall, and Rhonda Serhan.

Helge Nome, Sarah Maetche, Dennis Ross, Christine Heggart, Keith McCrae and Marilyn Sanders
joined the meeting.

**PLANNING: 4. Second and Third Readings - Land Use Amendment Bylaw 979/13
Rammage (Grandview Stage Resort)**

Council reviewed all information presented at the July 23 2013 public hearing
for Bylaw 979/13 to Amend the Land Use Bylaw to reverse the redesignation
of 1.00 acre from the Country Residence District "CR" back to the Highway
Development District "HD" on land described as parts of SE 27-38-08-W5M.

EARL GRAHAM: That Council grants second reading to
Bylaw 979/13. .

277/13 CARRIED 7/0

BOB BRYANT: That Council grants third reading to
Bylaw 979/13.

278/13 CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION: 1. Information Items

JIM DUNCAN: That the CAO's Report, Public Works
Director's Report, Accounts Payable
listing as of July 23, 2013, and
Councillor Remuneration, be
accepted as information.

279/13 CARRIED 7/0

Rhonda Serhan, Erik Hansen, Marshall Morton, and Marianne Cole joined the meeting

MUNICIPAL: 1. Delegation - Clearwater County Taxpayers' Association

Tracy Haight introduced Marianne Cole and Helge Nome of Clearwater
County Taxpayers' Association (CCTA) to Council.

Ms. Cole thanked Council for the opportunity to present CCTA's concerns and desire to help protect the West Country and read the written presentation verbatim.

Discussion followed and it was noted for over ten years Clearwater County has been speaking with various provincial ministers and departments and other municipalities regarding enforcement issues, recreational and environmental challenges in the West Country. Council noted the majority of land in the West Country is public and recognizes the challenges as regional and provincial issues, rather than specific to one area, to encourage provincial involvement through regulation, policy, educational programing and enforcement.

Reeve Pat Alexander noted Clearwater County is a founding member of the South Eastern Slopes Task Force which released a report in June, 2010 that was presented to the provincial government containing a similar message to CCTA's, along with many other suggestions.

Council thanked Ms. Cole and CCTA for the presentation and their support and encouraged group members to contact provincial ministers and departments with concerns.

Dwight Oliver, Debbie Northcott, and Reg Dean joined the meeting. Marianne Cole and Marshall Morton left the meeting.

EARL GRAHAM:

That Council accepts the information as presented.

280/13

CARRIED 7/0

**COMMUNITY
& PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

1. Delegation – Caroline HUB Committee for Caroline and District Athletic and Agricultural Society – Caroline Community Complex Expansion

Mike Haugen introduced the Caroline Help Us Build (HUB) Committee.

Dwight Oliver thanked Council and introduced Deb Northcott and Reg Dean.

Ms. Northcott noted the Caroline Chamber of Commerce, Caroline Clinic, Caroline Playschool and various clubs and community groups are committed to using the Caroline Community Complex once the expansion is complete. A fitness center, multipurpose room and additional storage are included.

Reg Dean stated the projected cost for the expansion is \$1,459,000. \$944,000 in grant money from the County and Village, and \$229,400 cash and donations in-kind are anticipated, for a total of \$1,173,400. Mr. Dean stated the HUB Committee is confident that the remaining \$285,000 will be raised.

Mr. Dean noted operational costs are estimated at \$5800 per month. Committed rent revenue from user groups is \$3500 per month and the estimated revenue from the fitness center is \$2300 per month.

Ms. Northcott stated cash donations, volunteer labour, equipment, and materials with a total estimated value of \$104,410 has been committed. The “Caroline HUB Fund Raising” group has developed a pamphlet requesting sponsorships and/or donations, a “gauge” to monitor success, and several functions and events.

281/13

BOB BRYANT:

That Council approves accepts the information as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

Marshall Morton and Kurt Magnus joined the meeting.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for discussion at 11:14 A.M.

282/13

CARRIED 7/0

Helge Nome, Sarah Maetche, Dwight Oliver, Deb Northcott, Reg Dean, Christine Heggart, and Trevor Duley left the meeting.

BOB BRYANT:

That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 11:59 A.M.

283/13

CARRIED 7/0

2. Caroline Community Complex Expansion and SE Recreation Grounds – Construction Agreements

Mike Haugen stated Clearwater County is acting as project manager for the Caroline Community Complex expansion and the South East Recreation Grounds concession and washroom facility. Mr. Haugen noted these projects are primarily funded through the Major Community Facility Program (MCFP) provincial grant and requires construction management services agreements as soon as possible.

Mr. Haugen stated the service provider selected is Premier Building Solutions who has submitted construction management services contracts for each project. Staff have reviewed the documents, noted details and items requiring clarification, and recommend entering into both agreements.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That Council authorize the Director, Community and Protective Services to enter into construction agreements with Premier Building Solutions.

284/13

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:
12:03 P.M.

JOHN VANDERMEER:

That the Meeting adjourns.

285/13

CARRIED 7/0

REEVE

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CCTA PRESENTATION
Re PROTECTION OF THE WEST COUNTRY
CLEARWATER COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, July 23, 2013

We would like to thank Council for the opportunity to address this meeting with our concerns and desire to help protect the west country as well as the lifestyle of the people living in that area. We commend the efforts of both Council and county staff in this regard to date and want to lend our support as well as we feel the need for continued strong effort in this area.

Part of the mission statement of the Clearwater County Taxpayers' Association states that we will provide a means of participating in decisions affecting taxpayers of Clearwater County. We feel that activities in the west country have a distinct affect on our taxpayers in two main ways. The first is by their ability to enjoy its beauty and their own lifestyle now and in the future. Secondly taxpayers may be impacted as a result of the dollars spent to protect and maintain the integrity of the area.

As a result, we believe that the focus of action must be 3 fold:

1. We need to protect and maintain the beauty of the area by working to control the activities that take place in the west country. While the area to the west may fall under jurisdiction of Clearwater County along with other government agencies, the enjoyment of such lands is available to anyone from anywhere. Some of these visitors do not have the same sentiment for treating the area with respect so there has to be stricter enforcement to ensure greater protection of this unique beauty.
2. We need to also protect the lifestyle of the people, our taxpayers, living in that area. As our taxpayers, their livelihood and safety deserve to be protected.
3. In order to ensure that both the natural beauty and lifestyle of residents are protected, we need to work hard to ensure that there is adequate funding to cover costs of protection, sufficient staff to oversee that protection, and enforceable consequences for indiscretions that occur.

To achieve the above goals, we feel that all interested parties of taxpayers, residents, the County, Friends of the West Country, and the Clearwater County Taxpayers' Association need to strongly lobby the provincial government for increased funding to cover staff costs for patrolling the area as well as for clean-up costs. We are well aware that Clearwater County has worked hard in this regard, especially as a result of earlier provincial funding cuts. We wish to lend our support, and ask the County to continue their lobby. Contact with, and requests to, our MLA and the various ministers involved must be relentless and we need to impress upon them the urgency of this issue.

May we suggest that the County delegate specific responsibility for efforts in this direction to personnel already on staff. There is staff working on the development of Nordegg and perhaps they could also work on issues affecting the general protection of the west country.

We are also concerned about new development of recreation areas in close proximity to privately owned and occupied land. We bring to mind the development recently approved in the Boundary area. Concerns are continually being expressed about the large numbers of people that come into the west country, and huge effort is expended especially on long week-ends by various groups to patrol visitors and clean up the aftermath. If new development takes place encouraging even more people to come to the area, it seems reasonable to believe that trouble could also escalate. Is it not counterproductive to be gravely concerned yet engage in promoting activities that would accelerate the very concerns we have? Bringing in more people creates an increased opportunity for the very problems we want to stop.

Furthermore, our taxpayers living "out there" have expressed concerns about their own safety, the safety of their operations, and the enjoyment of their lifestyle. To encourage more people to come by allowing development in close proximity ignores those concerns when they should instead deserve consideration. To that end we feel that future development that opens the doors to increased activity must be denied.

Finally we strongly believe that extensive collaboration with government agencies is necessary to establish stricter enforcement of laws on the operation of OHV's and recreational pursuits in the west country. There is a dual need for more staff to patrol the area coupled with greater clout in enforcement. During discussion at our last CCTA meeting one of our members suggested that tickets or fines for misbehavior be linked to vehicle registration renewals. All outstanding fines must be paid prior to the renewals being allowed. While we realize this might be a difficult goal to achieve, we feel it is certainly one worth pursuing with all government representatives. We strongly feel that penalties must exert enough of a deterrent in order to provide the protection we all feel is necessary.

These are our concerns and suggestions. We would willingly lend our support to work on a committee established to work on the preservation of the west country and the lifestyle of the people living near-by. We would assist in lobbying the government for increased funding for staff and maintenance. We will assist in publicizing the urgency of these issues through our monthly meetings and local media.

In conclusion we are committed to a unified approach in working to bring positive results to an issue that continues to plague residents of Clearwater County. We look forward to working on solutions that would allow our residents and visitors to safely enjoy the beauty of the west country for years to come.