

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held February 14, 2012 in the County Office at Rocky Mountain House.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Meeting was called to order at 8:59 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Pat Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	John Vandermeer
	Jim Duncan
	Robert Bryant
	Dick Wymenga
	Case Korver
Municipal Manager:	Ron Leaf
Public Works Manager:	Marshall Morton
Public Works Assistant Manager:	Rick Emmons
Recording Secretary:	Christine Heggart
Mountaineer:	Stu Salkeld
TIMS:	Darrell Philip
TIMS:	Brad Welygan
	Bob Johnston
	Arthur Hunke
	Kim Hunke
	Melissa Rowe-Lyle

**AGENDA  
APPROVAL:**

EARL GRAHAM: That the February 14, 2012 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as circulated.

044/12

CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:**

**1. January 24, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes**

JIM DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the January 24, 2012 Regular Meeting be confirmed as circulated.

045/12

CARRIED 7/0

**PUBLIC WORKS: 1. Lagoon Open House Summary**

Rick Emmons presented a summary of the open house held on Jan. 31/12 pertaining to the proposed location of the new lagoon and noted that 46 people signed in at the meeting; however an estimated 80 people attended.

Frank McBride, Rhonda Serhan and Erik Hansen joined the meeting.

Mr. Emmons provided an overview of the suggestions received during both the open house and through the administration office, including:

1. Move the proposed lagoon to the landfill site road (better known as the 10 Mile Road).
2. Acquire a Mediator to act as a facilitator between the town and county to partner on the town's lagoon.
3. Put together an advisory group for the purpose of investigating and identifying alternative locations.
4. Expand the engineering controls to remove the solids (i.e. – plastic, trash, etc.) vs. grinding by installing trash screens.

5. Move the location further west, as an individual stated during the meeting “a few more miles west would not add significant costs to the trucking required to haul the added distance.”
6. Move the location to sections 12 & 13-40-7-W5M (1/2 mile north east of the Rocky Airport).

Mr. Emmons reviewed areas of the Municipal Government Act relating to the lagoon development. Marshall Morton noted letters received from the public were delivered to Council's mailbox and that a delegation time is scheduled for the February 28 Council meeting.

Staff responded to questions regarding communal water and waste water systems.

CASE KORVER: That Council accepts the open house information as presented.

046/12

CARRIED 7/0

Arthur Hunke, Kim Hunke and Melissa Rowe-Lyle left the meeting. Murray Hagan joined the meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS: 2. Draft Grade Crossing Policy**

Rick Emmons presented Transportation Canada requested feedback on their Draft Grade Crossings Policy.

Mr. Emmons noted the following survey recommendations and provided examples:

- Section 5 subsection (1)(a) would be benefitted by adding in directly under (vi), the following – (vii) – When the railway authority is required to conduct maintenance to a grade crossing that requires disturbance to the roadway, the railway authority shall be responsible for the disturbance and replacement thereof to a pre-existing condition. Likewise if a road authority requires maintenance to the approach road to a grade crossing that requires disturbance to the railway authority's infrastructure, the road authority will be responsible for the disturbance and restoration to a pre-existing condition.
- Section 5 subsection (3) is too vague and recommends the following amendment - "the road authority will be responsible for all brush within the road authority's right-of-way, as the railway authority will be responsible for the brush within the railway right-of-way."

Staff responded to questions regarding to authority and noted that whomever was in the location first determines, most often the railway.

Diane Fingler joined the meeting.

JIM DUNCAN: That Council directs staff to proceed with survey submission as presented.

047/12

CARRIED 7/0

Denniece Crout joined the meeting. Marshall Morton, Rick Emmons, Erik Hansen, Darrell Philip, Brad Welygan and Frank McBride left the meeting.

**CORPORATE  
SERVICES:**

**1. 2010 Financial Indicator Graphs**

Murray Hagan presented Alberta Municipal Affairs 2010 financial indicator graphs based on information submitted by municipalities which depict Clearwater County's financial and statistical data as compared to other rural municipalities.

Mr. Hagan noted the graphs depict a positive financial picture and provided an overview of equalized assessment and the slight decrease in equalized tax rate.

Denniece Crout responded to question regarding what is the equalized assessment and noted the equalized assessment takes into account three years of information and that the Province uses a formula to ensure comparability of rates between municipalities.

Mr. Hagan responded to question noting education taxes are not included in equalized assessment.

Terri Miller, Tyler McKinnon and Mike Haugen joined the meeting.

Mr. Hagan noted the relationship between equalized assessment and total kilometers of roads has improved and that there has been a slight shift in assessment composition from non-residential to residential.

Mr. Leaf noted the impact of losing one major industrial facility and that it takes a lot of residential and farmland taxation to offset loss of industrial assessment.

Mr. Hagan discussed the County's ability to collect taxes has improved, that 2010 reflects the debt associated with Westview Lodge and responded to question regarding maximum debt levels and rationale for other municipalities high debt usage.

Mr. Hagan referred to the net municipal property taxes per capita, non-tax revenue sources, sales and user charges per capita, grants, operating expenses, per capita expenditures for staffing costs, per capita contracted services, materials, goods, amortization and accumulated surplus.

Frank McBride joined the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding forecasted population growth.

DICK WYMENGA: That Council accepts the financial indicator graphs for information.

**048/12**

**CARRIED 7/0**

Denniece Crout, Murray Hagan and Rhonda Serhan left the meeting

Pat Alexander and Earl Graham noted that for the next item, that they may declare a conflict of interest should the item move outside the policy realm.

**MUNICIPAL:**

**1. The Final Mile Rural Community Program**

Tyler McKinnon presented the Final Mile Rural Community Program, a \$5 million initiative by the Province to fund projects that enable high-speed Internet access to un-serviced locations in rural Alberta. The funding is on a 75/25 shared basis, to fund internet infrastructure such as towers, fibre optic cable, wireless equipment and radio licensing fees.

Mr. McKinnon provided background information on previous meetings with local internet service providers (ISPs) and an option to consider accessing funding through application to build County owned towers in unserved locations, which any local ISPs could rent space on should they choose to do so. Mr. McKinnon also noted local ISPs were not favourable to this option; as it would be cost prohibitive to ISPs and recommended Council choose to support one individual ISP.

Mr. McKinnon noted options for Council's consideration:

- 1) Council change their philosophy with respect to choosing "winners and losers" and apply for grant funding specifically on behalf of one service provider.
- 2) Hire a third party consultant to determine where towers should be placed, apply for a grant to build the towers and then make them available for any ISP to rent space on.
- 3) Do not pursue Final Mile Community Program grant funding at this time.

Staff responded to questions regarding timeframe of discussions, consultants expertise on the future of satellite technology and the towers needed to accommodate the overloaded usage in the area.

CASE KORVER:

That Council table the discussion regarding the Final Mile Rural Community Program grant funding and administration to bring back more information from ISPs at the February 28 meeting.

049/12

CARRIED 7/0

Murray Hagan, Marshall Morton and Rick Emmons joined the meeting.

**MUNICIPAL:            2.        Clearwater Highway Patrol Alignment with Council's Goals**

Terri Miller presented an overview of the County Highway Patrol program and its intention to ensure the protection of infrastructure and for public safety in order to confirm the program is aligned with Council's Strategic Goals.

Ms. Miller provided an overview of the program's past year and statistics, including road bans, infrastructure protection relating to rig moves and permit checks, long weekend task forces, assisting of other enforcement agencies, as well as patrol and education to industry and the general public.

Rhonda Serhan, John Shypitka, Sherine King joined the meeting. Rick Emmons, Frank McBride and Erik Hansen left the meeting.

Ms. Miller noted the challenges with the size of unconventional gas hauls and the movement of rigs at night, which requires two officers due to work alone policy. She further noted patrol times, tickets, warnings, travel time to and from rig checks and road bans and the dead time related to travel to Nordegg, as CPOs have no ability to enforce on Highway 11.

Staff responded to questions regarding shared services with Mountain View County, number of calls to YaHa Tinda, the ability to cover all areas with patrol and the long weekend task force impacts on time.

Ron Leaf noted the enforcement and management in the West Country is shifting from Sustainable Resource Development to the Solicitor General and Council noted the need for the Province to maintain their enforcement role regarding Crown lands.

Ms. Miller responded to questions regarding levels of fines being set by the Province.

Mike Haugen noted the need to limit overtime and that this will impact CPO availability at times.

BOB BRYANT:

That Council confirm support for the current priorities and operations of the Highway Patrol Department, which is in line with Council's goals.

050/12

CARRIED 7/0

Mike Haugen and Terri Miller left the meeting.

**CORPORATE  
SERVICES:**

**2. Investment Policy**

Murray Hagan introduced John Shypitka and Sherine King from Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB), Council introduced themselves and Mr. Hagan provided an overview of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) restrictions to investment.

Mr. Shypitka identified that current Clearwater County policy is more restrictive than MGA, which allows A rated investments. Mr. Shypitka then provided a background and definition of AAA, AA, A and BBB rated stocks and recommended a diversified portfolio with Triple, Double and Single A rated securities.

Mr. Shypitka noted the County's current investment policy demands a 100% guarantee on all funds invested for the short term and a triple A bond rating for all long-term investments.

Mr. Hagan noted the ability to coordinate investment planning with Council's long range operating and capital budgets and recommended the consideration of updating the County's Investment Policy. He further noted the need to map out cash resources and develop a 5-10 year strategy.

Diane Fingler left the meeting. Rick Emmons, Marshall Morton, Erik Hansen and Frank McBride joined the meeting.

Mr. Shypitka responded to questions of liquidity, cashing bonds early and the longer term financial strategy and portfolio management.

BOB BRYANT:

That Council accepts the presentation for information and directs staff to revise the investment policy to broaden the current investment strategy to include AA and A rated bonds and present policy for Council review.

051/12

CARRIED 7/0

**INFORMATION:**     1.     Manager's Reports

Staff responded to questions regarding travel to Lacombe.

JIM DUNCAN: That the Accounts Payable listing, the Municipal Manager's Report and the Public Works Manager's Report of February 14, 2012 be accepted as information.

052/12

CARRIED 7/0

**IN CAMERA:** 6. In Camera

EARL GRAHAM: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing a proposed land development.  
11:31 A.M.

053/12

CARRIED 7/0

Christine Heggart, Bob Johnston and Stu Salkeld left the meeting.

DICK WYMENGA: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 12:10 P.M.

054/12

CARRIED 7/0

BOB BRYANT: That the meeting recess for lunch, followed by a public hearing at 12:11 P.M.

055/12

CARRIED 7/0

The Meeting reconvened at 7:07 P.M. with the same people present as noted at the beginning of the meeting, excluding Darrell Philip, Brad Welygan, Bob Johnston, Arthur Hunke, Kim Hunke and Melissa Rowe-Lyle.

**IN CAMERA:** 6. In Camera

JOHN VANDERMEER: That Council meets as a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of discussing a proposed land development.  
7:08 P.M.

056/12

CARRIED 7/0

Christine Heggart left the meeting.

DICK WYMENGA: That the meeting reverts to an Open Meeting at 7:34 P.M.

**057/12**

CARRIED 7/0

**ADJOURNMENT: BOB BRYANT:**  
**7:35 P.M.**

That the Meeting adjourns.

CARRIED 7/0

REEVE

MUNICIPAL MANAGER