

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

July 2, 2014

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Special Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Reeve: Ken Matthews, Gilwood North/Triangle
Deputy Reeve: David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie
Councillor: Donald Charrois, HP East/Banana Belt
Ray Dupres, Enilda /Big Meadow
Ken Killeen, Kinuso
Robert Nygaard, Faust
Edward Podollan, Jousard
Frank Sutherland, Grouard
Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/Gilwood South

Administration: William Kostiw, CAO
Bill Landiuk, Executive Director of Corp. Services
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works & Utilities
Terry Moser, Director of Regulatory & Protective Services
Andrew Austin, GIS Technician

Members of the Public: Bob Tindall
Doug McDermott

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Matthews called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Kostiw explained the purpose for holding the special meeting.

BUSINESS:

***PROV'L & FEDERAL
FUNDING:***

Mr. Landiuk reported that the status of the Building Canada Fund is up in the air until 2015.

The MD of Big Lakes will receive \$1.8 million in MSI funding in 2014, which has been allocated to the Hospital Road. Gas Tax revenue is being used for sewer projects and no funding is available for resource roads or for bridges. Provincial funding for water and wastewater projects can be up to 75% of the cost; however there are a lot of exclusions. Funding for 2014 has been approved for lagoon work, but there is no indication if approvals will be granted for the Faust Water Treatment Plant.

Information was provided in the agenda on the New Building Canada Plan and the Building Alberta Plan.

***MD CAPITAL
PROJECTS
BUDGET:***

A copy of the capital budget approved during the 2014 budget deliberations was reviewed. An update on the Faust Water Treatment Plant proposed upgrade was provided.

The capital reserve balances were also reviewed.

***CAPITAL ROAD
PROJECTS:***

A list of potential capital road projects was distributed to Council. Mr. Kostiw asked that each councilor prioritize the projects and bring back for administration to score. Each project and its current status were reviewed.

BRIDGES:

MD bridge assessments were just received on Friday, June 27th. Mr. Abel will prepare a report to council on bridges once he has a chance to review the assessments and determine which files are critical.

***CAPITAL UTILITY
PROJECTS:***

Administration is working on obtaining new approvals for the water treatment plants. Mr. Abel provided an update on the requirements that will need to be met in order to continue operating the Faust Water Treatment Plant without converting to a membrane system.

Work is currently being done on expanding the capacity of the Faust lagoon and repairing berms and installing a truck dump at the Enilda lagoon. Discussion was held on the procedures for private dumping at MD lagoons.

A break was taken from 10:49 a.m. until 11:04 a.m.

REGIONAL WATER STRATEGY:

Discussion ensued on a proposed regional water system and the potential for future servicing for rural residents. The MD will likely meet with engineers and Town of High Prairie staff in the next couple of weeks. The project should be ready for engineering in 2015 and perhaps go to tender. No capital expenses should be seen until approximately 2016-2017. Phase 2 of the project is anticipated to be from Joussard east. More will be known once an economic analysis is completed.

RANK/RECOMMEND ROAD CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Once each project has been ranked by Council, administration will compile a spreadsheet to determine how much money will be needed each year.

A brief discussion was held on the possibility of developing a bylaw to establish a threshold at which the balance of the reserves cannot fall below.

The list of capital projects was again reviewed and the projected percentage of the estimated cost to be carried by the MD was considered.

Deputy Reeve Marx stepped out of the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Discussion took place on rebranding of the area. Mr. Kostiw is hopeful to have a proposed plan in place by this fall.

Deputy Reeve Marx returned to the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:09 p.m.

It was suggested that pictures be taken of trucks backed up at the Plains/Predator intersection and perhaps another traffic count be completed. Administration will provide additional information on partner funding for proposed intersection upgrades for the next council meeting. A meeting will be set up with both Predator and Plains. A further suggestion was made that the MD arrange a meeting with Alberta Parks and Recreation regarding the Hilliard's Bay Road.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Reeve Matthews called for any comments from the public. Mr. Tindall stated that they were in attendance to hear any decision on construction of the Banana Belt Connector Road, which has been an ongoing request for 34 years. Discussion was held on the project.

It was noted that the Crawford Connector Road has also been a long standing request.

IN CAMERA:

2014-15-555 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the meeting go in camera to discuss resource road construction negotiations at 1:25 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2014-15-556 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR SUTHERLAND** that the meeting come out of camera at 1:58 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2014-15-557 **MOVED BY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the in camera discussions on resource road construction be referred to the next council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TENDERING OF SMALL ROAD PROJECTS:

Additional information on proposed road projects will be presented at an upcoming council meeting. Deputy Reeve Marx noted that the Heart River Road can be deferred until Resource Road funding is reinstated as long as it is adequately maintained.

2014-15-558

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS that the MD proceed to tender on the Banana Belt Connector Road and Crawford Connector Road.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2014-15-559

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART that administration bring forth proposals for decisions on Railroad Avenue, Swan Hills Airport Road, Hilliard's Bay Road, Highway 2 access at Plains/Predator, and Township Road 724 farm access construction for council consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council discussed that the ultimate goal for the Seal Lake Connector Road was to have the road designated as a numbered highway and responsibility for operation and maintenance assumed by the provincial government.

2014-15-560

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the Alberta Government be lobbied to designate the Seal Lake connector road as a numbered highway.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***NEXT CAPITAL
PLANNING
MEETING:***

The need to hold another capital planning meeting will be revisited during the upcoming strategic planning session.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The strategic planning session will be held August 27 & 28, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

2014-15-561

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD that the meeting adjourn at 2:35 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Ken Matthews, Reeve



William (Bill) Kostiw, C.A.O.