

**BIG LAKES COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
November 26, 2020**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Thursday, November 26, 2020 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE: Reeve: Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle
Deputy Reeve: David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie
Councillor: Donald Bissell, Enilda/Big Meadow
Donald Charrois, HP East/Banana Belt
Ken Killeen, Kinuso
Robert Nygaard, Faust
Fern Welch, Grouard

Absent: Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/Gilwood
Richard Simard, Joussard

Administration: Jordan Panasiuk, CAO
Brett Hawken, Director of Community & Protective Service
Eunice McCauley, Human Resources Manager
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works
Heather Nanninga, Director of Corporate Services
Jessica Plante, Recording Secretary
Pat Olansky, Director of Planning & Development (Zoom)

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

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA:**

2020-24-667 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the November 26, 2020 agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**2021 INTERIM
BUDGETS:**

2020-24-668 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the 2021 interim operating budget be approved with the following totals as amended:

- Operating revenue \$34,355,276
- Operating expense \$33,905,201
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$469,809
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,682,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$52,000
- Withdrawals from capital reserves for operating activities \$250,000
- Withdrawals from operating reserves \$1,504,233
- Amortization expense \$8,700,000

CARRIED

Ms. Nanninga provided Council with a handout regarding the budget survey responses. Public input is an important part of any budget process. As part of preparing the interim 2021 operation and capital budgets, given the restrictions on public gatherings, this public input was solicited virtually, through an online survey. 58 responses were received and summarized in the handout.

It was noted that the 2021 operating and capital budgets were drafted with the following guidelines:

- Municipal tax revenue is based on preliminary 2021 assessed values and a 5% increase to the municipal tax rate.

- Salaries and wages were amended to account for grid step increase, but no COLA adjustment
- Current services levels will be maintained.
- Capital project reflects new projects, maintenance of existing infrastructure and/or completion of projects underway in 2021.

Ms. Nanninga presented Council with the 2021 interim operating budget.

A break was taken from 11:09 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.

Ms. Nanninga continued discussing the 2021 interim operating budget.

Council considered adding the \$42K back into the budget for veterinarian services.

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

Council discussed including \$42K in the budget for veterinarian services. The consensus of Council was to add it in the budget.

Ms. Nanninga presented the operating grants and Events and Sponsorship grants.

Council discussed the Community Capital Grants, carryovers and cemetery funding.

Council requested that the St. Vladimirs Cemetery request be removed from the from the Capital Grants for the 2021 year. Administration to bring a policy amendment to a future Council meeting to remove cemeteries as eligible groups for capital grant funding.

A break was taken from 1:53 p.m. to 2:03 p.m.

Ms. Nanninga presented Council with the 2021 interim capital budget, a list of capital projects and detail on the County reserves.

Council agreed to remove the motor grader in the amount of \$610,000.

2020-24-669

MOVE BY COUNCILLOR WELCH that the 2021 interim capital budget be approved as a total of \$8,212,254 with the following allocations as amended:

- Administration projects - \$88,000
- Fire projects - \$328,000
- Public works – Bridge projects – \$3,345,942
- Public works – Land projects - \$1,010,000
- Public works – Road projects - \$ 1,861,871
- Public works – Vehicles and equipment – \$739,000
- Public works – Airport projects – \$82,376
- Public works – Utilities projects – \$147,065

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2020-24-670

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD that the meeting be adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

CARRIED

Ken Matthews, Reeve

Jordan Panasiuk, CAO