

**BIG LAKES COUNTY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
December 14, 2017**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Tuesday, December 14, 2017 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  
Richard Simard, Jousard  
Ann Stewart, Sunset House/ S. Gilwood  
Fern Welch, Grouard

Administration: Roy Brideau, CAO  
Jordan Panasiuk, Deputy CAO  
Heather Nanninga, Director of Corporate Services  
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works  
Jessica Martinson, Recording Secretary  
Louise Myre, Manager of FCSS  
MJ Valiquette, Grants Officer

Press: Richard Froese, South Peace News

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

Ms. Nanninga presented council with the 2018 Interim Capital and Operating budgets. Ms. Nanninga advised that the municipal tax revenue is based on the 2018 preliminary estimates and 2017 actual property value assessments. Municipal tax revenue also includes an increase to residential and farmland tax rates of 1.3% of the current tax rate in accordance with 2017 CPI increases. Salaries and wages were all adjusted with a 1.3% COLA increase, and the budget has been prepared on the assumption that current service levels will be maintained. The capital program reflects new projects, maintenance of exiting infrastructure and completion of projects underway in 2017. Water/ sewer rate to maintain current recovery rates for operating expenses.

Councillor Welch arrived to the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

A break was taken from 11:19 a.m. to 11:33 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding funding for the Little Smoky Ski Hill. It was agreed that the money remains in the budget and that administration schedule a meeting with the Town of High Prairie Inter-Municipal Committee to discuss funding and usage.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:02 p.m.

Ms. Nanninga outlined all the proposed capital projects for each department.

Discussion was held on the purchase of a 7 passenger minivan for the FCSS transportation project - \$60,000 has been budgeted for the 2018 year, but the final purchase price will be brought back for Council's approval.

Discussion was held on the utilities capital projects. Council agreed that a budget line item be added to include a waterline in the Hamlet of Grouard; preliminary cost estimates for this waterline will be generated for the final budget.

Ms. Nanninga presented council with a list of all the items being taken from reserves.

A break was taken from 2:22 p.m. to 2:43 p.m.

Ms. Nanninga presented council with the grants to non-profit organizations. Council reviewed each capital grant request. Council requested that the St. Vladimir's Cemetery Association request be set aside until a future date.

Council requested that the In the Woods Animal Rescue be changed to a fee-for-service payment (as opposed to a grant) in the amount of \$5,000.

Councillor Killeen declared pecuniary interest and stepped out of the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

**2017-24-650** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the salary and wages are to increase based on a 1.3% COLA for 2018.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Reeve Matthews declared pecuniary interest and stepped out of the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

**2017-24-651** **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the funding to the High Prairie District Recreation Board grant funding be approved as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Councillor Killeen and Reeve Matthews returned to the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**2017-24-652** **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the 2018 interim operating budget be approved with the exception of amounts approved for salaries and wages, and funding for the High Prairie and District Recreation Board, for total budgeted amounts as follows: .

- Operating revenue \$31,232,950
- Operating expense \$32,174,295
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$754,871
- Net contributions to capital reserves \$1,657,500
- Net withdrawals from operating reserves \$3,353,716
- Amortization expense \$7,500,000

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2017-24-653** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD** that the 2018 interim capital budget be approved as a total of \$35,830,954 with the following allocations:

- Fire projects \$1,188,000
- FCSS projects \$60,000
- Utilities projects \$18,119,097
- Public Works – Bridges \$4,314,369
- Public Works – Airport \$2,304,633
- Public Works – Roads \$6,467,354
- Public Works – Land Acquisition \$8,500
- Public Works – Equipment replacement \$1,869,000
- Economic Development –  
broadband pilot project \$1,500,000

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2017-24-654**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the 2017 final budget be amended to include amortization expense of \$7,493,849.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**2017-24-655**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that the meeting adjourn at 4:18 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Ken Matthews, Reeve

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Roy Brideau, C.A.O.