

**BIG LAKES COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 2019**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Regular Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

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

Administration: Jordan Panasiuk, CAO
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works
Pat Olansky, Director of Planning & Development
Heather Nanninga, Director of Corporate Services
Jessica Martinson, Recording Secretary
Brett Hawken, Municipal Intern
Victoria Zahacy, Communications Coordinator
David Sturgeon, Fire Chief
Eunice McCauley, Human Resources Manager
Zachary Thompson, Sustainability Officer

Delegations: Trevor Cisaroski, HP Fire Department
Cameron Prichard, SUEZ

Press: Richard Froese, South Peace News

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Simard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA:**

2019-22-654 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that the December 11, 2019 agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

MINUTES: It was noted a correction to the Closed Session to include Councillor Marx as an attendee.

2019-22-655 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the November 27, 2019 Regular Council meeting minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:

T. CISAROSKI: Trevor Cisaroski, High Prairie Fire Chief presented Council with an update on the High Prairie Fire Department.

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES:**

ACTION LIST:

2019-22-656 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the action list be received for information.

CARRIED

STAFF REPORTS:

2019-22-657 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH** that the following staff reports be received for information:

- Director of Corporate Services
- Director of Planning and Development
- Director of Public Works

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATION:

H.P. & DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION:

2019-22-658 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that administration be directed to bring forward the request from the High Prairie & District Community Health Foundation to discuss collaboration to lobby for Chemo Services and a Heli-pad for the High Prairie Hospital to the next Inter-Municipal Meeting with the Town of High Prairie.

CARRIED

BIG LAKES CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT:

2019-22-659 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that the 7th Annual Big Lakes Charity Golf Tournament be scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020 at the High Prairie & District Golf Course.

CARRIED

2019-22-660 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the funds received from the 7th Annual Big Lakes Charity Golf Tournament be donated to the High Prairie Hospital Foundation, the Swan Hill's Hospital Foundation, the Heart & Stroke Foundation and the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR CONVENTION AND REGISTRATION POLICY COUNCIL-06:

2019-22-661 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that the Councillor Convention & Registration Policy Council-06 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

ENHANCED POLICE MEMBERS CONTINUED REASSIGNMENT:

2019-22-662 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH** that the extension for the two (2) RCMP Enhanced members be approved to continue their general duty positions until March 15, 2020, contingent on "K" Division not billing the County.

CARRIED

A break was taken from 11:03 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.

CORPORATE SERVICES:***CHEQUE LIST:***

2019-22-663 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BISSELL** that cheques #83686 to #83807 in the amount of \$435,034.80 for the period ending November 20, 2019 and that cheques #83808 to #83869 in the amount of \$541,665.90 for the period ending November 28, 2019 be received for information.

CARRIED

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE WRITE-OFFS:

2019-22-664 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD** that that pursuant to section 347(1)(a) of the Municipal Government Act, the Council of Big Lake County may cancel or reduce tax arrears. The property taxes for certain oil and gas properties for 2018 and 2019 have remained unpaid, therefore the amount of \$6,018,800.11 will be cancelled and an application for the Provincial Education & Designated Industrial requisition credit refund for uncollected Taxes on Oil and Gas Properties Program will be applied for.

CARRIED

ACCUMULATED SURPLUS ALLOCATION:

2019-22-665 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that the allocation of \$7 million from unrestricted surplus into account 6-32-00-00-760 General Transportation Reserve be approved.

CARRIED

E-BOOKS FOR ALL RESOLUTION:

2019-22-666 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the following be approved:

1. Recognize the important role that public libraries play in the community through early literacy programs that are integral to developing proficient readers and ensuring that children succeed in school and digital literacy programs that help ensure that citizens can contribute to the digital world;
2. Recognize that digital content is the fastest growing area of publishing and that public libraries must be able to offer digital publications to their customers as part of their core service offering to the community, particularly given the digital divide and the contemporary rapid pace of digitization of educational and cultural materials;
3. Recognize that for many seniors, low income families, youth, and new Canadians, libraries are a crucial tool for participation in their communities – from education to searching for jobs to consuming Canadian cultural materials, and that barriers to accessing digital publications hamper public libraries' capacity to provide modern, digital services to those demographic groups and to other library customers. This is exacerbated when some publications may only be available to public libraries in digital forms;
4. Indicate its support for the Big Lakes County and the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in efforts to increase access to digital publications for public library customers in Big Lakes County and across Canada;
5. Call on the Federal government to investigate the barriers faced by public libraries in acquiring digital publications and the problems these barriers pose for vulnerable demographic groups in Canada; and,
6. Further ask the Federal government to develop a solution that increases public library access to digital publications across Canada and assists public libraries in meeting the cost requirements to acquire digital publications.

CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

REQUEST OF REFUND- DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FEE AND PENALTY:

2019-22-667 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the request for a refund for Marc Goutier for development permit fee and penalty in the amount of \$560.00 be denied.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 11:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

DELEGATIONS CON'T:

SUEZ: Cameron Prichard & Kevin Listhaeghe from SUEZ presented Council with a Quarterly meeting update.

CORPORATE SERVICES CON'T:

SOLAR PANELS ON COUNTY OFFICE AND FAUST WATER PLANT:

2019-22-668 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BISSELL** that administration be directed to include \$996,028 in the 2020 budget to install solar panels at the office/shop and Faust Water Treatment Plant, contingent on receiving the MCCAC Municipal Solar Grant.

DEFEATED

2019-22-669 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that administration be directed to include \$524,513 in the 2020 budget to install solar panels at the office/shop, contingent on receiving the MCCAC Municipal Solar Grant.

DEFEATED

2019-22-670 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that Council does not install solar panels at this time.

DEFEATED

2019-22-671 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH** that administration be directed to bring back the discuss on the installation of solar panels to the 2020 budget deliberations.

CARRIED

A break was taken from 1:44 p.m. to 1:56 p.m.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT CON'T:

BYLAW-30-2019 TO ESTABLISH THE SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

2019-22-672 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that first reading be given to Bylaw 30-2019.

CARRIED

2019-22-673 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that second reading be given to Bylaw 30-2019 as amended.

DEFEATED

2019-22-674 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD** that second reading be given to Bylaw 30-2019.

CARRIED

2019-22-675 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that Bylaw 30-2019 be given unanimous consent to proceed to third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2019-22-676 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that third reading be given to Bylaw 30-2019.

CARRIED

2019-22-677 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that Municipal Planning Commission monthly meetings be scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. commencing in 2020.

CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO GENERAL SERVICING STANDARDS POLICY ADMIN-61:

2019-22-678 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the revised General Municipal Servicing Standards Policy Admin-61 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS:

CAPITAL BUDGET AMENDMENT – LAND ACQUISITION:

2019-22-679 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the Capital Budget be amended to add \$4,700 to Land Acquisition, funded from Capital Reserve.

CARRIED

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

2019-22-680 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the Agricultural Advisory Committee remain the same and that administration be directed to bring it forward discussion at the October 2020.

DEFEATED

2019-22-681 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD** that the Agricultural Advisory Committee be reduced to seven (7) members effective January 2020.

CARRIED

2019-22-682 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that the Agricultural Advisory Committee be made up of three (3) members of Council and four (4) members at-large.

CARRIED

2019-22-683 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NYGAARD** that a secret ballot be taken for the purpose of appointing the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

2019-22-684 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the following people be appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Committee:

- Blackhurst, George
- Meneice, Doug
- Nichols, Duane
- Pratt, Lorne
- Councillor Marx
- Councillor Killeen
- Councillor Stewart

CARRIED

2019-22-685 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARROIS** that the secret ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

LSWC FECAL COLIFORM DNA TESTING PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

2019-22-686 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that the discussion on the collection of fecal coliform DNA Testing be received for information.

DEFEATED

2019-22-687 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that Council supports the collection of fecal samples from Big Lakes County cattle to determine if the ruminants results are cattle or elk, in the amount of \$3,500 to be included in the 2020 operating budget.

CARRIED

FIRE TRUCK REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE:

2019-22-688 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that the revised “Fire Truck Replacement Schedule” be approved from a 20-year replacement model to a 25 year model including the replacement of the High Prairie Engine and Kinuso Rescue until for 2020.

CARRIED

INFORMATION/ CORRESPONDENCE:

2019-22-689 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the information and correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

A break was taken at 3:12 p.m. to 3:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

2019-22-690 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BISSELL** that the meeting go into closed session at 3:23 p.m. to discuss legal negotiations as per section 27, Freedom of Information and Protection Act and in accordance with section 197 (2) of the Municipal Government Act.

CARRIED

In Attendance – In Camera:
Richard Simard, Reeve
Ken Matthews, Deputy Reeve
Robert Nygaard, Councillor
Ann Stewart, Councillor
David Marx, Councillor
Donald Bissell, Councillor
Fern Welch, Councillor

*Donald Charrois, Councillor
Ken Killeen, Councillor*

The following staff were in attendance to provide information and/or administrative support:

*Jordan Panasiuk, CAO
Jessica Martinson, Executive Assistant
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works*

2019-22-691 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARX** that the meeting come out of closed session at 3:56 p.m.

CARRIED

2019-22-692 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MATTHEWS** that administration be directed to proceed with the gravel pit negotiations as per discussions.

CARRIED

2019-22-693 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that administration be directed to proceed with the discussions regarding the Seal Lake Road.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2019-22-694 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the meeting be adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

CARRIED

Richard Simard, Reeve

Jordan Panasiuk, CAO