

**BIG LAKES COUNTY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
December 15, 2021**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Thursday, December 15, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**PRESENT WERE:** Reeve: Robert Nygaard, Faust  
Deputy Reeve: Jim Zabolotniuk, N. Gilwood/Triangle  
Councillor: Tyler Airth, HP East/Banana Belt  
Jeff Chalifoux, Grouard  
Roberta Hunt, Kinuso  
Richard Mifflin, Jousard  
Lane Monteith, Enilda/Big Meadow  
Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/Gilwood  
Garrett Zahacy, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie

Administration: Jordan Panasiuk, CAO  
Eunice McCauley, Human Resources Manager  
Jessica Plante, Recording Secretary  
Mo Choudhary, Director of Corporate Services  
Pat Olansky, Director of Planning & Development  
Vic Abel, Director of Public Works  
Brett Hawken, Director of Community & Protective Services  
Kim Moore, Grants Officer

Press: Richard Froese, South Peace News

**CALL TO ORDER:** Reeve Nygaard called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO  
THE AGENDA:**

**2021-25-517** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the December 15, 2021 agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**

**R. HERBEN:** Ryan Herben with Shaw's Point Resort presented Council with a request for pavement for the Shaw's Point Resort Road. Mr. Herben also advised that he would be willing to upfront the funding for the pavement in exchange for compensation on taxes.

**D&C CARLSON:** Don and Carol Carlson presented Council with some concerns on behalf of the Enilda & District Society for Recreation & Culture (EDSRC) which include the lack of walking trails, and sidewalks in the Hamlet of Enilda. Mr. Carlson asked if the County would consider patching potholes in the parking lot of the Enilda WI Hall and Enilda Bowling Alley. Concerns were also expressed regarding grass cutting in the Hamlet and rumors of raise increases.

**K. MATTHEWS:** Ken Matthews presented Council with a request to have council consider including water for rural areas such as the Gilwood, Triangle, Aggie, Prairie Echo, and the Hamlet of Grouard. Mr. Matthews also advised that engineering reports have been completed on the Prairie Echo, and Triangle waterlines.

A break was taken from 10:27 a.m. to 10:39 a.m.

**2022 INTERIM BUDGETS:**

Mr. Choudhary presented Council with the 2022 operating budget.

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 12:34 p.m.

A break was taken from 2:05 p.m. to 2:19 p.m.

**2021-25-518**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the 2022 interim operating budget be approved with the following totals:

- Operating revenue \$33,818,686
- Operating expense \$30,168,493
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$559,839
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,832,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$1,257,854
- Withdrawals from reserves for capital activities \$5,456,672
- Withdrawals from operating reserves \$0.00
- Amortization expense \$8,890,000

**CARRIED**

**2021-25-519**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the 2022 interim operating budget be tabled with the following totals until later in the meeting for further discussion:

- Operating revenue \$33,818,686
- Operating expense \$30,168,493
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$559,839
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,832,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$1,257,854
- Withdrawals from reserves for capital activities \$5,456,672
- Withdrawals from operating reserves \$0.00
- Amortization expense \$8,890,000

**CARRIED**

**COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE:**

Councillor Monteith and Councillor Zahacy declared pecuniary interest and stepped out of the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Councillor Zabolotniuk stepped out of the meeting at 3:24 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

**2021-25-520**

**MOVE BY COUNCILLOR AIRTH** that a Cost-of-Living Allowance increase to the Salary Grid not be approved for 2022.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Monteith and Councillor Zahacy returned to the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

A break was taken from 3:48 p.m. to 3:56 p.m.

**2021-25-521**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MONTEITH** that the Wednesday, December 15, 2021 Special Budget meeting be approved to proceed past 4:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**2021-25-522**

**MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that the Faust Community League receive Capital Grant funding in the amount of \$5,214.95 for their equipment purchase with the funding coming from the 2021 budget.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Airth stepped out of the meeting at 5:17 p.m. and returned at 5:19 p.m.

**2021-25-523**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the 2022 interim operating budget be brought back to the floor for discussion with the following totals:

- Operating revenue \$32,689,279
- Operating expense \$29,972,647
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$559,839
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,832,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$323,893
- Withdrawals from reserves for capital activities \$5,456,672
- Withdrawals from operating reserves \$0.00
- Amortization expense \$8,890,000

**CARRIED**

Administration updated the totals below to include the friendly amendment of \$5,888 for the High Prairie Library Board.

**2021-25-524**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the 2022 interim operating budget be approved with the following totals:

- Operating revenue \$32,689,279
- Operating expense \$29,972,647
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$559,839
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,832,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$323,893
- Withdrawals from reserves for capital activities \$5,456,672
- Withdrawals from operating reserves \$0.00
- Amortization expense \$8,890,000

**CARRIED**

***REGULAR MEETINGS – ELECTRONIC MEANS:***

**2021-25-525**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR AIRTH** that due to extenuating circumstances Council authorizes Councillors to attend the December 2021 to March 31, 2021 Regular meetings in person or by electronic means.

**CARRIED**

***SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING:***

**2021-25-526**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that a Special Council meeting be scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m. to continue the discussion on the Interim 2022 Capital & Operating Budgets.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**2021-25-527**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MONTEITH** that the meeting be adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Robert Nygaard, Reeve

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Jordan Panasiuk, CAO