

**BIG LAKES COUNTY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
April 20, 2022**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building and Zoom in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 beginning at 10:00 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 (Zoom)  
  Richard Mifflin, Joussard  
  Lane Monteith, Enilda/ Big Meadow  
  Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/ Gilwood  
  Garrett Zahacy, Prairie Echo/ Salt Prairie

Administration:             Jordan Panasiuk, CAO  
  Vic Abel, Director of Public Works  
  Brett Hawken, Director of Community &  
  Protective Services  
  Dave McReynolds, Interim Director of  
  Corporate Services (Zoom)  
  Eunice McCauley, Human Resources  
  Manager  
  Jessica Plante, Recording Secretary  
  Pat Olansky, Director of Planning and  
  Development  
  Bronte Collett, Communications Coordinator

Press:                             Richard Froese, South Peace News

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

**ADDITIONS TO  
THE AGENDA:**

**2022-08-163**                     **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the April 20, 2022, agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2022 OPERATING &  
CAPITAL  
BUDGETS:**

Mr. McReynolds presented Council with the 2022 capital and operating budgets.

Mr. McReynolds noted the following key points:

1. No change to mill rates
2. School requisition decreased \$313K
3. Senior requisition increased \$16K
4. Overall assessment increased by 1.1%
5. Assessment increase generated \$98K in taxes
6. Fuel and culvert increases impact the budget
  - a. 2022 Interim budget rack price- \$1.00/liter
  - b. 2022 Final budget rack price - \$1.50/liter
  - c. Culverts increased 45%

A break was taken from 11:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Council was presented with the capital budget equipment listing.

Councillor Airth requested that the the ½ Ton 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup budget amount be changed from \$65,000 to \$50,000. Reeve Nygaard called for a straw vote with the budget amount remaining at \$65,000.

**2022-08-164**

**MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that administration be directed to bring back quotations for purchasing Crew Cab pickups and a Super Cab pickup for 2023.

**CARRIED**

Mr. McReynolds presented Council with information on the 2022 Municipal Tax Rates.

Councillor Zahacy stepped out of the meeting at 1:27 p.m. to 1:29 p.m.

Discussion continued on the operating breakdown.

A break was taken from 2:04 p.m. to 2:18 p.m.

Council was provided with information regarding Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding.

**REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR POSITION:**

**2022-08-165**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that \$10,000 be allocated in the 2022 Final Budget for the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator position.

**CARRIED**

**COST OF LIVING  
ALLOWANCE  
(COLA):**

Councillor Zahacy declared pecuniary interest and stepped out of the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Council was presented information on the inflation rate of 6.5% and was presented with information on different rate increases. It was agreed that no cost-of-living allowance to be provided for 2022.

Councillor Zahacy returned to the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

**2022 OPERATING &  
CAPITAL BUDGETS CON'T:**

**2022-08-166**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR ZAHACY** that the 2022 final operating budget be approved with the following totals:

- Operating revenue \$32,571,799
- Operating expense \$30,206,090
- Repayment of principal on long-term debt \$559,839
- Contributions to capital reserves \$1,832,500
- Contributions to operating reserves \$52,000
- Withdrawals from reserves for capital activities \$8,467,445
- Withdrawals from operating \$162,000
- Amortization expense \$8,890,000

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Airth requested a recorded vote:*

***In favor:*** Councillor Zahacy, Reeve Nygaard, Councillor Monteith, Councillor Stewart, Councillor Chalifoux, Councillor Mifflin, Councillor Hunt, Deputy Reeve Zabolotniuk

***Opposed:*** Councillor Airth

**2022-08-167**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the 2022 final capital budget be approved as a total of \$15,543,526 with the following allocations:

- Administration projects - \$64,000
- Fire projects - \$1,020,000
- Public works – Bridge projects – \$2,772,517
- Public works – Land projects – \$12,000
- Public works – Land projects (Spruce Point Park Marina) – \$1,300,000
- Public works – Roads projects – \$7,427,439
- Public works – Hamlet Upgrades - \$1,000,000
- Public works – Vehicles and equipment – \$1,847,000
- Public works – Airport projects – \$25,570
- Public works – Utilities projects – \$75,000

**CARRIED**

**MILL RATE BYLAW 09-2022:**

**2022-08-168**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that first reading be provided to Bylaw 09-2022 Mill Rate Bylaw.

**CARRIED**

**2022-08-169**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MONTEITH** that second reading be provided to Bylaw 09-2022 Mill Rate Bylaw.

**CARRIED**

**2022-08-170**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that unanimous consent be approved to proceed to third and final reading for Bylaw 09-2022 Mill Rate Bylaw.

**CARRIED**

**2022-08-171**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that third reading be provided to Bylaw 09-2022 Mill Rate Bylaw.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**2022-08-172**

**MOVED BY COUNCILOR HUNT** that the meeting be adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Robert Nygaard, Reeve

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Jordan Panasiuk, CAO