

**BIG LAKES COUNTY  
COUNCIL MEETING**  
June 22, 2022

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Regular Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 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
	Richard Mifflin, Jousard
	Lane Monteith, Enilda/ Big Meadow
	Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/ Gilwood
	Garrett Zahacy, Prairie Echo/ Salt Prairie
Administration:	Jordan Panasiuk, CAO
	Brett Hawken, Director of Community & Protective Services
	Jessica Plante, Recording Secretary
	Eunice McCauley, Human Resource Manager
	David Reynolds, Director of Corporate Services
	Pat Olansky, Director of Planning & Development
	Vic Abel, Director of Public Works
	Jason Cottingham, Fire Chief
	Luci Martinson, Deputy Fire Chief
	Mary Brust, Animal Control Officer
Delegation:	Metrix Group Ltd.
	Brian Cunningham
	Shayne Saskiw, Alberta Counsel
	Al Kammere, Alberta Counsel
Press:	Richard Froese, South Peace News

**CALL TO ORDER:** Reeve Nygaard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

Closed Session – Personnel Matters  
Public Works

**2022-14-281** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the June 22, 2022, agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES:**

**2022-14-282** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that June 8, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2022-14-283** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that June 9, 2022, Special Council Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM MINUTES:**

***ACTION LIST:***

**2022-14-284**            **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the action list be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**    Councillor Airth stepped out of the meeting at 11:06 a.m. and returned at 11:09 a.m.

***METRIX GROUP***

***LTD:***                Phil Dirks with Metrix Group LLP presented Council with the 2021 Audited Financial Statements.

Councillor Zahacy stepped out of the meeting at 11:09 a.m. and returned at 11:11 a.m.

**2022-14-285**            **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the 2021 Audited Financial Statements be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2022-14-286**            **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that administration be directed to provide Council with the 2021 Audit Management letter.

**CARRIED**

A break was taken from 11:14 a.m. to 11:21 a.m.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

***RAIL SAFETY WEEK:***

**2022-14-287**            **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the resolution to support Public-Rail Safety Week September 19 to 25, 2022 be approved.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS CON'T:**

***B. CUNNINGHAM:*** Brian Cunningham attended before Council to introduce himself and advised that he has an excavator for hire to work in the area. Mr. Cunningham has completed all documents with administration to be added to the list of equipment to hire.

**ADMINISTRATION CON'T:**

***BRIEFING DOCUMENT:***

**2022-14-288**            **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that administration be directed to draft a Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) resolution to restore Grants in Lieu of Taxes for public housing.

**CARRIED**

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:39 p.m.

**DELEGATIONS CON'T:**

***ALBERTA***

***COUNSEL:***            Shayne Saskiw, Principal & Al Kammere, Senior Advisor with Alberta Counsel presented Council with information on what services Alberta Counsel can provide to help the County with lobbying efforts.

Councillor Airth stepped out of the meeting at 1:21 p.m. to 1:22 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATION CON'T:**

Councillor Zahacy stepped out of the meeting at 2:08 p.m. and returned at 2:10 p.m.

**2022-14-289** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the list of topics outlined in the briefing document be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**CORPORATE SERVICES:*****BUSINESS REFURBISHMENT GRANT - UPDATE:***

**2022-14-290** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the information regarding the \$10,000 2022 Business Refurbishment Grant recipients be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**2022-14-291** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that administration be directed to bring forward the Business Refurbishment Program policy for Council's review.

**CARRIED**

***GROUARD SENIORS ASSOCIATION – GROUARD CULTURE RESERVE:***

**2022-14-292** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that project funding in the amount of \$ 36,222 be approved for the Grouard Seniors Association from the Grouard Culture Reserve.

**CARRIED**

***KEE TAS KEE NOW COUNCIL – REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP:***

**2022-14-293** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that sponsorship in the amount of \$250 be approved for the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council for displaying County Logo on Hole signs.

**DEFEATED**

***THE NORTHERN TREK FOR CFFF (CANADIAN FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FEDERATION) - SPONSORSHIP:***

**2022-14-294** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that a sponsorship grant in the amount of \$500 be approved for the Norther Trek for Canadian Fallen Firefighters Federation (CFFF).

**CARRIED**

***RETURN OF SERVICE BURSARY – RECIPIENT SELECTION:***

**2022-14-295** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the use of secret ballots be approved for the purpose of choosing a recipient for the 2022 Return of Service Bursary.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Chalifoux stepped out of the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

**2022-14-296** **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that applicant B be approved for the 2022 Return of Service Bursary.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Chalifoux returned to the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

**2022-14-297** **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that the secret ballots for the purpose of choosing a recipient for the 2022 Return of Service Bursary be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

A break was taken from 2:39 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS:*****PUBLIC WORKS  
EQUIPMENT  
PURCHASES:***

Deputy Reeve Zabolotniuk raised concerns regarding the provisions of information requested regarding Public Works equipment purchases.

**COMMUNITY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES:*****EAST PRAIRIE METIS SETTLEMENT/ BIG LAKES COUNTY FIRE SERVICE  
AGREEMENT:***

**2022-14-298**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the fire service agreement between Big Lakes County and East Prairie Metis Settlement be approved.

**CARRIED**

***FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM INFORMATION:***

**2022-14-299**      **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that the fire prevention program information be received for information.

**CARRIED**

***VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PAID ON CALL COST COMPARISON:***

**2022-14-300**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that administration be directed to conduct a private survey with the volunteer firefighters to see who would be interested in being on a paid on call system.

**CARRIED**

***TOP 3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:***

**2022-14-301**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that Broadband connectivity, lack of skilled labor and healthcare be approved as the top three rural economic development issues for Big Lakes County.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION/  
CORRESPONDENCE:**

**2022-14-302**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR STEWART** that the information/ correspondence be received for information.

**CARRIED**

A break was taken from 3:34 p.m. to 3:40

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**2022-14-303**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR AIRTH** that the meeting go into closed session at 3:42 p.m. to discuss personnel matters as per section 27, Freedom of Information and Protection Act.

**CARRIED**

**2022-14-304**      **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the meeting come out of closed session at 4:25 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**2022-14-305**

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the meeting be adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Robert Nygaard, Reeve

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Jordan Panasiuk, CAO