

**BIG LAKES COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
December 4, 2023**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building and Zoom in High Prairie, Alberta on Monday, December 4, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

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

Administration: David Reynolds, Interim Chief
Administrative Officer / Director of Corporate Services
Kevin Cymbaluk, Executive Director of Operations
Eunice McCauley, Human Resources Manager
Janelle Carlson, Executive Assistant
Pat Olansky, Executive Director of Community Services and Planning
Jason Cottingham, Fire Chief
Luci Martinson, Deputy Fire Chief
Kimberly Moore, Communications Coordinator
Joe Zdeb, IT Administrator
Joey Sutton, Finance Manager
Samantha Smith, Grants Officer
Ian Willier, Utilities Manager
Nicole Hanna, FCSS Manager

Public Delegation: Chris Halldorson, Kinuso

Press: Richard Froese, South Peace News

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Airth called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2023-25-548 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MIFFLIN** that the agenda for the December 4, 2023, Special Council meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

PUBLIC DELEGATION:

C. HALLDORSON: Chris Halldorson, from the Hamlet of Kinuso, attended before Council to express his frustrations regarding access to his grazing lease. Mr. Halldorson noted that he has submitted a Request for Road Construction with administration.

**2024 OPERATING &
CAPITAL
BUDGETS:**

Mr. Reynolds presented Council with an outline of the 2024 Operating and Capital budgets.

Council was presented with an Operating Budget Summary, as well as the 14 Operating Budget Functional areas within the municipality, which include:

- Administration
- Tourism / Economic Development
- Planning & Development
- Fire Services
- Protective Services
- Family & Community Support Services
- Emergency Services
- Public Works Administration
- Roads
- Airport
- Water Services
- Sewer Services
- Solid Waste
- Agriculture

Mr. Reynolds provided a brief presentation to Council on the topics of Administration, Tourism and Economic Development.

Mr. Reynolds advised that until a permanent Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is hired, the Economic Development position will not be filled due to budget and resources.

Ms. Olansky, Executive Director of Community Services and Planning presented her 2024 budgets, with a major focus being to educate county residents their land locations in preparation of emergency situations. Ms. Olansky provided clarification on salaries as there has been a combination of departments under Community Services and Planning department.

Councillor Zahacy stepped out of the meeting at 10:17 a.m. and returned at 10:18 a.m.

Councillor Stewart stepped out of the meeting at 10:24 am and returned at 10:25 a.m.

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

Ms. Olansky advised that a budget increase for Emergency Services was included for general supplies and contract services to help prepare Big Lakes County residents the 2024 emergency season.

Councillor Stewart stepped out of the meeting at 11:05 am and returned at 11:11 am.

Mr. Cymbaluk, Executive Director of Operations presented the Operations budget for 2024 and 2023 accomplishments. \$625,000 is to be allocated for Operations reserves.

Administration noted that \$107,500 dollars will be drawn out of reserves for gravel prospecting.

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Cymbaluk provided Council with clarification on the cost and history of gravel prospecting. Administration noted that 2013 was the last time a historical engineer's report was conducted for prospecting plans.

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 11:58 a.m. and reconvene at 12:35 p.m.

Utilities Manager, Ian Willier addressed questions regarding Water Services. Administration advised Council of water loss in the Hamlet of Enilda.

Councillor Stewart stepped out of the meeting at 1:19 p.m. and returned at 1:21 p.m.

Utilities Manager, Ian Willier explained the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – Recycling Program that will be run through the High Prairie Solid Waste Authority to be potentially implemented in the future. It was noted that a presentation will be provided to Council to gain more clarity on the program in the future.

A break was taken from 1:38 p.m. until 1:53 p.m.

Samantha Smith, Grants Officer, presented the 2024 Grants Budget. Council requested that administration bring forward additional information on the 2024 Grants Budget for the December 5, 2023, Special Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

2023-25-549

MOVED BY COUNCILOR ZAHACY that the meeting be adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

CARRIED

Tyler Airth, Reeve

David Reynolds, Interim CAO