

**BIG LAKES COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
December 5, 2022**

Minutes of the Big Lakes County Special Council Meeting held at the County Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Monday, December 5, 2022, 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, Joussard
	Lane Monteith, Enilda/ Big Meadow
	Ann Stewart, S. Sunset House/ Gilwood
	Garrett Zahacy, Prairie Echo/ Salt Prairie
Administration:	Roy Brideau, Interim CAO
	David Reynolds, Director of Corporate Services
	Jessica Plante, Recording Secretary
	Brett Hawken, Director of Community & Protective Services
	Eunice McCauley, Human Resources Manager
	Pat Olansky, Director of Planning & Development
	Nicole Hanna, FCSS Manager
	Vic Abel, Director of Public Works
	Victoria Zahacy, Communications Coordinator
	Kevin Cymbaluk, Director of Public Works
	Ian Willier, Utilities Manager
Press:	Richard Froese, South Peace News

CALL TO ORDER: Reeve Nygaard called the meeting to order 9:33 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO
THE AGENDA:**

2022-29-643 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR HUNT** that the December 5 & 6, 2022, Special Meeting agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION:

2022-29-644 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE ZABOLOTNIUK** that the meeting go into closed session at 9:33 a.m. to discuss personnel matters as per section 27, Freedom of Information and Protection Act.

CARRIED

Councillor Zahacy declared pecuniary interest and stepped out of the meeting at 9: 35 a.m.

2022-29-645 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHALIFOUX** that the meeting come out of closed session at 10:51 am.

CARRIED

Councillor Zahacy returned to the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

A break was taken from 10:52 a.m. to 10:57 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Reynold’s presented Council with the proposed Interim 2023 Operating & Capital Budget.

The budget was drafted with the following guidelines:

- Municipal tax revenue is based on preliminary 2022 assessed values and a 6.82% increase to the municipal tax rate.
- Salaries and wages were amended to account for grid step increases and a 5.9% COLA adjustment.
- Current service levels will be maintained.
- Capital program reflects new projects, maintenance of existing infrastructure and/or completion of projects underway in 2022.

Mr. Hawken, Director of Protective and Community Services presented Council with the budget for Community & Protective Services which includes fire, protective services, agriculture, and tourism/economic development.

The meeting recessed for lunch break at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 12: 41 p.m.

The budget discussions continued on Community & Protective Services.

Ms. Olansky, Director of Planning & Development presented Council with the budgets for emergency services, planning & development, cemeteries and family and community services.

Councillor Stewart stepped out of the meeting at 1:29 p.m. and returned at 2:09 p.m.

Mr. Cymbaluk, Director of Public Works presented Council with the public works road budget.

A break was taken from 2:36 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.

Mr. Cymbaluk continued with discussion on the High Prairie Airport, water and wastewater, and solid waste management budgets.

ADJOURNMENT:

2022-29-646 **MOVED BY COUNCILOR CHALIFOUX** that the meeting be adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Robert Nygaard, Reeve

Roy Brideau, Interim CAO