

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, NOVEMBER 25th, 2020

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held via Zoom Videoconference on Wednesday, November 25th, 2020, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance	Present:	Reeve:	Steve Wannstrom
		Councillors:	Murray Marshall, John Rew and Jackie Watts
		Staff:	CAO Shirley Bremer Assistant CAO Matthew Kreke

C20-246
Agenda
Approval

[C20-246] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the agenda for the November 25th, 2020 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C20-247
Approval of
Minutes

[C20-247] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the November 10th, 2020 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Accounts will be reviewed and approved at the December 16th regular council meeting.

CAO Report

Chief Administrative Officer Shirley Bremer reviewed the CAO Report with Council. Highlights of the report included the following:

- After following up on the request for municipalities interested in hosting the development of a Pea Fracturing Plant it has been determined that the infrastructure requirements necessary to host the plant would be impossible in our county. In specific the requirement for 150 million gallons of water to be made available to the development would be impossible based on the licenses and infrastructure available from the Town of Drumheller and the Henry Kroeger Regional Water Commission.
- Ken and Shirley sat in on a conference call with Eagle Builders and Stantec on Tuesday, November 17th. This meeting was to clarify all building deficiencies have now been rectified and that most other issues are now warranty issues, which will be covered under warranty for the next 8+ months. They agreed that they have rectified all building deficiencies and that the final payment of \$600,000+/- will be made soon.
- The second wave of Covid-19 is proving to be even more of a challenge. The province just announced there are 52 cases in Drumheller and 3 in Starland County. The County is maintaining social distancing measures, hand sanitizing, staying at home if you or your family are sick or have been in contact with anyone with Covid-19 and are isolating those that perform essential services for the County. After Tuesday's announcement by the province the County will review the protocols we need and have a staff meeting to make sure everyone is on board and following the proper protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy.
- CAO Bremer noted that it is also required under the MGA that a formal performance review be performed by Council for the CAO every year. CAO Bremer provided the form to Council.

Policy 120-8 Councillor Watts had circulated some proposed changes to Policy 120-8, the Public Participation Policy, which included some extra participation methods as well as a reduction of the categories of public participation from 5 to 4. Assistant CAO Kreke expressed concerns that some of the changes may go too far in reducing the scope for public participation in decision making. Administration was instructed to rewrite the policy with all five categories but including the new methods for public participation included in Councillor Watts' suggestions.

MSP Approval Notice was received from Municipal Affairs that approval has been granted to Starland County for the replacement of the CLV Waterline Project under the Municipal Stimulus Program. Funding of \$245,584.00 has been approved for this project.

Attendance At 9:20 a.m. Deputy Reeve Sargent attended the meeting.

RMA Director's Meeting The Central RMA Zone Director's Meeting will be held via Zoom Videoconference on December 4th, 2020 commencing at 10:00 a.m. Council discussed the need for questions to be raised about how some resolutions are able to bypass the regular resolution approval process.

Tax Arrears Cancellation Council is required each year to pass a motion removing unpaid taxes from the arrears list for oil and gas companies in order to apply for provincial funding to cover education funding and designated industrial property requisitions paid for by the County but were subsequently uncollectable from the oil and gas company.

C20-248
To Remove
Unpaid Taxes

[C20-248] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Starland County authorize the cancellation of taxes in the names of the following corporations: Traverse Energy, Blaze Energy Ltd., Canadian Oil & Gas International Inc., Capital Oil Ltd., Trident Exploration (WX) Corp., Trident Limited Partnership, so that Starland County may apply for the Provincial Education Requisition Credit and Designated Industrial Property Assessment Requisition Credit for Uncollectable Education Property Taxes on Oil and Gas Properties in the sum of \$2,124,364.90.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Letter of Support A letter of support has been drafted to support the Prairie Land Regional School Division in their request to have the Morrin School renovation project include the renovation of the current gym into a shop. Starland County has often partnered with local schools in order to train the next generation of shop workers.

Employee Ticket Issue At 9:40 a.m. Public Works Supervisor Ken Menage and Assistant Public Works Supervisor Colby Black attended the meeting and raised the issue of a request from Grader Operator John Ziegler to help with a ticket received this summer for an overload. As the staff member was doing extra work outside of their expertise due to staff shortages related to the Covid-19 pandemic and its associated revenue impacts, management is asking Council to cover the ticket cost of \$1,900.00.

C20-249
Staff Ticket
Payment

[C20-249] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Starland County pay John Ziegler's overload provincial fine in the amount of \$1,900.00 as the fine was a direct result of the Covid-19 revenue drop requiring that untrained staff be required to perform atypical duties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Departure At 10:00 a.m. Colby departed from the meeting.

PW Report	<p>Public Works Supervisor Ken Menage reviewed the PW Report with Council. Highlights of his report included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PW Crew have been sanding and plowing, moving from shop to shop and putting up snow fencing.• The Shop Crew have been working on approximately 17 pieces of equipment and 1 CVIP, and helping with the move.• Gradermen have been blading roads and removing drifts.• Ken has been working on the new yard parking plan, the Morton Pit application, Bridge File 8323 and researching different ways to provide the 2021 gravel program.• Ken reviewed the current lack of staffing which is impeding his ability to get basic operations done. He also provided a list of bridge work broken down by cost. This bridge work can be applied to Federal Gas Tax Funding that is still in deferred revenue.
Departure	<p>At 10:30 a.m. Ken departed from the meeting.</p>
Attendance and MS Report	<p>At 10:31 a.m. Municipal Services Manager Riep attended the meeting and reviewed his MS report with Council. Highlights of the report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a farmer report of the possibility of a small water leak on the CLV water system that was identified in the late fall harvesting. Upon investigation it was determined there was a very minor leak and the repair will be postponed as Big Country Gas had identified their gas line to be on top of the leak and would require the line to be daylighted.• At the last MPC meeting members approved the extension to two separate development permits including the Michichi Solar project and the Brad LaFave permit for construction of a shed.• The Covid-19 virus is now in the second wave of outbreak as the numbers are increasing daily in excess of those seen in the initial wave. Starland County has 3 cases as last noted however, those numbers will be increasing and exposure to the virus is imminent. In respect of the County operations it is imperative that Starland County does not remain complacent with the current status. The measures implemented at the start of the pandemic will have to be revisited with new measures potentially implemented.
Departure	<p>At 11:00 a.m. Glen departed from the meeting.</p>
Strategic Planning Process	<p>At 11:01 a.m. Finance Manager Judy Fazekas attended the meeting and updated Council on the process for developing a strategic plan for Starland County. Judy provided a copy of a ratepayer survey that will be used to gauge the public's priorities in service delivery from Starland County. Council provided comments which will be integrated into the survey which will then be formatted and sent out by Ethelo Decisions. Judy also gave a presentation on the goals and strategies to be used in developing a Strategic Plan in guiding Starland County's future operations. Judy will be contacting potential consultants.</p>
Departure	<p>At 12:15 p.m. Judy departed from the meeting.</p>
Morrin Sod House and Historical Society Delegation	<p>At 1:00 p.m. Bill Montgomery of the Morrin Sod House and Historical Society attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the potential for development of a campground on the county owned railway land on the east side of Morrin. The Society would like the County to assist with the development of the site and would provide for the operation of the campground in return for a portion of the revenue generated for the site. Starland County would still be the owner of the campground. Council requested information on the Village of Morrin's attitude towards the development before proceeding with any decisions.</p>

Departure At 1:30 p.m. Bill departed from the meeting.

Operational and Ice Plant Grants Administration has done up a list of proposed grant funds to go to each of the applicants for the 2020 Operational and Ice Plant Grants. The grants are based on a percentage of the utility costs incurred by the community groups operating the facilities to be funded.

C20-250
Operational Grants

[C20-250] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that Starland County fund the Operational Grant Program in the amount of \$95,000.00 and that the funds be distributed as below:

Craigmyle Historic Society	\$	2,046.02
Craigmyle Civic Centre		2,015.42
Delia & District Ag Society		19,659.59
Delia & District Comm. Assoc.		6,426.75
Delia & District Hist. Society		3,205.98
Delia & District Senior Citizens		3,047.53
Delia Curling Club		5,041.77
Delia Municipal Library Board		615.00
Morrin & District Ag Society		17,527.50
Morrin Community Hall		3,844.88
Morrin Hist. Pk. and Sod House		2,313.73
Morrin Municipal Library		987.87
Munson & Area Comm. Assoc.		3,293.12
Rowley Comm. Hall Assoc.		7,636.26
Rumsey & District Ag Society		11,127.20
Rumsey Community Library		733.20
Rumsey Drop-In Centre		1,988.05
Verdant Valley Ag Society		3,490.13

MOTION CARRIED.

C20-251
Ice Plant Grants

[C20-251] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County fund the Ice Plant Grant Program in the amount of \$38,000.00 and that the funds be distributed as below:

Delia & District Ag Society	\$	15,902.02
Morrin & District Ag Society		13,010.25
Rumsey & District Ag Society		9,087.73

MOTION CARRIED.

Departure At 1:50 p.m. Deputy Reeve Sargent departed from the meeting.

Council Committees All councillors present reported briefly on the committees to which they are appointed.

Council Communications Council Communications:

- i) Service Alberta re: Federal Government's Launch of the Universal Broadband Fund
- ii) Palliser Regional Municipal Services re: Annual General Meeting Report November 2020
- iii) FCSSAA re: 2021 Membership Fees
- iv) Rural Municipalities of Alberta
 - Contact Newsletter (3 Issues)

C20-252
Motion to Proceed Closed Session

[C20-252] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that under the exemption granted by Section 17, Division 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act Reeve Wannstrom and Councillors Watts, Rew and Marshall proceed with the

meeting in Closed Session at 1:59 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**C20-253
Motion to
Proceed Out of
Closed Session**

[C20-253] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 2:19 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**C20-254
Adjournment**

[C20-254] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020, via Zoom Videoconference, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

**Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom**

**Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer**