

# STARLAND COUNTY

## COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Office in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

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

**C21-013**  
Agenda  
Approval

**[C21-013] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that the agenda for the January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-014**  
Approval of  
Minutes

**[C21-014] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that the minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CAO Report

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

- The inventory audit was completed by Endeavor/Ascend Accounting personnel on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. This is typically a large annual job and was completed with no issues identified.
- Shirley spoke to Alberta Parks on January 27<sup>th</sup> in regards to the Tolman Bridge Campsite. They still do not have a definite direction on what is happening with the parks that were slated to be closed last March. They noted that they are looking for long-term partnerships for many sites, especially those that are located in somewhat remote areas such as Tolman. There is the potential for a partnership with Kneehill County to manage and maintain the campground.
- PW has ordered the culvert for BF #8593 as well as the culverts required for the Walker Road. Steel prices are going up on February 1<sup>st</sup> so this should save money by ordering early. PW is currently looking to begin hiring for seasonal positions with a seasonal Road Crew Foreman and Doug Carmacks has already been selected.

Flax Straw  
Burning

Assistant CAO Kreke led a discussion with Council on input gathered in relation to the Starland County policy on flax straw burning within Starland County. Discussion with legal counsel has emphasized that Starland County needs to come up with a process for addressing the issue within Starland County in order to ensure limited liability for the County. Council decided to revisit the regulations brought forth by Municipal Services Manager Riep in the fall of 2020 with the possibility of a public education campaign and new permitting fire restrictions during fire season.

Community  
Engagement  
Survey

Council was given a paper copy of the new community engagement survey which has been online for nearly 2 weeks. The initial reading is that there is a strong response rate so far.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning session is now tentatively scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> to

Session 5<sup>th</sup>, with different groups participating in different sessions as per the consultants schedule. Covid restrictions are still potentially problematic when organizing these sessions and the dates may still be changed.

AMHSA COR Starland County received notice for the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association that Starland County has passed their 2020 Certificate of Recognition Audit and has had its COR renewed for an additional 3 years. The next certification audit will be in 2023.

Bylaw 1160 Council reviewed a copy of the CAO report outlining the reasons and recommendation surrounding the annual borrowing bylaw. Bylaw 1160 will authorize a short-term borrowing capacity of Starland County of \$10 million to cover anticipated cash shortfalls associated with tax repayment schedules.

**C21-015**  
**Bylaw 1160-**  
**Motion to**  
**Establish**

**[C21-015] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that Bylaw 1160, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to borrow funds on a short-term basis in 2021 for the purpose specified in Section 256 of the Municipal Government Act, be established.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-016**  
**Bylaw 1160-**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**[C21-016] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that Bylaw 1160, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to borrow funds on a short-term basis in 2021 for the purpose specified in Section 256 of the Municipal Government Act, be given first reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-017**  
**Bylaw 1160-**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

**[C21-017] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT**

that Bylaw 1160, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to borrow funds on a short-term basis in 2021 for the purpose specified in Section 256 of the Municipal Government Act, be given second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-018**  
**Bylaw 1160-**  
**Motion to Have**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

**[C21-018] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that Bylaw 1160, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to borrow funds on a short-term basis in 2021 for the purpose specified in Section 256 of the Municipal Government Act, be presented for third reading at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-019**  
**Bylaw 1160-**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> and Final**  
**Reading**

**[C21-019] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM**

that Bylaw 1160, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to borrow funds on a short-term basis in 2021 for the purpose specified in Section 256 of the Municipal Government Act, be given third reading and finally passed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Auditor  
Appointment

A letter was received from Ascend LLP Chartered Professional Accountants announcing the transition of all Endeavor Chartered Accountants clients to Ascend following the merger of the companies and retirement of Jeff and Monica Faupel. Starland County would need to appoint Ascend as the financial auditor for Starland County.

**C21-020**

**[C21-020] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT**

**Auditor  
Appointment**

**that Starland County appoint Ascend LLP Chartered Professional Accountant as the Financial Auditor for Starland County.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PRMS Budget  
and Requisition**

Palliser Regional Municipal Services has submitted its 2021 Annual Budget and corresponding requisition to cover operating costs. The 2021 requisition for Starland County is \$40,269.75, which includes a 3% rate as decided by the Board of PRMS in its November 2020 Annual General Meeting.

**Joint ARB and  
CARB**

Assistant CAO Kreke reviewed with Council his research into joining the Central Alberta Regional Assessment Review Board run through the City of Red Deer. Due to difficulties including cost and finding enough qualified individuals to sit on an individual ARB or CARB for just Starland County the CARARB would provide all services related to running an assessment review board for Starland County for a yearly fee of \$2,000.00 plus expenses for board members and a board secretary which are charged at cost, by the hour, for each instance whereby Starland County needs to convene an ARB or CARB. A template contract and bylaw was included in the materials reviewed and Council will be reviewing these documents individually with comments submitted to Assistant CAO Kreke.

**Fire Master Plan**

Council was presented with a report from Councillor Watts detailing options being proposed and discussed by the Starland County Fire Master Plan Committee for modernizing fire services in Starland County and the Villages of Morrin, Munson and Delia. Councillor Watts is looking for feedback on the proposals contained in the report including moving to a unified fire service for all Villages and the County and creating specialized fire departments. The next meeting of the Committee will be on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**RMA Spring  
Convention**

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention will be held virtually on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Councillors are able to come into the office to access the conference or can do so through their computer at home.

**C21-021  
RMA Spring  
Convention**

**[C21-021] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

**that all Councillors and designated staff attend the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention to be held virtually on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and that registration be paid.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Council  
Committees**

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

**Council  
Communications**

Council Communications:

- i) Rural Municipalities of Alberta re: Provincial Investigation into Creating an Alberta Police Force
- ii) Alberta Energy Regulator re: Feedback on Eligibility Requirements for Acquiring and Holding Energy Licences and Approvals
- iii) Drumheller RCMP re: Provincial Crime Gauge and Planning for Development of 2021/22 Annual Performance Plan
- iv) BluEarth Renewables re: Hand Hills Wind Project Donation to Starland Family & Community Support Services
- v) Rural Municipalities of Alberta
  - Contact Newsletter (2 Issues)

**Departure**

At 12:00 p.m. Assistant CAO Kreke departed from the meeting.

**Arrival**

At 1:55 p.m. Shari-Anne Doolaeye of Sage Analytics attended the meeting.

C21-022  
Motion to  
Proceed  
Closed Session

[C21-022] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that under the exemption granted by Section 17, Division 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent and Councillors Watts, Rew and Marshall along with staff Bremer, and Shari-Anne Doolaage of Sage Analytics proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 1:58 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-023  
Motion to  
Proceed Out of  
Closed Session

[C21-010] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 3:52 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-024  
Adjournment

[C21-024] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the meeting be adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

*The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.*

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Reeve:  
Steve Wannstrom

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Chief Administrative Officer:  
Shirley Bremer