

# STARLAND COUNTY

## COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 24<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, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

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

**C21-045**  
Agenda  
Approval

**[C21-045] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that the agenda for the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-046**  
Approval of  
Minutes

**[C21-046] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that the minutes of the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Accounts

Councillor Rew and Deputy Reeve Sargent checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery

**C21-047**  
Accounts

**[C21-047] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT**

that accounts (cheque no. 51859 to 51916 inclusive) totalling \$242,351.60 be approved for payment.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CAO Report

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

- Shirley looked into the contract grader operations in order to get a better understanding of the work being contracted for. In 2020 the contract was well within the maximum hours and will be monitored daily as to where and when the grader is working.
- As a condition of the Municipal Stimulus Program grant, we are required to submit reporting on our plans for reducing red tape in various regulatory areas. We have submitted our introduction of the tax incentive bylaw which is currently being used by a major energy development.
- Based on some public inquiries Shirley is looking into ways to make council meetings both virtual as well as in-house. This would allow the public to access the meetings easier and our IT Administrator is looking into some various possibilities.

Cash Lease  
Tenders

Following some inconsistencies in the process for receiving tenders for the land lease for the lands located on the W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 12-29-17-4 administration has advised that the land be re-tendered with a closing on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with the tender being advertised in the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> issues of the Drumheller Mail.

**C21-048**  
Cash Lease

**[C21-048] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

**Tender** that Starland County offer for lease by open tender, the lands located at W½ 12-29-17-4, for a five-year cash lease and that bids shall be accepted until March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Short Term Borrowing Bylaw 1162** Bylaw 1162 is a bylaw to authorize Starland County to make borrowing arrangements for the purpose of purchasing capital equipment. Section 257 of the Municipal Government Act allows municipalities to borrow on a short-term basis to fund capital purchases with an approved bylaw. For this bylaw administration is recommending borrowing \$600,000.00 for the purchase of one new Community Peace Officer vehicle, one used tandem tractor, one used tridem tractor, two used belly dump trailers and two used side dump trailers.

**C21-049  
Bylaw 1162-  
Short Term  
Borrowing**

**[C21-049] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that Bylaw 1162, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of debentures in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the purpose specified in Section 257 of the Municipal Government Act for a period that shall not exceed five years, be established.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-050  
Bylaw 1162-  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**[C21-050] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that Bylaw 1162, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of debentures in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the purpose specified in Section 257 of the Municipal Government Act for a period that shall not exceed five years, be given first reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-051  
Bylaw 1162-  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

**[C21-051] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT**

that Bylaw 1162, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of debentures in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the purpose specified in Section 257 of the Municipal Government Act for a period that shall not exceed five years, be given second reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-052  
Bylaw 1162-  
Motion to Have  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading**

**[C21-052] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that Bylaw 1162 be presented for third reading at this meeting.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-053  
Bylaw 1162-  
3<sup>rd</sup> and Final  
Reading**

**[C21-053] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT**

that Bylaw 1162, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of debentures in the amount of \$600,000.00 for the purpose specified in Section 257 of the Municipal Government Act for a period that shall not exceed five years, be given third reading and finally passed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Seasonal Camping  
Draft Contract**

As this year will be the first year that seasonal sites are offered for rent in the Michichi Campground staff have come up with a draft contract for seasonal campers. The contract includes rules related to insurance, alcohol and cannabis use, fires and entry and use of vehicles. The proposed

annual rate is \$2,000.00. Council made several amendments that will be used by Administration to re-draft and bring back the contract for approval at the next meeting.

Assessment  
Review Board  
Refund Policy

As a condition of joining the Central Alberta Regional Assessment Review Board Starland County is required to have a policy on application fees and refunds of application fees. Policy 120-9 sets the fees at \$50 for residential applications and \$650 for non-residential. Refunds will be granted in cases where application to the board are withdrawn without a change in assessment.

**C21-054**  
**Policy 120-9 –**  
**Assessment**  
**Review Board**  
**Fees**

**[C21-054] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

**that Policy 120-9, a policy to set fees and rules for refunds for Assessment Review Board appeals, be approved.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RMA Unpaid  
Taxes Update

The RMA put out the results of a member survey indicating that there is nearly \$250 Million in outstanding taxes owed to municipalities from oil and gas companies. The issue has been progressively getting worse since 2019 and Starland County's share is now over \$10 Million. Administration has drafted a news release addressing this issue which will be sent to our local newspapers.

Bloom  
Pre-Facilitation  
Exercise

Prior to the strategic planning session scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, Bloom has asked that Starland County council members attend an online strategic planning webinar to familiarize themselves with the process beforehand. The webinar will take place on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

RMA Virtual  
Meeting

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta will be hosting a virtual town hall on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. via Zoom to discuss the 2021 Provincial Budget and other emerging issues of importance.

PLRD Community  
Leaders Meeting

Prairie Land Regional School Division will be hosting a Community Leaders Meeting via Google Meet on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Crisis Intervention  
Hotline

Correspondence was received from Damien C. Kurek, MP for Battle River – Crowfoot asking for Starland County's support in advocating for the creation of a national suicide and crisis hotline. A motion from council showing support is being requested.

**C21-055**  
**Crisis**  
**Intervention**  
**Hotline**

**[C21-055] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

**that Whereas the Federal Government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;**

**And Whereas the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;**

**And Whereas existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;**

**And Whereas in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;**

**And Whereas Starland County Council recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;**

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Starland County Council endorses this 988 crisis line initiative and that staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MLA, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate**

**our support.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Procedural Bylaw Discussion Assistant CAO Kreke reviewed with Council some of the information he has gathered for the creation of a Council Procedural Bylaw. A draft will be out later this week and Council should have its input in by March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Starland County Community Survey At 11:20 a.m. Finance Manager Judy Fazekas attended the meeting and reviewed with Council the results of the recently closed community survey. Overall the survey pointed to the community’s priorities of roads, bridges and fire services. The survey also noted many community concerns with taxes and financial sustainability. The results will be used in part to help guide the upcoming strategic planning session of Council.

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

Council Communications Council Communications:

- i) Cardston County re: Class 1 Mandatory Entry-Level Training Program Concerns
- ii) Thorhild County re: Proposed Changes to AER Directive 067
- iii) Marigold Library System re: Marigold Report & Plan of Service Reopening
- iv) Rural Municipalities of Alberta
  - Monthly Update for RMA Districts
  - Message from RMA President Paul McLaughlin
  - Contact Newsletter (2 Issues)

**C21-056**  
**Motion to Proceed Closed Session**

**[C21-056] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

**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 Kreke proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 2:15 p.m.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Departure

At 3:00 p.m. Assistant CAO Kreke departed from the meeting.

**C21-057**  
**Motion to Proceed Out of Closed Session**

**[C21-057] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

**that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 5:20 p.m.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-058**  
**Resignation and Benefits Agreement**

**[C21-058] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

**that Starland County accept Assistant CAO Kreke’s resignation and to amend the employee benefits package of Assistant CAO Kreke as per the terms of the agreement presented by CAO Bremer.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Accounts

Accounts - see prior motion.

RMA TRADE	CK# 51859	9,284.32
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<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,284.32</b>
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RMA TRADE	CK# 51860	7,039.51
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<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>7,039.51</b>
ACKLANDS-GRAINER INC.	CK# 51861		145.57
ALBERTA ONE-CALL CORPORATION	CK# 51862		100.80
DRUMHELLER EQUIPMENT SALES	CK# 51863		5,732.95
EAST CENTRAL GAS CO-OP LTD.	CK# 51864		536.21
OLD MACDONALD KENNELS	CK# 51865		620.55
PRINTER WORLD INTERNATIONAL	CK# 51866		913.50
RMA INSURANCE	CK# 51867		13,697.97
SHRED-IT INTERNATIONAL ULC	CK# 51868		257.32
STARLAND REGIONAL WATER	CK# 51869		14,105.24
VILLAGE OF MORRIN	CK# 51870		850.10
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>36,960.21</b>
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 51871		7,791.00
A.P.I. ALARM INC.	CK# 51872		110.25
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES INC.	CK# 51873		1,292.25
AIR LIQUIDE CANADA INC.	CK# 51874		436.00
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES	CK# 51875		116.00
ALBERTA ONE-CALL CORPORATION	CK# 51876		125.69
ATB FINANCIAL MASTERCARD	CK# 51877		2,669.34
ATCO ELECTRIC LTD.	CK# 51878		13,662.47
AUTO VALUE PARTS – DRUMHELLER	CK# 51879		1,690.98
BIG COUNTRY GAS CO-OP	CK# 51880		544.86
BROWNLEE LLP	CK# 51881		6,759.38
CANADIAN BADLANDS LTD.	CK# 51882		1,156.96
CAPITAL "I" INDUSTRIES	CK# 51883		538.57
CINTAS CANADA LIMITED	CK# 51884		82.95
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 51885		536.82
DIRECTDIAL.COM	CK# 51886		1,783.53
DRUMHELLER SOLID WASTE	CK# 51887		3,516.96
FAZEKAS, JUDITH W	CK# 51888		157.50
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 51889		109.67
GANGSTER ENTERPRISES	CK# 51890		1,140.30
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 51891		2,085.40
GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS	CK# 51892		80.48
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER	CK# 51893		9,012.07
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 51894		143.42
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 51895		314.99
LOOMIS EXPRESS	CK# 51896		52.27
MARIGOLD LIBRARY SYSTEM	CK# 51897		22,188.84
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 51898		101.93
RMA FUEL	CK# 51899		16,868.12
SAGE ANALYTICS INC.	CK# 51900		4,223.65
SEED CHECK TECHNOLOGIES INC.	CK# 51901		258.30
STETTLER TELEPHONE ANSWERING	CK# 51902		367.50
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY	CK# 51903		146.48
TELUS	CK# 51904		820.43
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 51905		1,179.11
THE DRUMHELLER MAIL	CK# 51906		95.01
TOWN OF DRUMHELLER	CK# 51907		1,563.68
WANNSTROM, STEVE	CK# 51908		3,060.52
WARWICK PRINTING CO. LTD	CK# 51909		939.37
WATER PURE & SIMPLE	CK# 51910		45.00
WATTS, JACKIE	CK# 51911		2,550.69
WCI WHYTE COMMUNICATIONS INC.	CK# 51912		4,005.52
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 51913		173.94
WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE	CK# 51914		9,537.50
<b>Sub-Total:</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>124,035.70</b>
LAPP	CK# 51915		19,553.25
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 51916		45,478.61

Sub-Total: \$ 65,031.86

TOTAL: \$ 242,351.60

**C21-059**  
**Adjournment**

**[C21-059] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that the meeting be adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, March 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