

# STARLAND COUNTY

## COUNCIL MEETING, APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held via Zoom Videoconference on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, commencing at 9:02 a.m.

Attendance Present: Deputy Reeve: Bob Sargent  
Councillors: Murray Marshall, John Rew and Jackie Watts  
Absent: Reeve Wannstrom  
Staff: CAO Shirley Bremer  
Finance Manager Judy Fazekas  
East Central Review Terri Huxley

**C21-121**  
**Agenda**  
**Approval**

**[C21-121] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that the agenda for the April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved with the following additions: Big Country Gas Co-op line connection.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-122**  
**Approval of**  
**Minutes**

**[C21-122] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that the minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Accounts

Approval of the accounts will be tabled until the May 26, 2021 meeting.

CAO Report

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

- CAO Bremer reviewed with Council a statement from Minister Toews, President of the Alberta Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, on the recently released federal budget and it's positive and negative impacts on the Alberta economy.
- Alberta has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan to support the development of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs). All provinces involved have agreed to collaborate on the advancement of SMRs as a clean energy option to address climate change and regional energy demands while supporting economic growth and innovation.
- Doug Luschyk has now started as the Seasonal Road Construction Foreman. Doug brings many years of experience with him, both as an operator and as a supervisor.
- CAO Bremer and Municipal Services Director Riep met with representatives from Alberta Parks at the Tolman Bridge campgrounds and were briefed on the operations and maintenance of the parks. After a tour of the sites, the keys were handed over to Glen Riep. There will be some minor clean-up of fallen branches, cleaning of the potable water tanks, and fencing of some sink holes required prior to opening the campgrounds for the May long weekend.
- Jason has been working with Netago regarding internet access at the McLaren Dam campground. If equipment is only installed on the tower, which would provide internet access in the immediate area for the campground attendant and for campers to reserve their sites, the cost would be approximately \$1,000.00. If internet access were to be set up for the entire campground, there would be an additional

cost of \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00 plus the cost of installation for poles, electricity, and other items.

- CAO Bremer received a call from a Craigmyle resident who had a broken water pipe over a weekend and required her water to be turned off at the main valve. However, there was no-one on call or immediately available to give permission to have the water turned off. This resident feels that there should always be someone on call and immediately available to assist in emergencies like this.

May 12, 2021  
Regular Council  
Meeting

As seeding will soon begin, CAO Bremer asked Council if they would like to cancel the May 12, 2021 regular meeting of Council. Instead, an impromptu Budget Committee meeting will be scheduled on a rainy day in order to finalize Council's budget priorities prior to adoption of the final budget on May 26, 2021.

**C21-123**  
**Cancellation of  
May 12, 2021  
Regular  
Meeting of  
Council**

**[C21-123] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

**that the May 12, 2021 regular meeting of Starland County Council be cancelled.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Internet Access  
at McLaren Dam

Council discussed the merits of expanding the internet service all the way to the south end of the campground where there is currently power service. Various internet data packages could be offered through the online booking tool. At a minimum, there should be internet access at the entrance so visitors can register online.

**C21-124**  
**Internet Access  
at McLaren Dam**

**[C21-124] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

**that \$1,000.00 be spent this year to install internet access on the tower at the McLaren Dam main entrance and wait until next year to see if further expansion of the internet service is warranted.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Annual  
Overweight  
Permit  
(Agriculture)  
Policy 320-14

Annual Overweight Permit (Agriculture) Policy 320-14 allows Starland County to authorize farms on the light surfaced roadways to obtain an annual permit to allow for the free movement of agricultural goods on these banned surfaces. Paragraphs 9(1)(b) of the Annual Overweight Permit has been revised to align the gross weights allowed with provincial standards under Alberta Regulation 315/2002 Part 2. The amendment to the policy as presented, which included a different gross weight for mounted equipment on a twin steer truck and approved by Council under resolution C21-114 on April 14, 2021 is outside of the Regulation and the resolution needs to be rescinded.

**C21-125**  
**Policy 320-14  
Annual  
Overweight  
Permit  
(Agriculture)**

**[C21-125] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

**that Starland County rescind prior resolution number C21-114 and approve the amendments to Policy 320-14, the Annual Overweight Permit (Agriculture), as originally submitted by Administration.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Morrin Sod  
House  
Campground  
Proposal

CAO Bremer reported that the development permit for the proposed campground to be established on the County's railway right of way in the Village of Morrin was submitted to the Village of Morrin on April 16, 2021. To date, the Village Office has not responded to our request for the development permit fee amount. Once this is known, payment will be forwarded to the Village.

Quotes for eleven fire pits and eleven picnic tables for the Morrin Sod House Campground were reviewed as follows: fire pit rings \$85.00 each and picnic tables \$650.00 each for a total estimated cost of \$8,085.00. As there is some opposition to this development by Morrin residents, purchase of the fire pit rings and picnic tables will be tabled until the development permit for the campground

is approved.

RMA Tender Results for Energy Program	Campus Energy was awarded the electricity contract under the RMA Energy Program. The tenders were very competitive with the rates coming in well below the rates that were previously indicated. Starland County's electricity rate will be \$57.97/MWh effective May 1, 2021 through to December 31, 2026. The rate for streetlights will be \$47.37/MWh for the same term
Police Funding Model Invoice	Starland County received the 2021 invoice from the Province of Alberta for the Police Funding Model. The 2021 invoicing is based on a 10% cost recovery of the front-line provincial policing costs. The 2022 invoicing will be based on a 20% cost recovery and will increase each year going forward. The formula for the invoice is 50% weight based on population and the other 50% weight based on equalized assessment. Starland County's invoice for 2021 is \$61,170.75. Information regarding the Police Funding Model and invoices to municipalities will be included with the 2021 tax notices.
RMA District Virtual Engagement Sessions	RMA is hosting a series of District Virtual Engagement Sessions to facilitate engagement between fellow councillors and CAOs during the pandemic. The District 2 session will be held May 17, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Each councillor is asked to register individually so that they can attend the break-out sessions of their choice. The registration deadline is May 7, 2021 and there is no cost to participate.
Red Deer River Municipal Users Group Handbook	The Red Deer River Municipal Users Group (RDRMUG) forwarded a copy of their handbook titled <i>Looking Back – Moving Forward</i> . This is the latest document in the RDRMUG Action Plan. This document contains a brief history of RDRMUG and the plans and directions to deal with current water-related issues that face municipalities within the Red Deer River Basin.
Appointments by Council for Authorization of Signing Authorities	Due to the temporary absence of Reeve Wannstrom and the permanent absence of Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Kreke, an additional Councillor and Administration staff member need to be authorized to sign cheques and documents. At this point, there is no requirement to appoint another Deputy Reeve in Reeve Wannstrom's absence.
<b><u>C21-126</u></b> <b>Bank Authorization</b>	<b><u>[C21-126] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW</u></b> <b>that the Reeve and/or Deputy Reeve and/or Councillor Marshall and Chief Administrative Officer and/or Finance Manager be authorized to sign the cheques and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to conduct the banking business of the municipality at the Drumheller Branch of the ATB.</b>
	<b>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</b>
Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited Borrowing and Lending Bylaws	The Borrowing and Lending Bylaws for the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited must be advertised in the local newspaper for two consecutive weeks after the first reading. A petition period of 15 days starts after the last day of advertising in the newspaper. After the 15-day petition period ends, the bylaws can receive second and third readings. The bylaws become valid 30 days after the bylaws have passed. Although the viability of the new seed cleaning plant is currently in question, it is recommended that Starland County proceed with these bylaws so if the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited proceeds with construction, that all the bylaw requirements can be met by the next loan application deadline of July 31, 2021.
Bylaw 1169 Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited Borrowing Bylaw	Bylaw 1169 is a bylaw of Starland County authorizing the County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of a debenture to the Province of Alberta for the purpose of providing a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited in the amount of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) for the construction of a new seed cleaning plant facility on SW17-31-17-W4. Starland County shall repay the indebtedness according to the repayment structure in effect, namely semi-annual payments of combined principal and interest instalments not to exceed twenty (20) years calculated at a rate not exceeding

the interest rate fixed by the Province of Alberta on the date of borrowing. In each year of the debenture, there shall be levied semi-annual charges against the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited sufficient to pay: the principal falling due in the first eight (8) years of the loan period; and the principal and interest falling due in the remaining twelve (12) years of the loan period. The Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited shall issue to Starland County each year for the first eight (8) years of the debenture, the equivalent value of the interest payments made by Starland County in redeemable shares.

**C21-127**  
**Bylaw 1169 –**  
**Starland Seed**  
**Cleaning Plant**  
**Limited**  
**Borrowing**  
**Bylaw**

**[C21-127] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that Bylaw 1169, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of a debenture to the Province of Alberta for the purpose of providing a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited for the construction of a new seed cleaning plant facility on SW17-31-17-W4, be established.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-128**  
**Bylaw 1169 –**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**[C21-128] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that Bylaw 1169, for the purpose of authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of a debenture to the Province of Alberta for the purpose of providing a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited for the construction of a new seed cleaning plant facility on SW17-31-17-W4, be given first reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bylaw 1170 –  
Starland Seed  
Cleaning Plant  
Limited Lending  
Bylaw

Bylaw 1170 is a bylaw of Starland County setting out the provisions for a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited. A municipality may lend money to a non-profit organization if Council considers that the money loaned will be used for a purpose that will benefit the municipality. The Council of Starland County considers the operations of the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited to be of benefit to the Municipality of Starland County for seed cleaning/processing services in respect of people, activities and things that are open to the public. Council is to approve Bylaw 1169 authorizing Starland County to incur indebtedness by the issuance of a debenture to the Province of Alberta in the amount of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000.00) for the purpose of a loan of \$2,500,000.00 to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited to construct a new seed cleaning plant facility located on SW17-31-17-W4. Principal and interest payments will be in the amount of as prescribed at the same rate and under the same conditions as set out in Bylaw 1169. Starland County will maintain a lien on the property owned by the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited to be located on SW17-31-17-W4 in Starland County and such lien will be evidence of the County's share of interest in the seed cleaning plant facility. Such lien shall only be discharged upon the written authority and instruction of the County.

**C21-129**  
**Bylaw 1170 –**  
**Starland Seed**  
**Cleaning Plant**  
**Limited Lending**  
**Bylaw**

**[C21-129] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that Bylaw 1170, a bylaw of Starland County for the purpose of setting out the provisions for a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited, be established.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C21-130**  
**Bylaw 1170 –**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**[C21-130] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW**

that Bylaw 1170, a bylaw of Starland County for the purpose of setting out the provisions for a loan to the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Limited, be given first reading.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Big Country Gas Coop – Gas Line for New Subdivision At the last MPC meeting, a new subdivision was approved north-east of the Village of Morrin. Normally, the gas line to new subdivisions would come straight down the property and tie into the main gas line. However, the property owner where the main gas line is situated is refusing access to Big Country Gas for this purpose. Big Country Gas has asked Council to relax Condition #7 under the Road Crossing Agreement so that the gas line to the new subdivision can cross the road intersection at Range Road 19-1 and Township Road 32-0 on an angle and tie into the gas line at another location.

**C21-131**  
**Gas Line for New Subdivision**

**[C21-131] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS**

that Starland County Council relax the requirements under Condition #7 of the Road Crossing Agreement so that the gas line to the new subdivision at Ptn. SW1/4 1-32-19-W4M can cross the road intersection at Range Rd. 19-1 and Twp. Rd. 32-0 on an angle and tie into the gas line at NE1/4 35-31-19-W4M.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

New Plastics Recycling Initiatives

Councillor Watts reported that at the last Drumheller and District Solid Waste Management Association meeting, the new plastics recycling initiatives were discussed, and member municipalities will have to decide if they will partner with the DDSWMA or implement the new initiatives on their own. Tammi Nygard will be invited to the May 26, 2021 meeting to explain the new initiatives and implementation strategies.

4-H Clubs

CAO Bremer reported that due to the pandemic, our local 4-H club members are having difficulty meeting their objectives for community service. To meet this requirement, they have decided to make baskets for seniors in their communities that have supported 4-H over the years. Starland County was approached for donations, and bags with goodies and the Starland County logo were prepared and donated to the clubs. The 4-H clubs also thanked us for allowing them to do their public speaking in our boardroom via video conferencing.

CLV Waterline Replacement

The CLV waterline replacement project was expected to go to tender in April. However, due to delays in finalizing the plans, the tender is now expected to be posted in May. The project must be completed by November 2021 in order to qualify for the grant under the Municipal Stimulus Program.

Council Committees

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

Council Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Starland Seed Cleaning Plant Ltd. – Notice to Shareholders
- ii. Stettler County/Woodlands County re: Trident Exploration Receivership & Positions Taken by the AER and OWA
- iii. Town of Morinville re: Support for RCMP
- iv. County of Paintearth re: Support for RCMP
- v. Drumheller & District Solid Waste Management Association re: Household Hazardous Waste Funding
- vi. Prairie Land Pride
- vii. Rural Municipalities of Alberta re:
  - RMA District Update April 2021
  - RMA Contact Newsletter (2 issues)

Road Meeting

The road meeting will be scheduled together with the budget meeting in May.

Accounts

Accounts – tabled to May 26, 2021 meeting.

**C21-132**  
**Adjournment**

**[C21-132] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL**

that the meeting be adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

***The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.***

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**Deputy Reeve:  
Bob Sargent**

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**Chief Administrative Officer:  
Shirley Bremer**