

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, July 21st, 2021

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, July 21st, 2021, commencing at 9:03 a.m.

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

C21-203
Agenda
Approval

[C21-203] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the agenda for the July 21st, 2021 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the addition of two agenda items: Delaring an Agricultural Disaster and RMA Resolution for Fall Convention re Small Modular Reactors.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-204
Approval of
Minutes

[C21-204] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the June 23rd, 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Deputy Reeve Sargent and Councillor Rew checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery on July 21st, 2021.

C21-205
Accounts

[C21-205] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that accounts (cheque numbers 52467 to 52572) totalling \$404,195.50 be approved for payment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-206
Financial
Statements

[C21-206] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the financial statement for the period ending June 30th, 2021 be approved as submitted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAO Report

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

- Kneehill County has issued a full fire ban which means that both sides of the Tolman Bridge campground are under a full fire ban (as the province will not split the east and west campgrounds into two sites). Starland County is currently under a **Notice of Fire Restrictions** which allows restricted use of campfires and gas appliances. Fire Marshal Riep has advised that we may be going to a full fire ban soon due to the dry and hot conditions which will require more involvement of the fire departments.
- Stantec Consulting Ltd. have now completed the required archaeological research within Area 5 at the Morton gravel pit site. There is a 1.1-acre area that is restricted from the County's use and

this area will be fenced off. The County has been granted approval under the Historical Resources Act to proceed with preparation and mining of the remaining 28 acres which Public Works Supervisor Menage plans on doing later this fall. The historical artifacts found are being documented and catalogued and when they are sent to the Royal Alberta Museum, we will be notified and can then make a request to have some, or all artifacts put on display in the Delia Museum.

- Councillor Rew had requested an evaluation on how the trained grader operators are doing with maintaining the roads in their areas. Ken has provided a quote from Don Rude to have this done; however, Council has requested that Ken provide a written evaluation himself. Council also suggested that Colby Black be trained to assess grader operator's performance. CAO Bremer noted that carbide blades have been tested on the CAT machines and the operators really like them.
- Jannette Reidel, the FCSS Outcome Measures Trainer, assisted CAO Bremer with the completion of the FCSS Outcome Measures for the Starland Regional FCSS Program. She was disappointed with the reporting submitted by Prairie Land for the Family Resource Worker Program even though they have been advised in the past of the specific requirements in this regard. CAO Bremer will be sending a formal letter to Prairie Land advising them of the risk of losing this funding from Province if their reporting is not meeting the specifications set by this ministry. Ms. Reidel also noted that she would meet with PLRD and CAO Bremer via Zoom to stress the importance of this proper reporting.
- CAO Bremer and Municipal Services Director Glen Riep met with Harold Johnsrude and Annette Plachner from the Village of Morrin. The Village provided a financial report regarding their fire operations and noted that they have put funds in reserves as per the Mutual Aid Agreement. There is currently \$15,000 in a Fire Operations fund and \$15,000 in a Fire Capital Fund. Another topic of discussion included establishing a Water Agreement for the Morrin Water Plant to outline what parts of the plant belong to each jurisdiction. Glen and Harold are to work on this and have completed by the next Council meeting. This should also be completed for the Munson water plant.
- The RMA Fall Convention planning is now underway. There is a potential opportunity to meet with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Ric McIver. This request must be submitted no later than September 10th, 2021 and must include two specific policy items or issues to discuss.
- The CRMA Director's Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 13th, 2021 at the Kneehill County Administration Office in Three Hills. Agenda items must be submitted by August 3rd, 2021.
- The planning for the Grand Opening is coming along nicely. To date speakers include MP Damien Kurek, RMA president Paul McLaughlin, and a representative from Eagle Builders. Lunch and refreshments will be served, and a mini-doughnut truck will be here as well. Employees will be assisting in the preparations and will be available to give tours that day.

Vision Action Plan

A draft copy of the Vision Action Plan was circulated to Council. CAO Bremer asked that they review what has been prepared to date to make sure that they agree with the direction being taken. There will be further updates to the infrastructure portion after feedback from Ken, Glen and Ryan, as well as a Message from the CAO. A meeting to review the completed draft document will be held on August 31st, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Road Tour

The 2021 Road Tour has been tentatively scheduled for August 20th, 2021 and a bus will be hired for the day.

Community

Gareth Thomas, CPO, attended the meeting at 9:25 a.m. He reported on the

Peace Officer
Report

following:

- He has been patrolling the truck haul roads with no noted issues. He has also been regularly patrolling the campgrounds on weekends together with the Fish and Wildlife Officers. There have been no major issues in the campgrounds either.
- He did a presentation to Morrin School students in June and is planning to do further school presentations in the fall now that the COVID restrictions have been lifted.
- He has been dealing with property clean-up issues. There are unsightly properties in Craigmyle, for which property owners have been fined in the past, but the problem persists. Gareth recommended that the County consider cutting the grass on these properties and adding the cost of this service to the property tax. The tall dry grass in this hot dry weather can pose a fire hazard to the community at large.
- The new CPO vehicle will be operational by next week and will provide additional tools for the CPO to perform his duties effectively.

Departure

CPO Thomas departed the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

IT/GIS
Technician
Report

Jason Carlson, IT/GIS Technician, attended the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Jason reported on the following:

- The Bellamy financial system will be moving to a new platform in the fall. Serenic will be providing more information regarding the transition soon.
- Jason demonstrated an electronic burn permitting system that he has developed. The user identifies the parcel of land they wish to burn on and submits the permit application electronically, the permit is received by the fire guardians, the approved permit is then sent to the user and relevant fire department. The system will only accept permit applications when permits are required or allowed (not during fire bans). The system will also automatically cancel open fire permits when fire bans come into effect.
- Jason reviewed various options for sending emergency/push notifications to our citizens. Text notifications are a little more expensive than e-mail, but they are more effective (more likely to be read immediately) and easier for users. The notification system could be used for permit cancellations, water outages, emergency situations, road detours, etc.
- Jason recommended that Council consider the use of the comment-based system to gather feedback from our citizens rather than using Facebook for this purpose. He noted that much of the feedback from Facebook is lost if users are making comments on older posts. With a comment-based system, Council can view all comments made, decide which ones they wish to respond to, and which comments to post on a public forum.

Departure

Jason Carlson departed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Starland Seed
Cleaning Plant
Update

Councillor Marshall reported that the Board of the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant have amended their bylaws to include two Starland County councillors and the Starland County Agricultural Fieldman on their Board of Directors. There will be a slight modification to the building plans that will make future expansion of the facility easier, but the project is now going forward. Special Areas will lend the Starland Seed Cleaning Plant the remaining \$500,000 required to complete the build and Starland County will be contacting them regarding drafting a joint loan agreement. The loan application will be completed and sent in by the July 30, 2021 deadline for a loan issuance on September 15, 2021.

BluEarth
Renewables

BluEarth Renewables have responded to Council's tax incentive proposal and wish to accept a 50% deferral of taxes for years 1 to 10 of the project to be paid back in full during years 11 to 15 of the project. CAO Bremer will contact our lawyers to determine if the County can use the same tax incentive agreement as was used with Aura Power.

C21-207
BluEarth
Renewables
Tax Incentive
Agreement

[C21-207] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County enter into a tax deferral agreement with BluEarth Renewables as per Resolution C21-198 approving a 50% tax deferral for years 1 to 10 of the project to be paid back in full during years 11 to 15 of the project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Drumheller
Mail Contract

CAO Bremer reviewed the terms and conditions of the proposed advertising and information contract with The Drumheller Mail. Provisions in the contract include advertising and notices each week in the paper as well as provision of the newspaper to all our ratepayers. Also included in the contract is a full-page colour advertisement acknowledging our Fire Departments during Fire Prevention Week. Any advertisements for events that are hosted together with a third party will be billed separately from the contract. Costs for these services are as follows: Year 1 \$21,844.76; Year 2 \$22,280.88; and Year 3 \$22,949.28.

C21-208
The Drumheller
Mail Contract

[C21-208] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that Starland County enter into an Advertising and Information Contract with The Drumheller Mail for three (3) years with the option to renew for an additional two (2) years.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Offer to
Purchase
Rumsey Lots

CAO Bremer received a reply back from the party who had expressed interest in purchasing lots W½ 7, 8 and 9 Block 3 Plan 5120AM in Rumsey. They have advised the County that they are not interested in purchasing these lots for the full price of \$7,500.00 plus GST.

Hut 8 Holdings
Inc. – 2020 Tax
Penalty
Exemption

Hut 8 Holdings Inc. has replied to the County's correspondence denying the 2020 tax penalty exemption request. They accept Council's decision and are making arrangements to have the 2020 tax bill paid.

Amateur Team
Grant – 18-2
Beach Volleyball

The 18-2 Beach Volleyball Club has applied for the 2021 Amateur Team Grant for 36 players 18-years of age or under at \$50.00 each.

C-21-209
Amateur Team
Grant – 18-2
Beach
Volleyball

[C21-209] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that Starland County donate \$1,800.00 to the 18-2 Beach Volleyball Club through the Amateur Team Grant Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RMA 2021 Fall
Convention

The 2021 RMA Fall Convention will be held at the EXPO Centre this year from November 23rd to 26th, 2021. Council and staff attendees are booked in at the Union Bank hotel in downtown Edmonton. RMA is offering the Muni101 orientation courses for all councillors which will be held November 21st and 22nd. Administration will reserve five seats for this mandatory training.

Resolution –
Small Modular
Reactors (SMR)

Councillor Watts requested that Council consider submitting a resolution at the RMA Fall Convention that addresses public education and consultation on Small Modular Reactors. The Province of Saskatchewan currently has a SMR Advocacy/Advisory Board that partners with the University of Saskatchewan. She would like to see a similar entity here in Alberta.

State of
Agricultural
Emergency

Councillor Watts advised that Cypress County recently declared a state of agricultural emergency due to the drought. Although crops in this area are poor, Ag Fieldman Hallett does not believe that Starland meets the criteria for declaring a state of emergency at this point. Councillor Watts stated that the feed crops

in this area are in serious trouble, and this situation needs to be monitored. Ag Fieldman Hallett will continue to crop check and will review the situation at the next ASB meeting scheduled for August 10th, 2021.

C21-210
Motion to
Proceed in
Closed Session

[C21-210] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that under the exemption granted by Section 17, Division 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent, and Councillors Rew, Watts and Marshall and staff Bremer and Fazekas proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-211
Motion to
Proceed Out of
Closed Session

[C21-211] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 1:35 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CLV Waterline
Replacement –
Tender Results

Municipal Services Director Riep attended the meeting at 1:35 p.m. MSD Riep reviewed the terms of the tender with Council. The scope of work includes some additional valves and work on the waterline. The existing line will remain operational during the installation of the new line. MPE is currently doing design work on moving the CLV subterranean station to a new building above ground. Any surplus funding from the Municipal Stimulus Program grant can be used for this project and will be an add-on to the CLV Waterline Replacement project. MPE received four tenders for the waterline replacement and recommends awarding the tender to 1998372 AB Ltd from Black Diamond, Alberta in the amount of \$169,827.00.

C21-212
CLV Waterline
Replacement –
Tender Award

[C21-212] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County award the tender for the CLV Waterline Replacement to 1998372 AB Ltd in the amount of \$169,827.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-213
Adjourn
Meeting

[C21-213] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the Council meeting be temporarily adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to allow for a public hearing on Bylaw 1176.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-214
Resume
Meeting

[C21-214] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MARSHALL

that the Council meeting be resumed at 2:23 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-215
Bylaw 1176 -
2nd Reading

[C21-215] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Bylaw 1176, a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 1125 as follows: “In Part VI, Land Use Districts, add Medical Marihuana Production Facility to the Rural Small Holding District (RSH) as a Discretionary Use,” be given second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-216
Bylaw 1176 –
3rd and Final
Reading

[C21-216] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Bylaw 1176, a bylaw to amend Land Use Bylaw 1125 as follows: “In Part VI, Land Use Districts, add Medical Marihuana Production Facility to the Rural Small Holding District (RSH) as a Discretionary Use,” be given third and final reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rumsey School
Site

Municipal Services Director Riep provided Council with an update on the Rumsey School Project. He was hoping to do more levelling at the site before landscaping, but the more they tried to move dirt, the more refuse they dug up. Councillor Watts advised that the community would be happy with a grassy area and a large community fire pit. MSD Riep will look at opening the old school gate to provide another access to the site.

Departure

MSD Riep and Terri Huxley departed the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

C21-217
Motion to
Proceed in
Closed Session

[C21-217] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that under the exemption granted by Section 17, Division 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent, and Councillors Rew, Watts and Marshall and staff Bremer and Fazekas proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 2:35 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-218
Motion to
Proceed Out of
Closed Session

[C21-218] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 3:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-219
Apogee
Petroleum Inc. -
Taxes

[C21-219] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Apogee Petroleum Inc. be granted a one-time 25% exemption on the 2021 municipal tax portion of acquired Trident Assets only, and that all 2021 requisitions, including Alberta School Foundation Fund, Designated Industrial Property, and Seniors Housing requisitions must be paid in full.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-220
West Drum
Energy Ltd. -
Taxes

[C21-220] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that West Drum Energy Ltd. be granted a one-time 25% exemption on the 2021 municipal tax portion of acquired Trident Assets only, and that all 2021 requisitions, including Alberta School Foundation Fund, Designated Industrial Property, and Seniors Housing requisitions must be paid in full.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C21-221
Apogee
Petroleum Inc. -
Correspondence

[C21-221] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County Administration prepare correspondence to Apogee Petroleum Inc. advising them of their future tax payment options.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Alberta Municipal Affairs re: Approval of PERC Application.
- ii. County of Forty Mile No. 8; Town of Fairview; Lac La Biche County; Town of Turner Valley; Village of Holden; Village of Rockyford; Town of Viking; Town of Beaverlodge re: Support for RCMP.
- iii. Town of Ponoka re: Request for support in writing letters to

ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES	CK# 52489	10.00
ALBERTA ONE-CALL CORPORATION	CK# 52490	33.08
ATB FINANCIAL MASTERCARD	CK# 52491	4,610.72
AUTO VALUE PARTS – DRUMHELLER	CK# 52492	1,224.89
BARRON, FRANCIS	CK# 52493	1,232.00
BIG COUNTRY GAS CO-OP	CK# 52494	197.54
BLOOM	CK# 52495	3,150.00
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITOR	CK# 52496	416.06
BURT, EDWIN L.	CK# 52497	150.00
C CAN STORE INC.	CK# 52498	3,228.75
CALGARY PETERBILT LTD.	CK# 52499	14.96
CAMPUS ENERGY	CK# 52500	10,011.42
CANADIAN TIRE #439	CK# 52501	227.70
CAPITAL "I" INDUSTRIES	CK# 52502	395.66
CERVUS AG EQUIPMENT LP	CK# 52503	132.20
CHAMPION COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS INC.	CK# 52504	1,827.17
CLEARTECH INDUSTRIES INC.	CK# 52505	1,129.80
DIGITAL CONNECTION INC.	CK# 52506	1,546.21
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 52507	450.17
DINOSAUR OILFIELD CONSTRUCTION LTD.	CK# 52508	1,050.00
DIRECT ENERGY REGULATED SERVICES	CK# 52509	47.01
DIRECTDIAL.COM	CK# 52510	1,426.60
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	CK# 52511	175.32
DRUMHELLER CHRYSLER	CK# 52512	554.40
DRUMHELLER EQUIPMENT SALES AND RENTALS	CK# 52513	115.29
EAST CENTRAL GAS CO-OP LTD.	CK# 52514	212.95
ECS SAFETY SERVICES LTD.	CK# 52515	75.08
ENMAX	CK# 52516	101.24
FINNING (CANADA)	CK# 52517	3,150.00
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 52518	530.70
GARRY'S WELDING AND SUPPLIES	CK# 52519	948.15
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 52520	3,443.83
GREATWEST KENWORTH LTD.	CK# 52521	851.68
HALLETT, RYAN	CK# 52522	131.25
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICE	CK# 52523	16,504.54
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 52524	1,796.54
HT CATERING & MEATS	CK# 52525	2,454.38
HYDRODIG CANADA INC.	CK# 52526	2,415.00
JILL CLAYHOLT PHOTOGRAPHY	CK# 52527	630.00
KLEINSCHROTH, TERENA R.	CK# 52528	755.15
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 52529	122.84
M&M ELECTRIC	CK# 52530	157.24
MARQUEE LAND SERVICES LTD.	CK# 52531	269.99
MEGA-TECH	CK# 52532	3,075.15
MONTGOMERY, EVAN	CK# 52533	75.00
MPE ENGINEERING LTD.	CK# 52534	10,517.85
NETAGO	CK# 52535	320.00
NEW WEST FREIGHTLINER INC.	CK# 52536	156.22
PALLISER REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES	CK# 52537	119.60
PEEVEY ELECTRIC LTD.	CK# 52538	5,103.07
PRONGHORN CONTROLS	CK# 52539	1,039.50
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 52540	90.19
REACT FIRST AID & SAFETY SERVICES	CK# 52541	609.00
RIEP, GLEN	CK# 52542	5,920.92
RMA FUEL	CK# 52543	71,177.82
ROADATA SERVICES LTD.	CK# 52544	343.36
SAGE ANALYTICS INC.	CK# 52545	1,732.50

