

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, November 10th, 2021

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, November 10th, 2021, commencing at 9:02 a.m.

Attendance	Present: Reeve: Steve Wannstrom Deputy Reeve: Bob Sargent Councillors: Mark Landry, John Rew (9:07 a.m.), and Jackie Watts Staff: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Shirley Bremer Corporate Services Director (CSD) Judy Fazekas Legislative Services Director (LSD) Jason Carlson
<u>C21-286</u> Agenda Approval	<u>[C21-286] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY</u> that the agenda for the November 10 th , 2021 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the addition of one agenda item: Discussion on columbariums for cemeteries as per request by Councillor Watts. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
<u>C21-287</u> Approval of Amended Minutes	<u>[C21-287] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT</u> that the minutes of the October 27 th , 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved with the following change: Councillor Watts reported that Patty Steen would like to have the exterior door of the Rumsey Post Office/Library building replaced. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
<u>C21-288</u> Approval of Organizational Minutes	<u>[C21-288] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY</u> that the minutes of the October 27 th , 2021 organizational meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Accounts	Councillor Landry and Councillor Watts checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery on November 10 th , 2021.
<u>C21-289</u> Accounts	<u>[C21-289] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS</u> that accounts (cheque numbers 52991 to 53073) totalling \$434,379.97 be approved for payment. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Attendance	Councillor Rew entered meeting at 9:07 a.m.
<u>C21-290</u> Financial Statements	<u>[C21-290] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS</u> that the financial statement for the period ending October 31, 2021 be approved as submitted. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
CAO Report	CAO Bremer reviewed the CAO Report with Council. Highlights of the report

included the following:

- CAO Bremer, CSD Fazekas, and LSD Carlson worked on getting grants applications up to date. For 2021 MSI Capital they included the following:
 - Re-graveling Program \$750,000
 - Opening Morton Pit & Crush \$725,000
 - Walker Road Construction \$500,000
 - BF74375 \$190,000
 - BF06918 \$700,000

For the Federal Gas Tax Fund (FGTF) now known as the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) BF06918 was applied for as well. Upon grant approval, the desired projection start date of engineering and studies would be completed in 2022 and construction in 2023 or 2024.
- CAO Bremer, CSD Fazekas, and LSD Carlson are enrolled for virtual training sessions with Municipal Affairs on grant applications and reporting.
- CAO Bremer virtually attended the Land & Property Tribunal Development Appeal hearing last Thursday for the appeal against the Wind Farm Development in the Handhills. As Glen Riep was not able to attend CAO Bremer was the spokesperson. Some concerns causing the appeal were dust concerns on Range Rd 17-2, a review of the Road Use agreement (RUA) and the reclamation and decommissioning plan. It was also questioned whether Starland County should require a Performance Bond in case the operator was to go bankrupt. Kelly Fitzpatrick will be given time to review the information provided before the tribunal board decision is made.
- CAO Bremer had a follow-up conversation with Paul McLauchlin on November 1st regarding writing a statement of concern for each of the delinquent oil and gas companies. He noted that they had been very busy and hadn't got a draft statement completed yet but hoped to send one to us by the end of last week. Hopefully we will receive something soon in this regard.
- Public Works Manager Ken Menage is gathering information regarding gravel crushers and hopes to have a Request for Proposal (RFP) out soon for the spring crush of the Morton Pit. One concern is references should be used as part of the evaluation due to the history of poor quality controls in past crushes which can cause considerable liability issues.
- All County operations will be closed on Thursday, November 11th, 2021 in honour of Remembrance Day.

Recreation
Grants

Administration has done up a list of proposed grant funds to go to each of the applications for the 2021 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.

C21-291
**Operational
Grants**

[C21-291] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

That Starland County fund the Operational Grant Program in the amount of \$95,000 and that the funds be distributed as below:

Craigmyle Historic Society	\$ 2,134.60
Craigmyle Civic Centre	2,023.85
Delia & District Ag Society	21,760.03
Delia & District Comm. Assoc.	1,703.81
Delia & District Hist. Society	2,064.31
Delia & District Senior Citizens	3,185.15
Delia Curling Club	7,323.23
Morrin & District Ag Society	18,997.04
Morrin Community Hall	3,925.76
Morrin Hist. Pk. and Sod House	1,921.29
Morrin Municipal Library	789.67

Munson & Area Comm. Assoc.	2,655.60
Rowley Comm. Hall Assoc.	8,303.46
Rumsey & District Ag Society	12,005.65
Rumsey Community Library	801.15
Rumsey Drop-In Centre	1,984.18
Verdant Valley Ag Society	3,421.22

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C21-292
Ice Plant Grants

[C21-292] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

That Starland County fund the Ice Plant Grant Program in the amount of \$38,000 and that the funds be distributed as below:

Delia & District Ag Society	\$	15,376.90
Morrin & District Ag Society		13,801.29
Rumsey & District Ag Society		8,821.81

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RMA Fall
Convention
Information

Council was given a copy of the agenda for the Fall RMA Conference which will be held at the Edmonton Expo Centre November 23rd – 26th. The Elected Official Education Program Munis 101 course will take place on November 22nd and 23rd. Administration also prepared a summary with recommendations noted of all the resolutions that will be under consideration at the conference. Council also discussed what issues they wanted to address during their meeting with the Municipal Affairs Minister Hon. Ric McIver.

MSI Capital
Grants

The Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital funding was reduced to an average of \$722 million annually over the three year period from 2021 to 2023. For both 2022 and 2023 every municipality and Metis Settlement is estimated to receive 40.6% of what they received in 2021. Administration will look up the 5 years prior to 2020 for comparison. MSI operating allocations will be frozen at the 2021 level for both 2022 and 2023 to provide some stability.

2022 Equalized
Assessment

Starland County was provided with its 2022 equalized assessment numbers which the provincial government uses to base their grants and requisitions on. This year's assessment has dropped from \$669,771,691 to \$651,419,657 which is a 2.74% drop.

Bill 77: Restoring
Tax
Accountability

CAO Bremer, Reeve Wannstrom, Councillor Watts, & LSD Carlson attended a webinar put on by Alberta Council on Bill 77. The proposed Bill if passed will give counties the ability to go after both the operator and owners of non-linear assets if taxes are past due. It also puts municipalities in a better position to collect unpaid taxes if a company goes bankrupt. There will be a learning curve as this will be a new process and it will require Starland's Bylaws to be updated. Alberta Council will be a good resource to navigate these changes and it was recommended CSD Fazekas and LSD Carlson subscribe to their email list.

Central Alberta
Assessment
Review Board

Council was given the Central Alberta Assessment Review Board's 2022 Board Member Recruitment Package. Councillor Watts is current with training and can represent our County if required. Councillor Watts believes Lillian Morrison is also trained and suggested someone check to see if she is interested.

Starland Seed
Cleaning Plant

Council was presented with an investor update. Contracts are signed but land titles are backed up and it is now too late in the season for Special Areas to mobilize their equipment to begin preparing the site grounds for construction. That work will need to be deferred until next spring. They will also prepare a smaller footprint of land affecting only the land where the seed plant will be constructed making it more cost efficient. The Seed Cleaning Plant's AGM is on November 29th at 7:00pm. It was recommended the County councillors that serve on the Seed Plant Committee ask whether utilities have been requested for installation.

AlphaBow

AlphaBow Energy Ltd. submitted a letter saying they believed their assessed

Energy Ltd
Assessment
Complaint

values are unrealistic and unreasonable. Disputing assessment values is not within the County's control. AlphaBow has sent similar letters to PaintEarth and Ponoka County as well. The assessor did respond saying AlphaBow's claimed numbers of active sites were incorrect and the assessor believed their assessment values were fair.

Tax Write Offs
PERC/DIRC
Reimbursement
Requests

CSD Fazekas presented a list of taxes that will be written off to allow for Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) Reimbursements. When taxes are unpaid, the County is still responsible for paying Educational and Designated Industrial (DI) taxes on what was owed. Once unpaid taxes from bankrupt companies are written off, a credit for those can be requested. Councillor Watts will follow up with the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to find out why Capital Oil is still on the roles as the company is gone.

C21-293
Tax Write Offs
PERC/DIRC
Reimbursement
Requests

[C21-293] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that unpaid taxes be written off for the following bankrupt companies and that Starland County apply for any PERC/DIRC credits available. Taxes to be written of are:

Sanling Energy Ltd	\$	582,337.46
Trident Exploration (WX) Corp		10,027.63
Trident Limited Partnership		15,997.36
Capital Oil		574.49

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2022 Tax Sale

CAO Bremer is recommending we hold our 2022 Tax Sale on February 23rd, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. There was a discussion around whether Starland could clean a property before it was sold but that would not be allowed. Administration will investigate whether it could be made a condition of the sale that the new owners clean it up. Lands are to be advertised in the December 31st, 2021 Alberta Gazette.

C21-294
2022 Tax Sale

[C21-294] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the date and time for our 2022 tax sale be on February 23, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Subdivision &
Development
Appeal Board

Alan Hampton was suggested as being a member at large for the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Committee (SDAB). Council suggested that he take the training early next year and they will make the appropriate appointment at that time.

Historical School
Signs

Starland County has had a request for signage on two historical school sites: Hillsgreen (NW ¼ 19-31-20-W4M) and Lloyd George School (SE ¼ 14-32-19-W4M). The question was asked if council was willing to honour the 2016 motion to assist with historical school signs. Council has recommended Starland check to see if Larry Anderson would be willing to do an assessment of all the historical schools' signage and provide an up to date list of signs needed. It was suggested the County perhaps pay him an honorarium for each sign he researches plus mileage. Starland will look into putting the Munson and Verdant Valley's school signs that need to be re-installed.

P10 Budget
Report

CSD Fazekas reviewed with Council the Budget Report to the end of October 31, 2021. Tax revenues for 2021 have been revised to \$12,312,084 to accommodate tax abatements granted. As of November 9th, 2021 outstanding tax receivables are \$2,725,565 of which \$1,364,594 are owing from two companies that have entered into tax payment agreements. Total tax receivables outstanding as of November 9th, 2021 are \$4,075,095. Penalties assessed in October 2021 are \$115,568 and year to date penalties are \$270,594, the bulk of which belong to Alphasow Energy and Sanling Energy. We have budgeted \$120,000 in PERC for the write offs of unpaid taxes primarily from Sanling

Energy and Trident. The MSI Capital Grant has not been received to date. Campground revenue has exceeded budget by close to \$80,000 as of the end of October 2021. The campgrounds were almost self-sufficient in 2021.

Administration will investigate how much money is kept by the province when our Bylaw enforcement issues a ticket.

Columbarium for Rumsey Cemetery Councillor Watts received a request we consider getting a columbarium for the Rumsey cemetery. A columbarium is a structure for the respectful and usually public storage of funerary urns. An increasing number of folks are requesting to be cremated and this would provide a space and cost saving option. Administration will investigate some costing options.

Adding Committee Member CAO Bremer is requesting a motion to appoint Dara Kudras onto the following committees as she is returning from her maternity leave on December 1st:
Starland Agricultural Service Board
Starland County ASB Weed Inspector/Pest Control Officer and Soil Conservation Officer
Starland Safety Committee

C21-295 **[C21-295] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY**
Appointments of Dara Kudras
that Dara Kudras be appointed as Starland County A.S.B. Weed Inspector, Pest Control Officer and Soil Conservation Officer; and that Dara Kudras also be appointed as a committee member on:
• Starland Agricultural Service Board
• Starland Safety Committee

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Council Communications Council Communications:
i. Alberta Environment and Parks re: Thank You for Ongoing Support.
ii. Prairie Land Public School Division
• Board Highlights
• Prairie Land Pride
iii. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) re:
• Contact Newsletter – 2 issues.

Accounts Accounts - see prior motion.

CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA	CK# 52991	109,428.28
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 52992	9,702.00
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 52993	353.35
GREENE, ALICIA	CK# 52994	18.36
LAPP	CK# 52995	21,173.30
LOOMIS EXPRESS	CK# 52996	45.84
DMACD FARMS LTD	CK# 52997	150.00
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 52998	50,658.22
TELUS	CK# 52999	221.82
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORPORATION	CK# 53000	51.78
1065728 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53001	50.00
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 53002	4,331.25
APEX UTILITIES INC.	CK# 53003	1,703.07
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53004	709.82
OLD MACDONALD KENNELS, ANIMAL SERVICES	CK# 53005	1,654.80
A.P.I. ALARM INC.	CK# 53006	110.25
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 53007	685.90
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES INC.	CK# 53008	1,121.23

ADAMS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES INC.	CK# 53009	339.05
AIR LIQUIDE CANADA INC.	CK# 53010	426.42
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES	CK# 53011	10.00
ALBERTA MUNICIPAL DATA SHARING PARTNERSH	CK# 53012	200.00
ALTA-WEST	CK# 53013	1,824.90
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 53014	2,115.36
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	CK# 53015	14,279.49
BRANDT TRACTOR LTD.	CK# 53016	80.12
DAVIDSON, DARCY	CK# 53017	1,000.00
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 53018	459.97
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 53019	110.94
DRUMHELLER EQUIPMENT SALES AND RENTALS	CK# 53020	525.00
ENMAX	CK# 53021	186.56
FRANK FLAMAN SALES LTD.	CK# 53022	776.41
FORT GARRY FIRE TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 53023	658.95
FOUNTAIN TIRE LTD.	CK# 53024	32.28
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 53025	82.38
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 53026	71.21
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA	CK# 53027	220.50
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICES CO	CK# 53028	13,871.61
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53029	401.19
IMAGE CRAFTER SIGNS INC.	CK# 53030	1,538.25
KIEMELE, LANCE	CK# 53031	1,000.00
KRYWCUN, DEREK J.	CK# 53032	282.50
LARSEN, MARTIN	CK# 53033	309.02
MARTIN, KEITH	CK# 53034	1,000.00
NELSON, MELANIE	CK# 53035	1,680.00
NEW WEST FREIGHTLINER INC.	CK# 53036	1,103.11
OLMSTEAD, BRENT	CK# 53037	1,000.00
PEEVEY ELECTRIC LTD.	CK# 53038	209.27
PEEVEY ELECTRIC LTD.	CK# 53039	410.03
PIONEER RESEARCH CORPORATION	CK# 53040	4,277.86
PRAIRIE LAND REGIONAL DIVISION NO 25	CK# 53041	90,000.00
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 53042	40.22
QUEST FABRICATION	CK# 53043	1,487.23
RED DEER IRRIGATION LTD.	CK# 53044	273.00
RMA INSURANCE	CK# 53045	25.75
ROADATA SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53046	614.25
ROYAL CARETAKING SUPPLIES INC.	CK# 53047	401.09
SEED CHECK TECHNOLOGIES INC.	CK# 53048	353.85
SOUTH HILL WINDOW & AWNING	CK# 53049	5,694.15
STETTTLER TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	CK# 53050	367.50
STEVENS, DALLAS	CK# 53051	1,000.00
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 53052	151.20
TELUS	CK# 53053	908.81
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 53054	2,451.75
THE DRUMHELLER MAIL	CK# 53055	184.80
TOWN OF DRUMHELLER	CK# 53056	2,738.69
UFA CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED	CK# 53057	14,209.79
VILLAGE OF DELIA	CK# 53058	9,800.00
VILLAGE OF MORRIN	CK# 53059	10,075.15
VILLAGE OF MUNSON	CK# 53060	4,200.00
WANNSTROM, STEVE	CK# 53061	4,576.70
WARWICK PRINTING CO. LTD	CK# 53062	1,823.64
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORPORATION	CK# 53063	430.28
WATER PURE & SIMPLE MINILAKE		

DIST LTD.	CK# 53064	45.00
WESTERN CHEVROLET BUICK		
GMC LTD.	CK# 53065	33.77
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 53066	1,164.52
WIART DIRTWORK LTD.	CK# 53067	5,817.00
WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE	CK# 53068	7,875.00
WOLSELEY WATERWORKS	CK# 53069	12,992.07
WOOD WYANT CANADA INC.	CK# 53070	121.93
1325856 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53071	113.00
20/20 SEED LABS INC	CK# 53072	171.68
2021 IN-SERVICE TRAINING	CK# 53073	1,586.50

TOTAL: \$ 434,379.97

C21-296
Adjournment

[C21-296] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the meeting be adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, December 8th, 2021, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.



Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom



Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer