

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, June 22nd, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022, commencing at 9:26 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Reeve: Steve Wannstrom
Deputy Reeve: Bob Sargent
Councillors: John Rew, Mark Landry, and Jackie Watts
Staff: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Shirley Bremer
Corporate Services Director (CSD)
Judy Fazekas
Legislative Services Director (LSD)
Jason Carlson

C22-148 Agenda Approval

[C22-148] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the agenda for the June 22nd, 2022 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the following additions:

- Ag Service Board Appointments

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-149 Approval of Minutes

[C22-149] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the June 8th, 2022 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Councillor Watts and Councillor Landry checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery on June 22nd, 2022.

C22-150 Accounts

[C22-150] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that accounts (cheque numbers 54096 to 54181) totalling \$188,732.42 be approved for payment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAO Report

CAO Bremer reviewed the CAO Report with Council. Highlights of the report included the following:

- In our new agency agreement with ATB Financial, they are requiring the Agency partner to complete various ATB Business courses. Although we have three employees trained to perform the operations of the agency, they are requiring Shirley Bremer, as the signatory, to complete these courses as well. Bremer has completed seven courses, each approximately 45 minutes long and was able to pass and get her certification for each one.
- CAO Bremer and Municipal Services Director (MSD), Glen Riep had another Land Use Bylaw meeting with Devin Diano and Jonathan Schmidt of Palliser Regional Services. Schmidt is carefully going through our old bylaw, pointing out all discrepancies with our Municipal Development Plan (MDP), making changes as necessary to areas that have changed over time, and making additions for items not included previously. They feel they will have a draft bylaw ready for review with Council by the end of August or early September.
- The County has been working with Lacombe Signmasters on getting the information required so they can start fabrication of the break-away sign posts for our new highway entrance signs. Colby and Doug were able to assist them by getting them the elevations and GPS of

the locations. They will be making all eight signs; however, we will be storing four of them until spring. We will pay for the four large signs this summer and the other four signs early next year. Bremer is also in the process of completing an application to Alberta Transportation for sign installation. Although it sounds like it will be an easier process, simply because we are just replacing the signs, there is still some paperwork to be completed.

- Bremer informed council of some staff holidays that are upcoming in the next month.
- CAO Bremer, Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent, and Councillors Watts and Landry attended the new Morrin School Sod Turning Event last Friday. There was a good turn-out even though the thunder clouds were looming. The community is very excited to be building a new school and to have it underway. School Trustee Ken MacFarlane had the honour of the actual sod turning.
- CAO Bremer informed council that Monday night four pieces of equipment were vandalized for the purpose of stealing their fuel. One unit had the fuel line cut.
- The County received a bad order of the Magnesium chloride dust control agent (MG30) as it was discovered that shortly after application the product crystalized and disappeared. The supplier will replace it, however there is no commitment from the supplier yet to cover the extra costs of re-applying. Bad product was also delivered to another municipality so will be in communication with them on how the vendor is handling the issue.
- The RMA Scholarship requires applicants to receive a letter from the CAO to verify they are a resident of our county. We received one request so far.
- Bremer also informed council that the County has now received the title transfer for the Rumsey property (Kish).

Outstanding Tax Arrears

The County accepted Tallahassee Exploration Inc's tax payment recommendation but Brownlee LLP has not yet heard any responses from them.

The County has received two cheques from Long Run Exploration Ltd. One cheque is for the principal of their debt and the other cheque is to cover all penalties. Cheques have now been deposited.

Alpha Bow Statement of Claim Commenced

Brownlee has initiated the process of the statement of claim against Alpha Bow for their outstanding taxes. Brownlee is including a reference to our tax bylaw.

Aura's Tax Incentive Agreement

CAO Bremer provided an update on Aura's Tax Incentive Agreement where we are waiting to hear back from them. It is currently in Brownlee LLP's hands.

Gordon Taylor Bridge Drumheller

Previously, the County had sent a letter of support for the Gordon Taylor Bridge project in Drumheller. The County has now received a reply from the Minister of Transportation, Rajan Sawhney; that although the plan was originally on hold while the Town of Drumheller was planning their flood mitigation project; they are now proceeding to consider the recommendation to remove one portion of one sidewalk to allow for a wider roadway. This will make it easier for trucks carrying wide loads to navigate the curves in the road at each end of the bridge.

Sick Leave Policy

CAO Bremer, reported to council that no staff have been using the exemption and there have not been any reports of significant Covid outbreaks in our area. The recommendation was to not extend the exemption giving a temporary removal of the requirement for a doctor's note for Covid related illnesses. If the exemption is not renewed, starting July 1st, 2022, the policy will go back to how it was.

Council Code of Conduct

Legislative Services Director, Jason Carlson presented Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 1187 which would repeal and replace Bylaw 1133. Four years ago,

Bylaw 1133/1187

municipalities were required under new legislation to have a Council Code of Conduct bylaw in place. With these bylaws in place for four years, Brownlee LLP hosted a workshop session to address some concerns they have seen developing. LSD Carlson, CAO Bremer and CSD Fazekas attended the Brownlee LLP session and found it very informative. LSD Carlson, went over his Staff Recommendations report to address the concerns highlighted by Brownlee that were applicable to Starland County's previous bylaw. Highlights of the changes are:

- use clear, unambiguous language
- allow public complaints
- help protect council and County resources from frivolous and vexatious complaints
- ensure code does not go beyond the Council's jurisdiction
- change limit on value of accepted gifts to a reasonable amount commonly accepted based on Brownlee's observations

C22-151
Bylaw 1187 –
Council Code of
Conduct Bylaw

[C22-151] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Bylaw 1187, for the purpose of updating the Council Code of Conduct for Starland County, which will repeal and replace Bylaw 1133, be established as presented with the following changes:

- Section 3.3 remove "and supported"
- Section 4.1(a) be split into multiple sections for easier reading
- Section 4.1 add section clearly stating that anonymous complaints will not be accepted

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-152
Bylaw 1187 –
1st Reading

[C22-152] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Bylaw 1187, for the purpose of updating the Council Code of Conduct for Starland County, be given first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-153
Bylaw 1187 –
2nd Reading

[C22-153] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Bylaw 1187, for the purpose of updating the Council Code of Conduct for Starland County, be given second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-154
Bylaw 1187 –
Motion to have
3rd Reading

[C22-154] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Bylaw 1187 be presented for third reading at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-155
Bylaw 1187 –
3rd and Final
Reading

[C22-155] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Bylaw 1187, for the purpose of updating the Council Code of Conduct for Starland County, be given third reading and finally passed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2022
Spring/Summer
Newsletter &
Guide Brochures

Council reviewed the 2022 Spring/Summer newsletter, the Tourism Attraction Brochure, and the Tourism Campground Brochure. Council noted they were coming together nicely and gave good feedback on some changes in the content.

Senior Housing
Housing
Management Body
Board Legislative

The Minister of Seniors and Housing, Josephine Pon, sent a letter that outlines the changes in the Alberta Housing Amendment Act, 2021 that was proclaimed on April 20, 2022; and the amendments to the Management Body Operation and Administration Regulation (MBOAR) that have now come into effect.

Changes

The Housing Management Body (HMB) boards are now required to have their board members meet specific “competencies” and diversity requirements.

It is good to have boards consider building a team with a wide range of skills and backgrounds, however council did have some concerns on how it will be determined if the members of the board meet these “competency” requirements. Another concern was what happens to the smaller communities who may be forced to bring members on the board in order to meet these requirements who have no invested concern for the local community. It would be good in those situations that those members would only serve only as advisory board members and not be voting members to better protect the community.

Additional ASB Annual Appointments

Starland’s Agricultural Service Board (ASB) requires annual appointments of their Weed Inspectors, Pest Control Officers, and Soil Conservation Officers. Council already made a motion [C22-011] in January to appoint Ryan Hallett and Dara Kudras. We have since hired Marcia as a temporary replacement for Dara Kudras and some seasonal staff. As such, the ASB requires a motion to have Marcia Raymond, Travis Cawiezel, Amanda Holowath, and Charlese Gridley appointed to be Weed Inspectors, Pest Control Officers, and Soil Conservation Officers.

C22-156
ASB Annual Appointment for Weed Inspector, Pest Control Officer & Soil Conservation Officer

[C22-156] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Marcia Raymond, Travis Cawiezel, Amanda Holowath, and Charlese Gridley; be appointed as Weed Inspectors, Pest Control Officers, and Soil Conservation Officers for Starland County for the year of 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attendance

Reeve Wannstrom left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Municipal Information Network

Councillor Watts brought information about the Municipal Information Network and the benefits a subscription could bring the County. A one-year subscription would cost \$285.

C22-157
Municipal Information Network Subscription

[C22-157] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County purchase a one-year membership subscription to the Municipal Information Network for \$285.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attendance

Reeve Wannstrom returned to the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Attendance

Deputy Reeve Sargent left the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Attendance

Tim Duhamel of Bloom Centre for Municipal Education entered the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Long Term Tax Strategy Proposal

Tim Duhamel of Bloom Centre for Municipal Education presented his final draft of the Long-Term Municipal Tax Strategy for Starland County. Although there are short term solutions, this strategy was focused on longer solutions that provide the County more sustainability. The strategy also highlighted risks such as the dependence on grants that are decreasing and are unstable.

Attendance

Deputy Reeve Sargent entered the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Long Term Tax Strategy Proposal
continued

The opportunities the strategy recommends:

- Take full advantage of the 5 to 1 split rate allowance under the legislation as the reasoning behind it was well justified for municipalities in similar situations.
- Implement steady and normalized tax increases to meet budgetary

requirements, rather than reducing budgets as we deal with inflation cost increases.

- Have public engagement and education initiatives that enhance ratepayer's understanding of why tax increases are required.
- Review opportunities for business licensing to help understand more economic development needs they can assist in the region.
- Consider service levels and implement priority-based budgeting methodology to reduce future budgetary requirements.
- Develop an aggressive economic development and business attraction strategy that support job creation and bringing populations back to rural areas.
- Continuation of green infrastructure attraction.
- Consider business park development adjacent to the Town of Drumheller.
- Inter-municipal collaboration on residential development with the Town of Drumheller.

Each of these strategy opportunities will require further review, analysis, and public engagement to develop an action plan.

Attendance

Tim Duhamel left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

C22-158
Long Term Tax
Strategy

[C22-158] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Starland County adopt the Long-Term Tax Strategy as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
Committees

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

Attendance

Delegation from Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) members:

- Kimberley Worthington, Executive Director, CAEP
- Faye McGhee, Director, CAEP; Councillor, Kneehill County

entered the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

CAEP
Presentation

Kimberley Worthington & Faye McGhee representing the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) started the presentation summarizing what they do.

CAEP was formed in 1998. Started in Red Deer because they recognized value in rural and urban municipalities working together because they depended on each other. Our partnership would be based on population and although no events are required, the more we participate, the more value we will get out of the membership. They recently completed a survey to see what would elevate the region over the next 5 years bringing new residents to the region and have succession planning in place. They provide training and resources to help us build a strategy.

Faye McGhee then spoke to council on what it is like being a board member from her perspective of serving as a councillor for Kneehill County. She is very excited to be part of the board and see the work being done around economic development in the region. Faye was also excited that the new chair is a business owner and the executive director has 25 years of economic development experience and knowledge. This huge wealth of tools, knowledge, and resources are available to their members. Working as regions gives municipalities an advantage as the pace things are happening is increasing in global economies.

Economic development is about providing an environment that allows our residents to be able to provide a means of providing for their families. They also noticed that Foreign Domestic Investment (FDI) is at an all time high.

Attendance

At 3:13 p.m. the delegation from CAEP departed from the meeting.

C22-159
CAEP
Membership

[C22-159] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Starland County purchase a one year membership to the Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) costing \$0.70/citizen, for a total cost of \$1,274.70.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-160
Purchase CAEP's
Robust
Community
Profile Resource
Report

[C22-160] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Starland County purchase the robust community profile resource report from the Central Alberta Economic Partnership in the amount of \$4500.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
 Committees
Continued

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

Council
 Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Town of Tofield re: Alberta Provincial Police Force & Alberta Utility Fees
- ii. Rural Economic Development & Rural Broadband Strategy re: Economic Development in a rural community – 3 most important issues impacting us
- iii. Alberta Health Services Provincial EMS Service Planning Survey Results
- iv. Prairie Land Public School Division re: Board Highlights
- v. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) re:
 - Contact Newsletter – 2 Issues

C22-161
Proceed in
Closed Session

[C22-161] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that under the exemptions granted by Sections 17 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act, Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent, Councillors Rew, Watts, and Landry, and staff members Bremer, Fazekas, and Carlson proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 3:20 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attendance

CSD Fazekas and LSD Carlson left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

C22-162
Proceed Out of
Closed Session

[C22-162] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 3:59 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attendance

CSD Fazekas entered the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Accounts

ACCU-FLO METER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 54096	166.95
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 54097	233.07
ATB FINANCIAL MASTERCARD	CK# 54098	4,467.30
AWES	CK# 54099	245.50
BRANDT TRACTOR LTD.	CK# 54100	252.07
CAMPUS ENERGY PARTNERS LP	CK# 54101	12,908.95
CHRIST THE REDEEMER CATHOLIC EDUCATION C	CK# 54102	4,291.50
COSENS, JASON	CK# 54103	32.00
COUTURIER, TERRY	CK# 54104	32.00
DIRECTDIAL.COM	CK# 54105	3,125.71
DONE DEAL DELIVERY	CK# 54106	55.44
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 54107	401.34
GREATWEST KENWORTH LTD.	CK# 54108	377.79
KEATLEY, JONATHAN	CK# 54109	140.00
KNEEHILL COUNTY	CK# 54110	2,239.70
LANDRY, MARK	CK# 54111	5,499.95

LAPP	CK# 54112	22,297.80
MPE ENGINEERING LTD.	CK# 54113	4,496.42
NATIONAL CONCRETE ACCESSORIES	CK# 54114	1,424.14
PHASE 3 SECURITY INC.	CK# 54115	5,307.75
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 54116	10,605.12
RIEP, GLEN	CK# 54117	1,634.68
TAB PRODUCTS OF CANADA, CO.	CK# 54118	2,358.98
TELUS	CK# 54119	258.70
TLC VENTURES INC.	CK# 54120	3,181.50
TRAVEL DRUMHELLER	CK# 54121	3,500.00
UFA CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED	CK# 54122	629.99
UNIFIED ALLOYS	CK# 54123	494.95
VILLAGE OF MUNSON	CK# 54124	360.00
WEARPRO EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY LTD.	CK# 54125	267.75
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL	CK# 54126	2,487.52
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 54127	2,773.57
BIG COUNTRY GAS CO-OP	CK# 54128	327.81
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 54129	106.75
DRUMHELLER EQUIPMENT SALES AND RENTALS	CK# 54130	1,289.13
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 54131	116.18
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICES CO	CK# 54132	16,052.49
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 54133	454.20
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 54134	719.49
RMA INSURANCE	CK# 54135	20.60
ROADATA SERVICES LTD.	CK# 54136	396.91
STETTLER TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	CK# 54137	367.50
TAQA NORTH	CK# 54138	21.00
TOWN OF DRUMHELLER	CK# 54139	3,062.72
VILLAGE OF DELIA	CK# 54140	214.30
WARWICK PRINTING CO. LTD	CK# 54141	75.60
WATER PURE & SIMPLE MINILAKE DIST LTD.	CK# 54142	108.00
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 54143	1,210.17
WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE	CK# 54144	7,875.00
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 54145	11,098.50
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 54146	322.21
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL	CK# 54147	576.77
ALBERTA RIPARIAN HABITAT MANAGEMENT SOCI	CK# 54148	500.00
ARMSTRONG'S NATIONAL ALARM MONITORING LT	CK# 54149	110.25
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 54150	200.57
BRANDT TRACTOR LTD.	CK# 54151	208.11
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	CK# 54152	2,605.06
BURT, EDWIN L.	CK# 54153	150.00
CARLSON, JASON	CK# 54154	171.91
CAWIEZEL, LAURA	CK# 54155	1,000.00
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 54156	603.36
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 54157	130.95
DRUMHELLER CHRYSLER	CK# 54158	808.50
EAST CENTRAL GAS CO-OP LTD.	CK# 54159	303.20
FAZEKAS, JUDITH W	CK# 54160	348.81
FLAGSTAFF COUNTY NO. 29	CK# 54161	120.00
FRONTIER CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS LTD.	CK# 54162	24,319.05
GRIDLEY, CHARLESE	CK# 54163	41.34
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 54164	148.91
KRYWCUN, DEREK J.	CK# 54165	177.75
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 54166	157.50
LARSEN, MARTIN	CK# 54167	204.53
NETAGO	CK# 54168	325.30
NEW WEST FREIGHTLINER INC.	CK# 54169	63.28
NEXTGEN AUTOMATION	CK# 54170	222.75
PITNEYWORKS	CK# 54171	4,000.00
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 54172	223.07
RAYMOND, MARCIA	CK# 54173	46.00
REACT FIRST AID & SAFETY SERVICES	CK# 54174	1,522.50
TELUS	CK# 54175	256.65
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 54176	2,070.52
TROCHU MOTORS LTD.	CK# 54177	18.40
WARWICK PRINTING CO. LTD	CK# 54178	293.48
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 54179	710.45
WOLF, TRACY	CK# 54180	2,163.00
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 54181	3,543.75

TOTAL: \$188,732.42

C22-163
Adjournment

[C22-163] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the meeting be adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, July 20th, 2022, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.



Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom



Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer