MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FOR BIRCH HILLS COUNTY HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS APRIL 27, 2021

Attending Via "Go to Meeting" virtually	**Reeve**	Gerald Manzulenko	Ward 4
"	**Deputy Reeve**	Terry Carbone	Ward 7
"	**Councillor**	Deanne Wendland	Ward 2
"	**Councillor**	Paul Reum	Ward 3
"	**Councillor**	Mel Duvall	Ward 5
"	**Councillor**	Denise Joudrey	Ward 6
	CAO	Rick Bastow	
Present:	**Legislative Officer**	Shawna Schwerdt	
Absent	**Councillor**	Albert Poetker	Ward 1

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Manzulenko called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RC21-206 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council adopt the agenda of the April 27, 2021 Regular Council meeting with addition of 9.b.ii COVID-19 Preparedness.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting April 13, 2021

RC21-207 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Regular Council meeting as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

None.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Reeve Manzulenko

Reeve Manzulenko provided a verbal update to Council on the Minister of Agriculture, Devin Dreeshen phone conference meeting he attended on April 23, 2021.

Deputy Reeve Carbone

Deputy Reeve Carbone provided a verbal update to Council on the April 22, 2021 Eaglesham Seed Cleaning Plant Annual meeting that he did not attend and updated Council on the Water North Coalition updated Terms of Reference.

Councillor Poetker No Report. Absent.
Councillor Wendland No Report.
Councillor Reum No Report.
Councillor Duvall No Report.

Councillor Joudrey

Councillor Joudrey provided a verbal update to Council on the virtual Central Peace Attraction and Retention Committee meeting she attended on April 14, 2021 and the virtual Grande Spirit Foundation meeting she attended on April 23, 2021.

RC21-208 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council accept the Councillors' reports for information.

CARRIED

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

CAO Report

CAO Bastow provided Council with a verbal update to the written report that had been distributed.

RC21-209 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council receives the CAO's verbal update to the written report provided to Council.

CARRIED

CAO Action Log

Council reviewed the CAO Action Log updated to April 21, 2021 provided in the Agenda Package.

RC21-210 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council receives the CAO Action Log for information.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreation Board Survey regarding RC21-187

Council was provided with a draft survey to distribute to recipients of the 2021 Recreation Operating Assistance Grant funding.

RC21-211 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council approve implementation of the Recreation Operating Assistance Grant funding survey with the recommended changes.

CARRIED

Councillor Mel Duval exited meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Councillor Duvall declared pecuniary interest to LUB 2021-04 as an adjacent landowner.

RC21-212 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council remove from the table item 8.a LUB Amendment 2021-04 Road Closure Bylaw.

CARRIED

BYLAWS

Road Closure Bylaw 2021-04

Council was presented with Bylaw 2021-04, a bylaw for a road closure for lease of land that is described in the Bylaw as follows: All of that portion of statutory road allowance which forms the east boundary of the east half section of twenty-four (24), township seventy-nine (79), range one (1), west of the sixth (6th) meridian; And
All of that portion of statutory road allowance which forms the east boundary of the north east section of thirteen (13), township seventy-nine
(79), range one (1), west of the sixth (6th) meridian.

RC21-213 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council defeat Bylaw 2021-04, a bylaw to close and lease to public travel all that portion of road allowance described as; All of that portion of statutory road allowance which forms the east boundary of the east half section of twenty-four (24), township seventy-nine (79), range one (1), west of the sixth (6th) meridian; And
All of that portion of statutory road allowance which forms the east boundary of the north east section of thirteen (13), township seventy-nine (79), range one (1), west of the sixth (6th) meridian.

CARRIED

Councillor Mel Duvall entered meeting at 9:53 a.m.

Shelley Braun, Director of Corporate Services entered meeting virtually at 9:55 a.m.

2021 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 2021-05

RC21-214 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council table item 8.b, 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 2021-05 until decisions on agenda items numbers 9.a.i and 9.a.ii the O&M and Capital budgets.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Amended O&M Budget

Council was presented with the amended 2021 Operating and Maintenance (O&M) Budget for approval.

RC21-215 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council adopts the amended 2021 Operating and Maintenance Budget with
Total Revenues of $8,117,298.85 comprised of:
Operating Revenues (sales, grants, etc.) of $1,837,411.22;
Revenue Drawn from Operating Reserves of $652,269.70; and Municipal Property Tax Revenue of $5,627,617.93; and
Total Expenses of $10,458,770.85 comprised of Operating Expenses of $8,117,298.85; plus Amortization Expense of $2,341,472.00.

CARRIED

Meeting was recessed at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 10:35 a.m. with no public present.

2021 Amended Capital Budget

Council was provided with the 2021 Amended Capital Budget for approval.

RC21-216 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council adopt the 2021 Amended Capital Budget with total expenses of $889,000 by:
a. Purchasing a Computer Server: $ 35,000;
b. Purchasing two (2) Pickups: $ 84,000;
c. Purchasing a Grader $450,000;
d. Purchasing a Tangent Landfill Pit $ 25,000;
e. Purchasing a Chemical Containment Tank $ 5,000;
f. Purchasing a Watino Road Upgrade $250,000;
g. Purchasing Administration Roof Repair $ 40,000;
and with total funding of $889,000 to be provided from;
a. Reserves: $ 75,000;
b. MSI Grant Funding: $462,000;
c. Federal Gas Tax Funding (GTF): $250,000; and
d. Proceeds on Disposal: $102,000.

CARRIED

Shelley Braun, DCS exited meeting virtually at 10:40 a.m.

BYLAWS Continued

2021 Tax Rate Bylaw 2021-05

RC21-217 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council remove from table item 8.b, 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw No. 2021-05.

CARRIED

Council was presented with Bylaw No 2021-05, the 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw.

RC21-218 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council provide first reading to Birch Hills County Bylaw 2021-05 Tax Rate Bylaw.

CARRIED

RC21-219 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council provide second reading to Birch Hills County Bylaw 2021-05 Tax Rate Bylaw.

CARRIED

RC21-220 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council provide unanimous approval to a resolution to present Birch Hills County Bylaw 2021-05 Tax Rate Bylaw at this meeting.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

RC21-221 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council provide third reading to Birch Hills County Bylaw 2021-05 Tax Rate Bylaw.

CARRIED

RC21-222 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council direct Administration to advertise Bylaw 2021-05 as per the Procedural Bylaw 2019-15.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS
Continued

Community Enhancement Grant Policy (CEG).

Council was provided with information regarding the current Community Enhancement Grant Policy (CEG).

RC21-223 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council approves the new Community Enhancement Grant Policy 62-01-21.

CARRIED

Application for CEG Funds – Peoria

Council was provided with a request for $650.00 in funding under the CEG that was submitted by Ms. Jana Toews on behalf of the residents of Peoria.

RC21-224 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council approve funding for the $500.00 requested by Ms. Jenna Toews on behalf of the residents of Peoria as a Community Enhancement Grant for the planting and care of brightly colored annual flowers by the sign of Peoria Hamlet.

CARRIED

Upcoming Meetings Council	Council reviewed the upcoming 2021 Calendar as it relates to Council Meetings, Statutory Holidays, and provide Administration with direction as to what, if any action should be taken to reschedule meetings. **RC21-225 Moved by Councillor Duvall** that Council cancel the Regular Council Meeting on May 11, 2021 and direct Administration to advertise the changes as per the County's Procedural Bylaw. **CARRIED**
BHC Facilities during COVID-19	Council was presented with information regarding the operation of the Birch Hills County owned and operated facilities during COVID-19. **RC21-226 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone** that Council direct Administration to advertise that effective April 27, 2021 public access to the Birch Hills County managed facilities, camp grounds and playground(s) will be closed until further notice. **CARRIED**
Councillor Absences	Council was provided with information related to the absences from this Meeting, and are requested to authorize the absence of Councillor Albert Poetker. **RC21-227 Moved by Councillor Reum** that Council approve the absence of Councillor Albert Poetker from the April 27, 2021 Regular Council meetings due to personal reasons. **CARRIED**
COVID-19 Preparedness	Administration provided Council with verbal information regarding COVID-19 preparedness. **RC21-228 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone** that Council approve Birch Hills County CAO to award up to an additional 10 paid days for COVID-19 quarantining for staff that may require it. **CARRIED**
FOR INFORMATION	Council was provided with a copy of the following documents that had been received by Administration: a. Grande Spirit Foundation 2020 Annual Report; b. FRIAA Newsletter April 2021; c. Letter Eastern Slopes Coal Exploration & Public Consultation on the 1976 Coal Development Policy;

d. Email Upcoming EOEP Regional Partnerships and Collaboration dated April 19, 2021;
e. Letter from County of Grande Prairie requesting to join G5 Utility Water Project dated April 14, 2021;
f. Bank Reconciliation for March 31, 2021;
g. Email from RMA re Strategic Direction Championing and Advocating on Municipal and Rural Issues Virtual Engagement;
h. Email from RMA re District Update - April 2021;
i. Email re FCM Annual Conference Invitation;
j. Email from Arnold Viersen M.P. re Resolution dated April 22, 2021;
k. Email from Athabasca County re MELT dated April 22, 2021;
l. Letter to Minister Madu re Morinville Support for RCMP dated April 16, 2021;
m. Email from AFSC re Spirit River Office dated April 22, 2021;
n. Email re 2021 Census Support dated April 23, 2021.

CARRIED

RC21-229 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council accept the information items provided for information.

CARRIED

Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Meeting was resumed at 1:00 p.m. with no public present.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council was provided with copies of the following documents:

a. Letter to BHC Library Board re RC21-188 Audit Appointment Linda Garett dated April 15, 2021;
b. Letter to Minister Ric McIver re follow up to April 7, 2021 phone conference;
c. Letter to Long Run Exploration re deadline for April 28, 2021 dated April 20, 2021;
d. Letter to Recreation Applicants regarding RC21-187 2021 Allocations;
e. Letter to Codesa Hutterite Colony regarding Impact to Bridge dated April 22, 2021;
f. Letter to Tervita Corporation regarding RC21-167 cables along Smoky River, Watino Bridge, dated April 22, 2021.

RC21-230 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council accept the correspondence provided for information.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

RC21-231 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council move to closed session to discuss the following item: Unpaid Oil and Gas Taxes, FOIP Section 24(1) at 1:06 p.m.

CARRIED

RC21-232 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council move out of closed session at 2:21 p.m.

CARRIED

Unpaid Oil and Gas Taxes

RC21-233 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council direct Administration to notify Long Run Exploration and confirm the penalties related to its unpaid oil and gas taxes will not be waived, seek an upfront payment in addition to the monthly payment upon completion and further direct Administration to retain legal counsel in order to prepare a repayment plan agreement, upon completion of agreement send the document to Long Run Exploration for signature.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Being that there was no further business, Reeve Manzulenko adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Original to be signed
GERALD MANZULENKO
REEVE

Original to be signed
RICK BASTOW
CAO

INITIALS: Reeve: _____

CAO: _____