

**BIRCH HILLS COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
BIRCH HILLS SERVICE CENTRE**

JANUARY 13, 2010

The Regular Meeting for Birch Hills County Council was called to order by Reeve, Shirley Emerson, at 9:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, in the Birch Hills Service Centre.

PRESENT

**SHIRLEY EMERSON
DENNIS SATHER
WARREN SMITH
FIONA LOVE
DALE JANZEN
GERALD MANZULENKO
CARMEN LUNN**

**REEVE
DEPUTY-REEVE
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR**

**IRENE COOPER
DION HYNES
MICHAEL COY
DENISE JOUDREY**

**C.A.O.
MANAGER OF PUBLIC WORKS
DIR.OF FIELD OPERATIONS
RECORDING SECRETARY**

DANNY ZAHARA

SIGNAL REPORTER

AGENDA

RESOLUTION NO. 01-13(01-10)

Moved by Fiona Love to adopt the Agenda with no additions or deletions.

CARRIED.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION NO. 02-13(01-10)

Moved by Carmen Lunn to adopt the December 9, 2009, Regular Council Meeting Minutes as circulated.

CARRIED.

TRANSPORTATION

Dion Hynes and Michael Coy attended at 9:10 a.m.

**WATER RIGHT-OF
WAY BRUSHING**

Dion Hynes reported that the brushing that is being done by Mark Paradis has been completed on the north side of the tracks. We will now continue with the brushing on the south side and then it will be ready to be sprayed.

Dion Hynes also reported that he expects to recover between 75% - 90% of the cost through the funding of the Tangent Waterline Project.

Gerald Manzulenکو questioned what the cost of hiring Mark Paradis was and does he charge by the mile or the hour. And Mr. Hynes replied that he charges \$155.00 per hour.

Michael Coy reported that we brushed down to the ground on the north side for preparation of the water pipeline but we are only brushing the south side down to a length that can be sprayed.

Deputy Reeve Sather requested a total project cost for the brushing if available.

Michael Coy reported that the cost of the brushing on the north side was approximately \$9000.00, and the south side is approximately \$3000.00. The total area being brushed is 7 miles.

**Eaglesham
Sidewalk
Installation**

Michael Coy reported that one of the upcoming projects for this year would be the second phase of the Eaglesham Sidewalk installation and oiling of the gravel streets.

In 2009 the Eaglesham Sidewalk installation was approximately \$60,000.00 and the Oiling of the streets in Wanham was roughly \$28,000.00.

The Eaglesham/Tangent Street Oiling will be approximately \$18,000.00 - \$20,000.00.

The 2010 estimated cost of Eaglesham sidewalk installation is estimated to be \$80 000.00. The area to be replaced is on the east side of 50th Street, between 52 Avenue and 53 Avenue north of the Senior Centre, as well as East of 50th Street on 53 Avenue to the last residence on the south side of 53 Avenue.

Carmen Lunn inquired if the problem was ever solved at this same location on the south side of 53 avenue near the last residence where the water pools every year. Michael Coy advised that it would be addressed this year.

Discussion was held regarding the timing of the sidewalk project. Consensus was that it be undertaken during the summer when school was out. Michael advised that the contractor that did the 2009 installation did very good work and he would insure that they were aware of the 2010 work.

**Windy Creek
Stockpile
Program
Completion**

Michael Coy reported that the Stock-piling Program went well. We ended doing a little more than planned because we wanted to empty out the pit before next year's crushing. The gravel was stockpiled at Codesa. Next year stock piling will take place at the South Wanham site.

Brushing Plans

Michael Coy reported in past years the County did not have a complete follow up plan regarding brushing and follow up spraying. The Transportation Department will work close with the ASB to ensure that a Spray Program follows the Brushing. They are also working on lines of sight at every intersection. They will be starting at Township Roads 790 and 794. For the most part, the adjacent landowners have been cooperative.

**Fox Creek
Drainage Project**

Dion Hynes reported that he met with Alberta Environment at the end of October to explore the issues with the Fox Creek Drainage Ditch. The culvert on Range Road 10 is not large enough to handle the volume of water and should be realigned as it comes in at a 90 degree angle which has caused erosion in the ditch. Replacement will be looked at in 2010. The other remedial work undertaken this fall will be monitored to determine if it has provided a solution of the flooding issues.

Alberta Environment had suggested a meeting over the winter with the landowners. Dion will ensure that Alberta Environment is kept aware of the County plans for 2010. All remedial work on this ditch will be funded 100% by the County as it is not eligible for rehab funding.

**Burnt River
Bridge**

Dion Hynes reported that he has been in contact with Doug Buyar and Samuel Tekle at Genivar as well as Jim Uhl and it is their opinion that we are not obligated to install a low-level crossing at the North Burnt River. If we choose to, Alberta Transportation would consider contributing to the installation on a cost share split but there would be no money available in 2010. Alberta Transportation will also fund the removal of the existing bridge; however there is no money available in 2010.

A discussion took place as to whether we should proceed with the removal of the existing bridge and install of the low level crossing and get refunded from Alberta Transportation when funds are available.

Irene Cooper advised that we need a formal funding agreement with Alberta Transportation before we begin the removal of the bridge. Irene Cooper will proceed with the request of an agreement.

Dion Hynes suggested that he would like to contact Doug Buyar at Genivar regarding what our options will be for the approaches at the low-level crossing. Council agreed that he should proceed.

Dion Hynes reported that we have received approval from DFO to install an ice bridge at the low-level crossing. He anticipated that it should be installed around January 25, 2010.

**Dumpster Fire
At Wanham
Transfer Site**

Dion Hynes reported that there has been a second fire in a dumpster at Wanham Transfer Site. These fires are caused from hot ashes being dumped into the dumpster. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of recovering the costs to fix the dumpsters from the persons causing the fire.

General discussion took place regarding the operation of the transfer and landfill sites. Council requested that the contractor attend the February meeting to address their concerns.

Burning Policy

Dion Hynes presented the revised Burning Policy for Councils review.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-13(01-10)

Moved by Dale Janzen that the Burning Policy, attached hereto as Schedule "A" be adopted.

CARRIED

**Preliminary
Drawings of
Eaglesham/
Tangent Line**

Dion Hynes gave a power point presentation on the Preliminary drawings of the new Eaglesham/Tangent Water line.

**Gravel Haul
Fuel Escalation
Costs**

Dion Hynes requested a review of the Fuel Escalation Clause for the Gravel Haul and Transfer Programs.

At the present time the current haul rate of \$0.27 will increase \$0.01 with every \$0.05 increase in the fuel prices. There is no provision for a decrease in the rate when fuel prices decrease. He suggested to Council that the haul rate decrease \$0.01 with every \$0.05 decrease in fuel prices. Fuel prices will be checked each pay period and the rate of \$0.27 adjusted accordingly.

In the event that fuel prices drop below \$1.00/Liter the haul rate will not drop below \$0.27. The haul rate of \$0.27 will stay the same based on the price of fuel being at \$1.00/Liter.

New contracts are negotiated as of March 1, 2010 and this change if approved would take effect then.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-13(01-10)

Moved by Warren Smith to adopt the changes to the Gravel Haul Contracts effective March 1, 2010.

CARRIED.

**Farm Land
Rental Rates**

Dion Hynes request a motion from Council approving the rental rate of \$25.00 per acre as previously discussed last fall.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-13(01-10)

Moved by Dennis Sather that the rental rate for farmland rented out by the County be set at \$25.00 an acre.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

**PEACE LIBRARY
SYSTEM**

Irene Cooper reported that she had a meeting with the Peace Library System regarding entering into a 3 year agreement. It will cost Birch Hills County \$7,245.00 per year based on a \$4.50 per capita charge. The Library Board will be responsible for the \$2.75 per capita (\$4,427.00) per year.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-13(01-10)

Moved by Carmen Lunn that we proceed with the agreement between Peace Library System and Birch Hills County for the 3 year term.

CARRIED

EMS DISPATCH

Council discussed the letter received from the M.D. of Peace regarding the consolidation of EMS Dispatch Centers.

PROPOSED G-5 MEETING

The next G-5 meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2010. It will be hosted by the Town of Spirit River.

TREASURY

Bank Reconciliations

Submitted under the Agenda were December, 2009, and January, 2010, Bank Reconciliations.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-13(01-10)

Moved by Carmen Lunn to adopt the November, 2009 and December, 2009 , Bank Reconciliations as circulated.

CARRIED

Check List

Submitted under the Agenda was Cheque List: PMPAY 134-139 (6); 120309, 120409, 120909, 121809, 122109, 122309, PMCHQ00000763, PMCHQ00000764

RESOLUTION NO. 08-13(01-10)

Moved by Fiona Love to adopt the Cheque List as circulated.

CARRIED

The Signal Reporter exited the Meeting.

11:35 A.M. -
12:30 P.M.

The Meeting adjourned for lunch.

C.A.O. REPORT

HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM - FCSS

Irene Cooper reported that she had been to a meeting with the Central Peace FCSS Director.

A discussion took place regarding details and expectations on both sides. Council was requested to review a Draft questionnaire that would be circulated to the seniors in Birch Hills County to determine what the needs are and what amount of the hourly rate for home support they would be willing to pay.

The Central Peace FCSS Board had questions regarding administrative issues and requested that a representative attend their next meeting. Irene Cooper suggested that County Council would have to receive information regarding the cost and level of service prior to an administrative direction being implemented.

**SECONDARY
HWY 677**

Irene Cooper requested some direction from Council regarding Secondary 677 and the concerns raised at the December 2009 meeting. Council directed that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transportation outlining the concerns and the need for immediate improvement and ongoing maintenance.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Council Meeting was set for 9:00 a.m., February 10, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

REEVE, SHIRLEY EMERSON

C.A.O., IRENE COOPER