



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FOR BIRCH HILLS COUNTY HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 26, 2021**

Present:	Reeve	Gerald Manzulenko	Ward 4
	Councillor	Albert Poetker	Ward 1
	Councillor	Deanne Wendland	Ward 2
	Councillor	Mel Duvall	Ward 5
	Councillor	Denise Joudrey	Ward 6
	CAO	Rick Bastow	
	Legislative Officer	Shawna Schwerdt	

Attended virtually via “Go to Meeting”	Deputy Reeve	Terry Carbone	Ward 7
	Councillor	Paul Reum	Ward 3

Tom Morgan, Fire Chief entered meeting 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER **Reeve Manzulenko** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA **RC21-042 Moved by Councillor Duvall** that Council adopt the agenda of the January 26, 2021 Regular Council meeting as presented.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
January 12, 2021 **RC21-043 Moved by Councillor Joudrey** that Council approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Council meeting as presented.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR REPORTS
Reeve Manzulenko Reeve Manzulenko provided a verbal update to Council on the District 4 RMA meeting he attended virtually at Birch Hills County Council chambers with CAO Bastow on January 15, 2021.

RC21-044 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council direct Administration to send a letter to Premier, MLA, RMA, and G5 partners regarding appointment of the next Minister of Municipal Affairs highlighting the importance of rural familiarity.

CARRIED

Deputy Reeve Carbone Deputy Reeve Carbone provided a verbal update to Council on the Eaglesham Airport and the Tangent Fire Department.

Councillor Poetker No report.

INITIALS: **Reeve:** _____

CAO: _____



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Councillor Wendland Councillor Wendland provided a verbal update to Council on the Peace Region Economic Development Alliance (PREDA) virtually meeting she attended virtually at on January 22, 2021.

Councillor Reum No report.

Councillor Duvall Councillor Duvall provided a verbal update report to Council on the Agriculture Service Board 2021 Conference meeting he attended virtually at Birch Hills County Council Chambers on January 21, 2021 with Councillor Wendland and Birch Hills County Assistant Agriculture Fieldman Kathrin Langlois and he will speak to it as an item for next ASB meeting.

Councillor Joudrey Councillor Joudrey provided a verbal update to Council on the Central Peace Attraction and Retention meeting she attended virtually on January 13, 2021, the Alberta Library Trustees Association Board of Directors' & Alternates meeting she attended virtually on January 21, 2021 and the Grande Spirit Foundation meeting she attended virtually on January 22, 2021.

RC21-045 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council accept the Councillors' Reports for information.

CARRIED

Crystal Tremblay, Smoky River FCSS entered meeting virtually at 9:21 a.m.

DELEGATIONS

Crystal Tremblay, Smoky River FCSS, Director.

Crystal Tremblay, Smoky River FCSS, Director gave an overview on their program services and their upcoming programs/activities in the Birch Hills County area.

RC21-046 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council accept the presentation from Crystal Tremblay, Smoky River FCSS, Director on their overview of their program services and their upcoming programs/activities in the Birch Hills County area for information.

CARRIED

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Crystal Tremblay, Smoky River FCSS, Director exited meeting virtually at 9:45 a.m.

Meeting was recessed at 9:45 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 9:52 a.m. no public present.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

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

DELEGATIONS Con't

Jodi Bloomer-Kaput and entered meeting virtually at 10:00 a.m.

Jodi Bloomer-Kaput Co-Founder & Chief Business Development Officer Canadian Fiber Optics

Jodi Bloomer-Kaput Co-Founder & Chief Business Development Officer Canadian Fiber Optics gave an overview on Regional initiatives in regards to the Universal Broad Band Fund and a letter of support from Council.

RC21-047 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council accept the presentation from Jodi Bloomer-Kaput Co-Founder & Chief Business Development Officer Canadian Fiber Optics overview on Regional initiatives in regards to the Universal Broad Band Fund for information.

Jodi Bloomer-Kaput and Diane Chiasson exited the meeting virtually at 10:43 a.m

CARRIED

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS Con't

CAO Bastow provided Council with a verbal update to the written report that had been distributed and then Tom Morgan, Fire Chief gave his verbal update to his written report that had been distributed.

RC21-048 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council receive the CAO's written report and verbal updates as well as Tom Morgan, Fire Chief verbal update for information.

CARRIED

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CAO: _____



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CAO Action Log

Council reviewed the CAO Action Log updated to January 6, 2021 provided in the Agenda Package.

RC21-049 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council receive the CAO Action Log for information.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RC20-526 Council Advisory Committee - Road Network

Council was provided with expressions of interests received in being appointed to the Council Advisory Committee – Road Network (CAC-RN).

RC21-050 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council defer official appointment of members to sit on the Council Advisory Committee-Road Network until February 23, 2021 and direct Administration to let the following expression of interest from: Ben Tschetter Ward 2, Ken Hansen Ward 3, John Sinkwich Ward 4, Gerry Lunn Ward 5 to know about Council decision to delay until February 23, 2021 and; direct Administration to continue to advertise for members to sit on the CAC-RN vacant Ward(s) of Ward 1 Ward 6 and Ward 7 for a minimum three weeks and bring back for Regular Council meeting on February 23, 2021.

CARRIED

RC20-535 Road Use Bond

Council was provided with updated information regarding operation of the Wanham Lagoon.

RC21-051 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council direct Administration to revisit updating the Road Network Agreement in consultation with the Council Advisory Committee (**upon Committee commencement**), and bring back additional analysis to a future Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

RC21-052 Moved by Poetker that Council direct Administration to send a letter to Concourse Petroleum Inc. regarding the importance of oil and gas development to the Birch Hills County economy and that Council direct Administration to send a letter to the Premier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Energy, Ministry of Treasury and Finance, MLA, RMA, and G5 Partners regarding increasing issue of unpaid oil and gas taxes.

CARRIED

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RC21-017 Growing the North Conference

Council was provided with a request to add a Councillor to the virtual attendance regarding the 2021 Growing the North Conference.

RC21-053 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council rescind RC21-017 and authorize the virtual attendance, with remuneration and reimbursement of expenses as appropriate, of the following Councillor(s), Wendland, Duvall, Joudrey, Deputy Reeve Carbone, Reeve Manzulenko, and CAO Bastow to the virtual 3 day Growing the North Conference from February 16-18, 2021, and direct Administration to make reservations.

CARRIED

RC21-037 & 038 Universal Broadband Fund (UBF)

Council was presented with updated analysis concerning internet service provider requests for letter of support to accompany their applications to the Government of Canada Universal Broadband Fund.

RC21-054 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council direct Administration to issue a letter of support to each of the project proponents for their proposed Universal Broadband Fund projects.

CARRIED

2021 Recreation Board Funding

Council was provided with a draft communication concerning 2021 Budget reduction that changes 2021 Recreation Board funding.

RC21-055 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council direct Administration to issue the letter to the Recreation Board Members outlining the necessity of reduced 2021 funding.

CARRIED

Regional Fire Protection Service Authority

Council was provided with an update on initial research concerning options for the future organization and management of County Fire Services.

RC21-056 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council direct Administration to refrain from undertaking additional analysis concerning a regional fire protection service authority would be advisable for the Birch Hills County area.

CARRIED

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Tom Morgan, Fire Chief
exited meeting 12:00 p.m.

Meeting was recessed at
12:05 p.m.

Meeting was resumed at
12:36 p.m. no public present.

Watino DRP Update

Council was provided with an update on the Summer Watino 2020 Disaster Recovery Program application submitted in response to high water event that was experienced on the Smoky River in July 2020.

RC21-057 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council direct Administration to accept this RFD regarding the Watino/Smoky River Summer 2020 Disaster Recovery Program application appeal as information.

CARRIED

CAO Performance Agreement

Council was provided with an update on the 2021 CAO performance agreement.

RC21-058 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council directs Administration to accept and approve the CAO Performance Agreement as a record of intended performance for the 2021 operating year.

CARRIED

2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan

Council was provided with an update on the development of the 2021 – 2024 Birch Hills County Strategic Plan.

RC21-059 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council directs Administration to accept and approve the preliminary strategic priorities and request Administration to commence drafting the 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

BYLAWS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RMA Board Governance Review Survey

Council was provided with the RMA Board Governance Review Survey for review and feedback.

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RC21-060 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council direct Administration to proceed with the submission of Council’s responses for the RMA Board Governance Review Survey following the January 26, 2021 Regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

Alberta Health Facility –
Based Continuing Care
Review Engagement Survey

Council was provided with the Alberta Health Facility –
Based Continuing Care Review Engagement Survey
for review and feedback.

RC21-061 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council direct Administration to not proceed with the submission of Council’s responses for the Alberta Health Facility – Based Continuing Care Review Engagement Survey following the January 26, 2021 Regular Council meeting and instead Council direction is that Councillors can submit individual responses if they choose with survey closing date on January 29, 2021.

CARRIED

Central Peace Health Centre

Council was provided with an update on the Central
Peace Health Centre.

RC21-062 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council directs Administration to accept this RFD regarding the Central Peace Health Centre as information and direct Administration to research clarification and bring back to a future Regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

Water North Coalition

Council was provided with an update on the Water
North Coalition.

RC21-063 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council direct Administration to accept this RFD regarding the Water North Coalition options as information.

CARRIED

MAP regarding Assessment
and Taxation

Council was provided with information regarding
changes to Birch Hills County Assessment and
Taxation Notices.

RC21-064 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council accept that Administration took action to have added the combined assessment and tax notices now contain the date the invoice is sent so as to be in

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compliance with legislation in accordance with section 334 of the *MGA* for information.

CARRIED

FOR INFORMATION

Council was provided with a copy of the following documents that had been received by Administration.

RC21-065 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council accept the letter from Minister of Health Tyler Shandro regarding Children’s Health dated January 7, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-066 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council accept the December 31, 2020 Bank Reconciliation and December 31, 2020 Register of Cheques documentation for information.

CARRIED

RC21-067 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council accept the letter from Smoky River Region Fire Rescue regarding request for support for a Flood Mitigation Trailer for the Northern Zone dated January 6, 2021 for information and direct Administration to send a letter of support for a Flood Mitigation Trailer for the Northern Zone.

CARRIED

RC21-068 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council accept the email from JDP Wasserman Accountant regarding the 2020 Audit Planning dated January 11, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-069 Moved by Councillor Reum that Council accept the email from Statistics Canada re 2021 Census of Population dated January 13, 2021.

CARRIED

RC21-070 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council accept the email from Alberta Health Services regarding Fall Community Integration & Access survey results dated January 19, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-071 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council accept the email regarding the resignation from the Birch Hills County Fire Department, Tangent Fire Hall dated January 19, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-072 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council

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direct Administration to send a letter to the Central Peace Early Childhood, Spirit River and Grande Prairie offices, requesting what their plan of services are and let them know that Council will send a letter to the Province and MLA inquiring about funding.

CARRIED

RC21-073 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council accept the letter from Central Peace Early Childhood dated November 20, 2020 for information and direct Administration to send response letters inquiring about the services and supports that have been mandated to provide to our children and families, expressing Council has concerns and request they look into the matter to MLA Todd Loewen and the provincial government Minister of Children’s Services, Rebecca Schulz to confirm what funding has been allocated and address the current lack of services.

CARRIED

RC21-074 Moved by Councillor Duvall that Council accept the letter from NAV Canada regarding Air Traffic Services for information.

CARRIED

RC21-075 Moved by Councillor Joudrey that Council accept the email from Pharmacare Act dated January 14, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-076 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council accept the email from Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association (AFFPA) dated January 18, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-078 Moved by Councillor Poetker that Council accept the email from NDP regarding Alberta Vaccine Rollout dated January 19, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-079 Moved by Deputy Reeve Carbone that Council accept the email from Infrastructure Asset Management (IAMA) dated January 15, 2021 for information.

CARRIED

RC21-080 Moved by Councillor Wendland that Council accept the letter to Innovation Science and Eco Dev regarding Rapid Response Stream Broad Band Fund Support for IWantWireless dated January

INITIALS: Reeve: _____

 CAO: _____

