

The regular meeting of the Lacombe County Council was called to order by Reeve Shepherd at 9:00 a.m. on October 28, 2021 in the Council Chamber of the Lacombe County Administration Office.

Present

Present: Reeve B. Shepherd; Deputy Reeve, J. Ireland, Councillors, B. Knight, D. Kreil, K. Weenink, D. West and A. Wilson; County Manager, T. Timmons; Director of Operations, B. Cade; Director of Corporate Services, M. Minchin; Director of Community Services, K. Boras; Director of Planning, D. Freitag; Manager of Agriculture & Environmental Services, D. Burlock; Manager of IT Services, M. Kartusch; County Fire Chief, D. Bussiere and Administrative Executive Coordinator, L. Turnbull.

Introductions

Ms. Shepherd introduced herself and those present introduced themselves. Ms. Shepherd reviewed the procedures for holding and attending a virtual meeting.

Oath of Office

Mr. Weenink completed the Oath of Office for Council as he was not present at the Organizational meeting.

**C/702/21
Agenda**

Ms. Shepherd inquired if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were two additions to the agenda:

- 5.10. Alix & Area Community Resource Centre Invitation
- 5.11. Mirror Recreation Society Funding Request

Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/703/21
Minutes**

Moved by Mr. Ireland that the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/704/21
COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Bussiere reviewed the update on the latest COVID-19 restrictions and the current status of cases and vaccine statistics. Mr. Bussiere addressed questions of Council regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the presentation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

9:10 a.m.

Mr. Bussiere withdrew from the meeting.

**C/705/21
Administrative
Report**

Mr. Timmons, Mr. Cade, Mr. Minchin, Mr. Boras and Mr. Freitag provided an overview of their department activities as presented in the Administrative Report.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the Administrative Report as at October 28, 2021 be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/706/21
Smith Pit to
McDonald Pit Gravel
Haul**

Mr. Cade advised Council that Pidherneys has completed the contract with Lacombe County to crush 35,000 tonne of gravel at the Smith Pit located in Clearwater County. As part of the Smith Pit operations the crushed gravel is then trucked and stockpiled at the McDonald Stockpile site south of Eckville.

To ensure the work is completed during the winter months as conditioned in the County's pit approval, it is recommended that tenders be prepared and advertised in November and early December of 2021 to provide for the work being undertaken in early 2022.

Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the County Manager be authorized to tender and award the 35,000-tonne gravel haul from the Smith Pit to the McDonald Stockpile Site; and further, that the work be funded from the County's Gravel Reserve.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/707/21
Bylaw No. 1350/21
First Reading**

Mr. Timmons advised that a request has been received from Bemoco Land Surveying Ltd. on behalf of Timothy and Wanda Bullick to close a portion of an undeveloped statutory road allowance (+2.04 acres) for consolidation with the SW 18-41-22 W4M. The Bullicks have two parcels of land that contain a farmstead separated by the road allowance.

As Road Plan 942 3787 was developed and upgraded in 2004 to a County main road standard, those significant improvements would make it is highly unlikely that the statutory road allowance would ever be utilized.

Bylaw No. 1350/21 has been prepared as the closure of a statutory road allowance must be done by bylaw. If Council gives first reading to the bylaw a public hearing will then be held on November 30, 2021 to give the public an opportunity to comment on the bylaw.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that Bylaw No. 1350/21, a bylaw of Lacombe County for the purpose of closing to public travel and disposing of portions of a public highway in accordance with Section 22 of the Municipal Government Act

now be read a first time.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/708/21
Bylaw No. 135021
Public Hearing**

Moved by Mr. Ireland that in the matter of Bylaw No. 1350/21:

- 1) that a public hearing be held on November 30, 2021 commencing at 9:15 a.m. at the Lacombe County Administration office;**
- 2) any person present at the public hearing will be heard upon recognition of the Chair; and**
- 3) the publication of the notice of the public hearing be advertised in local papers.**

Carried Unanimously.

10:35 a.m. Jalene Makus and Jennifer Berry entered the meeting.

**C/709/21
Policy OP(8)**

Ms. Makus reviewed with Council the proposed 2021 crop damage rates. These are the rates paid by the County for crop damage that occurs during road construction. The Crop Production Return Rates are based on a five-year average Yield Data (specifically for Lacombe County) published by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) and the Spot Cash Price for commodities in Central Alberta for the last half of October.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that pursuant to Policy OP(8), Compensation for Road Construction, Schedule A, the following rates be established for the 2021 crop damage payments:

(1) Section 1 – Acquisition of Right of Way:

a] for right of way with purchase not finalized prior to this crop year as expense for weed control: \$ 100.00 per acre

b] for right of way with purchase finalized prior to this crop year:

Oil Seed/Wheat/Peas/Corn Silage	\$ 949.87 per acre
Grain (other)	\$ 759.74 per acre
Tame Hay or Pasture	\$ 660.00 per acre
Sweet Potatoes	\$6,528.12 per acre

(2) Section 2 – Backsloping

Oil Seed/Wheat/Peas/Corn Silage	\$ 949.87 per acre
Grain (other)	\$ 795.74 per acre
Tame Hay or Pasture	\$ 660.00 per acre
Native Hay or Pasture	\$ 228.15 per acre
Summerfallow	\$ 100.00 per acre
Brush	\$ 100.00 per acre

a) Where crop received hail prior to the road construction, the preceding rates are to be pro-rated between the summerfallow rate, and the respective crop rate based on the percentage of hail loss.

Carried Unanimously.

10:40 a.m. Ms. Makus withdrew from the meeting.

**C/710/21
2021 Environmental
Stewardship Award**

Mrs. Berry advised Council that Policy AD(33) Environmental Community Engagement is a commitment made by the County to support residents in the understanding of environmental sustainability. This is a three-year program (2021-2023) with three components, one being the Environmental Stewardship Award. This is the first year for the award.

The award is presented to a County resident who practices environmental conservation and sustainability on their land. Residents are nominated and the successful recipient is selected by a Committee made up of the Environmental Coordinator, one Councillor and one member-at-large.

There were three nominees this year and the winner for 2021 is Sharon Wiebe. Mrs. Berry reviewed the substantial list of sustainability initiatives Ms. Wiebe has introduced on her property. Pictures of the property were also displayed. Ms. Wiebe will receive a one-time cash prize of \$ 1,500.

Moved by Mr. Ireland that the report on the 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

10:45 a.m. Mrs. Berry withdrew from the meeting, Cajun Paradis entered the meeting.

**C/711/21
Sylvan Lake IDP
Committee**

Ms. Paradis advised that the *Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan* (IDP) was adopted on February 11, 2021. On-going oversight of the *Sylvan Lake IDP* is a shared responsibility between the Partner Municipalities.

The IDP Committee is to be composed of one elected official and one non-voting administrative staff member from each Partner Municipality. The IDP Committee shall also include a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of administrative staff member(s) from each of the Partner Municipalities. As Council appointed a Council representative and an alternate representative at the October 28, 2021 Council meeting a resolution to participate in the IDP Committee is all that is required at this time.

Moved by Mr. West that Lacombe County participate in the Sylvan Lake IDP Committee.

Carried Unanimously.

10:55 a.m. Ms. Paradis withdrew from the meeting.

**C/712/21
Policy CC(9)
Amendments**

Mr. Kartusch presented updated Policy CC(9) Tablets and E-Mail Use. This policy was first approved back in February of 2009 when Lacombe County moved towards implementing digital agenda packages. At that time, the County issued laptops to all Council members while also provisioning internet service at their residence. Since then, there have been major changes in the policy with respect to the type of devices issued to Council, the removal of internet service provisioning, performing device updates and the option to purchase their issued device at the end of their term. Mr. Kartusch reviewed the updates.

Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the updated Policy CC(9) Tablets and E-Mail Use be approved as amended.

Carried Unanimously.

**City of
Lacombe/Lacombe
County/LAPA
Joint Meeting**

Mr. Timmons referred to the September 9, 2021 presentation by representatives of the Lacombe Athletic Park Association. At that time a request was made for County funding to support Phase Two of the Field House Expansion Project which is the Track and Field Expansion.

At the September 23, 2021 Council meeting, by resolution of Council, the Lacombe Athletic Park Association request for Lacombe County financial support of their Track and Field Expansion Project will be considered through the Community Groups – Facility Capital and Operating Funding Requests process as outlined in the City of Lacombe/Lacombe County Operational Cost-sharing Agreement.

In accordance with Section 19-4(1) of the Municipal Government Act, Reeve Shepherd will issue a notice of a special meeting for this meeting. A joint meeting with the City of Lacombe and LAPA will be held on December 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**C/713/21
Multifunction Printer
Purchase**

Mr. Minchin advised that I.T. has added a proposed budget allocation for the purchase of a new multifunction printer in the 2022 Interim Capital Budget to replace an aging multifunction printer that is approaching end-of-life.

There are concerns that the units may be in short supply in 2022 due to ongoing supply-chain issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Administration would not normally place an order for 2022 purchases until the interim budgets are approved which is typically December. However, to secure the County's position in line to acquire the unit, Administration is seeking Council's approval now to purchase the item in early 2022.

Moved by Mrs. Kreil that County Manager be authorized to purchase a multifunction printer as proposed in the 2022 Interim Capital Budget for delivery in early 2022.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/714/21
Alix & Area
Community Resource
Centre Invitation**

Mr. Timmons advised that an invitation has been received from the Alix & Area Community Resource Centre to tour their facility. It was agreed that Council will consider touring the facilities in January 2022.

Moved by Mr. Ireland to accept the invitation from the Alix & Area Community Resource Centre with a tour date to be set later.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/715/21
Mirror Recreation
Society Funding for
Hall Roof Approved**

Mr. Boras advised that the Mirror Recreation Society has requested funding for the replacement of the asphalt shingles on the Mirror Community Hall. The request is for funding in the amount of \$ 7,000 which is 50% of the total cost.

Moved by Mrs. Knight that Lacombe County provides the Mirror Recreation Society funding representing 50%, to a maximum of \$7,000, plus GST, for the replacement of the asphalt shingles on the Mirror Community Hall; and further, that this funding be provided through the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/716/21
Monthly Statement**

Moved by Mr. Wilson that the Monthly Statement as at September 30, 2021 be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/717/21
Agenda Item
Follow-up**

Moved by Mr. West that the Agenda Item Follow-up for October 14, 2021 be received for information.

Carried Unanimously.

**C/718/21
Consent Agenda**

Moved by Mrs. Knight that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**Committee of the
Whole Items**

Committee of the Whole – Future Items:

- Road Bans on Aspelund and Woodynook Roads – Mr. Weenink – December 7, 2021
- Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association – Ms. Shepherd – February, 2022
- Canada History and the Municipal Role in Reconciliation Webinar – Ms. Shepherd – February, 2022

Councillor Inquiries

Mr. Wilson inquired with regard to the Telus communication lines that stay in County ditches for years. Mr. Cade advised that these lines are the responsibility of Telus and that the County does follow-up on this issue regularly. The County has contacted Telus and has discussed the issue with Municipal Affairs. This is an ongoing problem for the County's Operations Department. Mr. Cade advised that the County will continue to put pressure on Telus for the removal of these lines. Mr. Timmons commented that the County has mapped out the line locations for Telus and there has been some progress. Mr. Weenink commented that Telus is putting their resources into Broadband.

Mr. Wilson inquired if County grader operators are trained and supervised. Mr. Cade advised that the County’s Maintenance Foreman supervises the grader operators. The Foreman’s duty is to ensure all grading is done to County standards and practices. All operators are trained prior to commencing their duties.

Mr. Wilson inquired if the rotational schedule ever gets changed due to heavy traffic in a certain area, i.e., installation of wastewater lines at Blissful Beach and Sunbreaker Cove. Mr. Cade commented that if there is heavy traffic due to a contractor that contractor is responsible for maintenance of the road on the heavy traffic areas. Mr. Cade advised that the rotation can get lengthened due to weather conditions in certain areas. Mr. Cade will look into the traffic situation where the wastewater lines are being installed at Blissful Beach and Sunbreaker Cove.

Mr. Wilson inquired if privately contracted road building would be more cost effective than the County owning road building equipment. Mr. Timmons commented that Administration has gone through a comprehensive analysis comparing the private sector costs and Lacombe County costs. The County has considerably lower costs and provides a high level of service with regard to road construction. Mr. Timmons commented that if the County discontinued road building it would be difficult to get back into it. Mr. Timmons advised that past Councils have always been supportive of the County having its own road construction equipment.

Mr. Wilson commented that the Bentley Fire Department had trouble securing PPE equipment when COVID first began. Mr. Boras advised that there was a shortage of PPE equipment at the beginning and the County Fire Chief did whatever he could do to get the required PPE. The County Fire Chief looks after all County Fire Departments.

Mr. Wilson inquired with regard to the Bridge Replacement Schedule. Mr. Cade advised the schedule should be on the County website. Mr. Cade will ensure it is on the website and will also send it to Council.

Mr. Wilson advised there are concerns with regard to the Green Bridge and its lifespan. Mr. Cade advised that the Green Bridge is evaluated every year and although its not on the schedule it is getting close. Mr. Cade commented that ultimately additions to the schedule are discussed with Council and require Council approval.

Mrs. Knight commented that she has received a number of calls regarding dry condition and the potential for fire. Apparently fire permits are still being issued and there have been a number of large fires. People are concerned and the fire permits requirement ends November 1. Mrs. Knight advise people are receptive to a fire ban due to the dryness. Mr. Boras advised that Mr. Bussiere tracks the level of dryness on an ongoing basis. Mr. Boras advised they will continue to assess the situation and will not hesitate to issue a fire ban if necessary.

Mrs. Knight inquired if a notice could be put in the County News regarding insurance coverage for fires. Mr. Boras advised that notices are placed in the County News on a regular basis regarding this matter.

**C/719/21
In-camera**

***Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the meeting recess in order to meet In-camera for the purpose of discussing an issue under Section 16(1) of FOIP.
Time: 11:50 a.m.***

Carried Unanimously.

**C/720/21
Reconvene**

***Moved by Mr. Weenink that the meeting reconvene.
Time: 11:55 a.m.***

Carried Unanimously.

**C/721/21
Adjourn**

***Moved by Mrs. Knight that the meeting adjourn.
Time: 11:56 a.m.***

Carried Unanimously.

Reeve

County Manager