

The Lacombe County Council Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Reeve Shepherd at 9:00 a.m. on February 1, 2022 in the Council Chamber of the Lacombe County Administration Office.

Present: Reeve B. Shepherd; Deputy Reeve, J. Ireland, Councillors, 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 Planning, D. Freitag; Director of Community Services, D. Burlock; Manager of IT Services, M. Kartusch and Administrative Coordinator, D.M. Grant.

ENERGY FUTURE LAB PRESENTATION

9:00 a.m. Dewly Nelson entered the meeting virtually.

Mr. Nelson provided a presentation on Energy Future Lab highlighting the following:

- Mission
- Lab fellowships
- Beyond Technology - Social Innovation Lab
- Social Lab Approach
- What is an Innovative Challenge
 - Rural community resilience in a low-carbon future
 - Digital innovation for communities in transition
 - Financing the transition future-fit hydrocarbons
 - Leveraging transition to overcome barriers for marginalized communities
- The Energy Futures Impact Study

Mr. Nelson addressed questions of Council.

9:45 a.m. Mr. Nelson withdrew from the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the presentation regarding the Energy Future Lab be received for information; and further, that this concept be incorporated in some form into Lacombe County's Economic Development Strategy.

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL POLICE SERVICE TRANSITION STUDY

A discussion took place regarding Alberta transitioning away from the RCMP to a provincial police service.

Council discussion took place, and it was agreed that at this time there many unanswered questions such as:

- Costs – Where is funding coming from?
- How will positions in a new provincial force be filled?
- Training facilities – Can 2,500 officers be trained?
- Specialized equipment used by RCMP is now funded federally
- Recruitment Process
- Timelines for Transition
- Rural issue – Not Urban Issue

It was agreed that with so many unanswered questions at this time Council will continue to attend all sessions available to them and continue to gather more information as available.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the discussion regarding the Alberta Provincial Police Service Transition Study be received for information; and further, that Council revisit this issue when more concrete information has been received.

RECYCLING

Mr. Weenink is of the opinion that recycling should happen more often than it does. Mr. Weenink commented that many of our ratepayers are willing to increase their recycling.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Ag Plastics Program
- The County's recycling initiatives
- Extended producer responsibility
- Clean Farms

- Local company making plastic fence posts, curb stops, garbage bags, etc.
- Options for glass recycling
- Need for success stories to promote programs
- Recycling Council of Alberta

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Recycling Council of Alberta and Clean Farms to be invited to attend a future Committee of the Whole meeting to provide presentations.

HIGHWAY 604

Concerns and comments were expressed regarding the condition of the unpaved portion of Highway 604 from Highway 2 to Highway 792.

- County receives many calls regarding Highway 604 which are usually referred to Alberta Transportation
- Conversations have taken place with Ponoka County to lobby the Province jointly
- Lobbying has been done at both the Ministerial and administrative level of the Province
- The Province did put gravel down last year but not to the standard the County maintains
- Alberta Transportation is aware of the concerns, but it is a matter of funding

RECOMMENDATION

That the County Manager be directed to meet with the Ponoka County CAO to discuss potential joint lobbying of the Provincial Government regarding the reconstruction and paving of Highway 604.

FAST TRACKING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A discussion took place regarding the fast-tracking of economic development within Lacombe County, including:

- Advertising target ads in Calgary etc. is expensive and at this time there is no budget in place
- In order to move forward with large scale advertising, the Economic Development Strategy must be developed
- Need to be aware of cycles in the oil business, decentralizing and then going back to cities when there is a boom, it is a transient industry
- The location of the County and the tax base are a benefit in attracting economic development

RECOMMENDATION

That the information/discussion regarding fast-tracking economic development within Lacombe County be received for information.

HIGHWAY 2/12 INTERCHANGE DISCUSSION

Discussion took place around the Highway 2/12 Interchange as follows:

- Financial Impact on the County
- Cost-share arrangement: City, County, Province
- What are Alberta Transportation's intentions
- Concerns with design of interchange
- Safety issues
- Collection of offsite levies
- Interchange will be a massive benefit to the greater surrounding area

RECOMMENDATION:

That the proposed new Highway 2/12 Interchange be discussed at next meeting with Alberta Transportation officials.

Adjourn: Time 11:35 a.m.