

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF BRAZEAU COUNTY, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN DRAYTON VALLEY ON TUESDAY, 2014 11 25

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Reeve S. Mahan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PRESENT

S. Mahan, Acting Reeve
K. Westerlund, Councillor
A. Heinrich, Councillor
R. Moir, Councillor
M. Thompson, Councillor
M. Gressler, Councillor
M. Schoeninger, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Robinson, Executive Assistant
T. Kwirant, Administrative Assistant
B. Christie, Director of Corporate Services
M. Verhaeghe, Director of Planning and Development
L. Chambers, Director of Community Services
J. Evasiuk, Director of Public Works and Infrastructure
T. Thompson, Fire Chief
B. Molcak, Information Systems & Technology
N. Tank, Finance Manager
G. Harke, Project Manager
B. Misener, Planning & Development Manager

ADDITION TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Addition to and Adoption of Agenda

1554/14 Moved by M. Gressler to adopt the November 25, 2014 agenda with the following additions:

- Questions from resident
- Municipal Review
- Personnel Policy – staff relocation fund
- Summary of November 24th Budget Meeting
- In Private – Legal – Election Related Matters
- Town's Capital Plans

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Manufactured Home Park/Poplar Ridge Store

Council reviewed the report presented.

1555/14 Moved by M. Gressler that Administration research the options for a second access for Poplar Ridge Trailer Court for February /March.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Aurora School

Council reviewed the correspondence received.

1556/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to receive for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Email Inquiry Regarding the Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre

Council reviewed the correspondence received.

Maureen Schwab emailed: I respectfully request a response to the following question: "Did the County do due diligence and hire a Structural Engineering Firm to do a complete inspection of the Eleanor Pickup Center including any and all structural components prior to offering to purchase half interest in the facility. Does the agreement indemnify the County for any and all existing structural deficits if there are any? If such an inspection has been done is the report public? If the inspection was not ordered by Council why not?"

CAO Response: No, it was not Council's direction to hire a structural engineering firm to do a complete inspection. The agreement identifies that we would be half owners and as such we would be held fully responsible for any part and parcel of any deficits, deficiencies and so forth, that's part of the ownership. With respect to the Town, through their design firm, they did have one to identify what the shortcomings were to incorporate in the design and as a result to make sure that whatever repairs are undertaken would be meeting the national building code, so we make the assumption that they have and consequently that is the basis upon which the agreement was taken into consideration.

Maureen Schwab also emailed a second list of questions:

1. What education is provided during the educational meetings Council has attended and expensed. Who provides the education and why are these meetings never listed in the monthly calendar on the County website, plus why are there no agendas posted and are the meetings open to the public?

Acting Reeve response: addressed in the County newsletter on page 4, Council passed a motion to host an educational session on October 14, 2014 from 9:00 – 12:00 with the following agenda items: (a) affordable housing and what role the municipality should take; (b) Alberta Communities Partnership Grant and (c) Animal Control Desired Services level. So those were answered there.

2. Why has one councilor expensed a private meeting in October? For what purpose was the private meeting held? Were there minutes with a motion to go 'in private' and if so why were such minutes not posted on the County website?

Acting Reeve response: I looked at the expenses for the first time in 4 years and I saw that was expensed out by Anthony and he called it 'Council Private' which actually question 2 was our meeting we did in question 1. So it was just Anthony didn't expense it out exactly the same as everybody else and Anthony can answer why he put it that way.

3. The following question was asked to the former Reeve several months ago, I did not receive a reply: What is the road clearing priority with respect to the contract with the Town for providing snow removal in the recent annexed area? Are County paved roads given priority for sanding and are County roads and hamlets given priority for snow removal prior to County equipment providing contract services?

Acting Reeve response: We do have a contract with the Town of Drayton Valley and we do charge for the graders, etc. to go out and remove the snow in the annexed area. Staff response: What takes priority is arterial roads and collectors and then local roads, so if an arterial road has a portion of Town road that's part of the clearing and it's within our agreement of course we clear our roads, part of the Town section and back to ours again. But the arterials take priority.

4. Why is there no consistency in the amount Councillors charge for Council meetings? Who is approving Council charges of \$417 when other Councillors charge much less?

Acting Reeve response: I can't answer that because everyone has free will to charge what they want. If I'm here for more than 8 hours I charge more than 8 hours. If somebody else doesn't feel that their time is worth that, then I guess that's up to them, so I can't answer for anybody else on that.

5. Is Council intending on holding another session with the Town in December behind locked doors and if so why?

Acting Reeve response: At this point in time, we don't know, that may come if there is anything to do with land, legal, labour or a FOIP question. The only time we would do that behind closed doors is if in fact it was one of these things. So other than that, we do have a joint meeting December 1, 2014 and it is open to the public.

1557/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the Acting Reeve's response to the questions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Email Inquiries Regarding Snow Plowing, Unanswered Questions and Arts Centre

Council reviewed the correspondence received.

Richard Stuckenburg emailed Councillor K. Westerlund as follows:

1. Your note about the budget process is timely. Last year it was evident (to me) there was:
 - (1) lack of personnel (operators)
 - (2) lack of working equipment
 - (3) lack of a contingency plan

What "lessons learned" has the Council implemented? As you will recall, we had over 4.5 feet of accumulated snow in our driveway. It took 9 or 8 days for the County to plow our driveway – and we live on a school bus route. Your attention is specifically drawn to these matters in regards to setting the 2015 budget priorities.

2. You have NOT answered my questions, once again.

What policy change has the Council implemented to address the boondoggle with PWI and the snow plowing last year?

Frankly, the service at the County has steadily diminished in your term of office. In my earlier email, I specifically asked about three key indicators areas: costs and therefore taxes, customer service and efficacy of operation.

Your attention to these matters is request and required.

Acting Reeve's response: We have included in the agenda all the information about all the other emails that he has sent last year, etc. Last year we did have an exceptional amount of snow and we didn't give priority to anybody other than the arterial roads as was pointed out. Mr. Stuckenburg was not satisfied with our level of service and so we sent him a letter saying we were sorry that he couldn't get out of his driveway quick enough, but if he chooses he can hire it out. We try to do our best and when snow falls more than what we can handle, we have no choice but to drive by sometimes and do the approaches later.

CAO added: Lack of personnel; lack of working equipment and lack of a contingency plan is an individual's perception and view in fact, what we did convey too is that in hiring certified or qualified operators, that's an ongoing practice. We have a maintenance program, so if equipment is down we replace it or we hire out. We bring in by day rates, grader operators to cover and/or equipment. A lack of contingency plan ties in no different than a lack of working equipment. We have the listing of equipment and contractors who are willing to provide service to us so we do draw on them, so we do draw on them to provide that response, however in a heavy snowfall situation, they are also tied up in the oilfield and in other municipal work, such as the Town. Consequently the pool is only so large that we can draw from. But really at the end of the day it comes down to is the individual was quite concerned which he summates for his driveway, we did provide him with options as just mentioned, so at this point in time,

I think that the recording of the meeting is available for Mr. Stuckenburg and that is all the information I have.

Public Works Administration response: We have kept a fairly full compliment of personnel all the way through. I know we have had some challenges hiring the right operators for the right places, but we still have bodies in those graders and they are still going, so whether we were training somebody or they were an experienced operator.

1558/14 Moved by R. Moir to receive for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Correspondence from TransCanada regarding a proposed project: Cynthia Receipt Meter Station

1559/14 Moved by M. Thompson to receive for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Acting Reeve S. Mahan called for a break at 9:38 am and the meeting resumed at 9:49 am.

Email Inquiries Regarding Snow Plowing, Unanswered Questions and Arts Centre (continued)

Additional questions were received as follows from Mr. Stuckenburg:

1. Why did the Council spent \$100,000 in the Town while infrastructure in the County deteriorates?

Council Response: Not sure what the question is about because through all our cost sharing agreements and other project we have going with the Town, it's a lot more than \$100,000 so more information is needed.

2. Snow here is pushed off all roads in a matter of hours, not days as it was last year. Additionally, sanding is needed to improve the safety at intersections. What are the existing and proposed 2015 service levels in PWI for the roads? (See my previous email on this topic).

CAO Response: If you were to look under the Public Works budget section on website, there are service parameters so that's identified. It was approved in the past by Council and this year again, as far as turnaround time, it's a perception of the individual, we provided options if they felt that it wasn't being turned around, but we also have an electronic cam system, which is a GPS, which identifies where equipment was and when we were actually questioned, we were able to identify the number of hours and at this point in time, I'm not aware of us deviating from the proposed service parameters identified in the 2014 budget

which is identical to the 2015 budget before you with one exception is that given extraordinary snowfalls, we do put our efforts back onto arterials, which are your primary corridors which encompass both local traffic, bus/school traffic as well as industrial traffic, so volume and then we do our collectors and then we do our locals and communities as well as driveways are last and sometimes they are bumped unless there's extenuating circumstances. So at this point in time, I wouldn't be recommending anything different.

3. Why are County Peace Officers in the Town on traffic duty when we cannot contact an officer to respond to complaints in the County? No direct number is published for after hours and weekend calls.

CAO Response: Disagree that it is not public, if you take a look at the contact information in the Brazeau Newsletter, there is a number in there. Also when you call into our County office number at 542-7777, there is a recording that identifies the afterhours calls. We also have a program through Intercon Messaging that automatically we have an on call system for both water and sewer as well as supervisors for afterhours who can then disseminate staff including CPO's who are scheduled to cover on weekends. Consequently, there is no issue there. On the back page of every Brazeau Newsletter there is a list of numbers which included the Brazeau County Emergency number 542-8770 in red plus there is also call numbers for various emergencies including CPO's, so I would have to say this is perhaps a perception rather than a reality because we do actually identify it.

4. I was in the Council meeting when the Town asked for more money for the Arts Centre before work started on the building. This created a contingent liability on the County books. How has the auditor shown this as a risk/debt? I ask Council to rescind the agreement for the Arts Centre. In the main, it has raised concerns about the due diligence performed by the Council in representing the financial interest of ratepayers.

Staff Response: The auditors do a risk analysis and we do as well. We almost use like a safety matrix and we provide that to the auditor and on an annual basis he questions us about business practices and areas of risk that we are aware of.

Council Response: When we were making this decision on whether or not to put money into the Arts Centre, we were thinking more of the community as a whole and with that thought process in mind, we came to the conclusion that for the goodness that this centre does for all of our children, it just made perfectly good sense that we would be doing that. I know the Sound of Music is playing there right now and they are sold out for 6 days and I can assure you there are a lot of County people taking part in this, there are a lot of County children taking part in this. I see people when I attend these functions, most of them are from out of Town and live in the County. So when we made this decision, it was for the

betterment of the community. We made it with the knowledge that our children would have a place to go and learn and sing and dance and perform and actually have grandparents and parents come and watch locally rather than them having to travel to other areas. We badly needed this in our community and I am so thankful that we have it.

5. Debate was cut off by the CAO in the budget meeting held at Rocky Rapids. He talked out the clock when many ratepayers were left standing without air time for their questions. This is disrespectful. It is not the model of best practice for meaningful consultations with ratepayers. As such, I ask the Council to adopt a policy to ensure that an open, transparent, and robust public consultation process is required prior to any consideration by the County Council for the 2015 budget; and specifically for any capital or O & M cost sharing agreements with local governments.

CAO Response: If I recall and draw your attention back to, there was actually a moderator and it was actually the moderator who gave me a signal and I was only given 4 minutes, so like anybody else, quite frank, this is a perception, so at the end of it, there was actually very little talking done because it was moderated and I was shut off at the end myself, no different than anybody else and I believe consistent with Council's decision yesterday to have one AGM here at the Council Chambers as well as have it moderated to ensure that there is sufficient time for everybody, recognizing that questions need to be succinct and clear, that it is a perception. Perhaps he didn't get everything in he wanted, however at the end of the day I was held to a certain time by the moderator as well.

6. The number of Peace Officers has gone from 1 to 3 yet I recall placing a call for service and there has not been a Peace Officer on active duty. What changes in service level will be implemented to ensure County residents get the service we pay for?

CAO Response: Our service parameters under Community Services where the police protection falls under is clearly identified in Tab 2 page 16 and onward and further to that when we have received calls we've acted to the best of our ability recognizing we can't get to everything, so I'm not sure what specific issue he's referring to. Further to that, the schedule had been recently updated again to provide coverage during the weekends and would be reminded that they can work only so many hours in a day. As a result, with the services we provide also for the Town, I think it's a perception issue that he may not have had his particular issue attended to in the timeframe that he felt was fair and equitable, but overall, at this point in time, Council has given us the authority to do scheduling, we cover through the weekend and I'm not sure what more we can do.

- 7. I suggest that any future ratepayer approved joint projects with the Town be prioritized so as to be situated in the County, and on lands that will not be annexed. In other words, the one way flow of money into the Town must be reversed.

Comment – not a question

1560/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to receive the 7 questions/statements from a resident for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1561/14 Moved by M. Thompson that the Council Budget meeting of November 25, 2014 go into 'in private' at 3:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2015 – 2016 Proposed Annual Budget

1562/14 Moved by M. Gressler to increase the budget for Regional Tourism for \$75,000.00 GL code – 02-64-00-772.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1563/14 Moved by R. Moir to increase the budget for Regional Housing for \$60,000.00 GL code – 02-64-00-772.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1564/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to approve an increase in the budget for the Fire Marshall position to include both wages and benefits and adjust the budget accordingly to be cost shared 50/50 with the Town.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1565/14 Moved by R. Moir to receive the summary from the November 24, 2014 Council Budget meeting for information and a copy to be provided for Council binders.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1566/14 Moved by M. Thompson to add \$25,000 for an oilfield lease review -GL code 02-66-03-239.

IN FAVOUR: M. Thompson
M. Gressler
K. Westerlund
S. Mahan
R. Moir

OPPOSED: A. Heinrich

CARRIED

1567/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to provide Council with a copy of the 2014 Schedule of Fees.

Councillor A. Heinrich asked for a friendly amendment to include a comparison with other municipalities.

M. Schoeninger reported that the Schedule of Fees would be on the December 16, 2014 Council agenda.

Councillor K. Westerlund requested Council permission to withdraw motion 1567/14.

1568/14 Moved by M. Thompson to grant permission to withdraw motion 1567/14.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1569/14 Moved by A. Heinrich to increase the budget by \$5,000.00 for monitoring the contamination at the old shop site GL code – 02-31-00-239.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Acting Reeve S. Mahan called for a break at 11:01 am and the meeting resumed at 11:07 am.

1570/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to increase the budget by \$7,000 to cover off the Poplar Ridge Stormwater Study (from \$78,231 to \$85,500).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1571/14 Moved by R, Moir to approve the addition of one position within the utilities department for 2015 at a cost of approximately \$60,000.00, plus benefits to be equally distributed between water, sewer and utilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1572/14 Moved by M. Thompson to approve the purchase of a one-ton truck for the additional utility position for approximately \$40,000.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1573/14 Moved by M. Thompson to increase the budget for \$60,000.00 for the decommissioning of the water old plant at Rocky Rapids, with the funds coming from taxation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION

RCMP – Introduction of new Staff Sgt. Malcolm Callihoo

Sgt. C. Deslisle introduced Staff Sgt. Malcolm Callihoo to Council and Council welcomed him to the community and they were invited to have lunch with Council.

RECESS FOR LUNCH 1574/14 Moved by M. Thompson that the Council Budget meeting of November 25, 2014 recess for lunch at 12:11 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Reeve S. Mahan called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

PRESENT

S. Mahan, Reeve
K. Westerlund, Councillor
A. Heinrich, Councillor
R. Moir, Councillor
M. Thompson, Councillor
M. Gressler, Councillor
M. Schoeninger, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Robinson, Executive Assistant
T. Kwirant, Administrative Assistant
B. Christie, Director of Corporate Services
M. Verhaeghe, Director of Planning and Development
L. Chambers, Director of Community Services
J. Evasiuk, Director of Public Works and Infrastructure
T. Thompson, Fire Chief
B. Molcak, Information Systems & Technology
N. Tank, Finance Manager

1575/14 Moved by R. Moir to approve a budget allowance of \$20,000.00 for one Household Hazardous Waste Roundup and Community Cleanup for 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1576/14 Moved by K. Westerlund that Administration prepare a Request for Council Decision Report for the December 16, 2014 Council meeting for a cost estimate for message boards at the transfer sites and possible dates for a household hazardous waste roundup and community cleanup for 2015.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Review

Council discussed a municipal review.

1577/14 Moved by K. Westerlund that Administration research additional information for the December 2, 2014 Council meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Town's Capital Plans

Brought forward by Councillor M. Gressler whether the County could request a copy of the Town of Drayton Valley and Village of Breton capital plans.

Acting Reeve S. Mahan called for a break at 1:53 pm and the meeting resumed at 1:59 pm.

1578/14 Moved by K. Westerlund that the Council Budget meeting of November 25, 2014 proceed into 'in private' at 2:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1579/14 Moved by R. Moir that the Council Budget meeting of November 25, 2014 come out of 'in private' at 2:50 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1580/14 Moved by K. Westerlund to approve a staff relocation fund for \$15,000.00 under the Public Works 2014 budget to come from unrestricted surplus.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

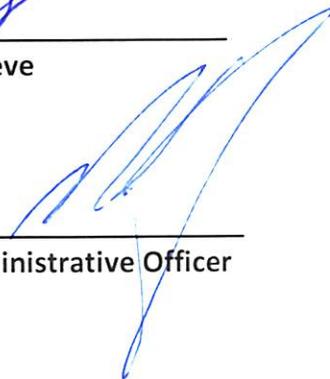
ADJOURNMENT

1581/14 Moved by K. Westerlund that the Council Budget meeting of November 25, 2014 adjourn at 2:51 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Acting Reeve



Chief Administrative Officer