

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

Present

Present: Reeve P. Law; Deputy Reeve, K. Wigmore; Councillors, J. Ireland, B. Knight, D. Kreil, B. Shepherd and K. Stephenson; Director of Operations, B. Cade; Director of Community Services, K. Boras, Director of Corporate Services, M. Minchin; Director of Planning, D. Freitag; Manager of IT Services, M. Kartusch; County Fire Chief, D. Bussiere; and Administrative Executive Coordinator, L. Turnbull.

Introductions

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

**C/24/21  
Agenda**

Mrs. Law inquired if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

***Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the agenda be approved as presented.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/25/21  
COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Bussiere provided an update on the latest COVID-19 statistics and the ongoing mandatory restrictions introduced by the Province. Mr. Bussiere addressed questions of Council regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Moved by Mr. Stephenson that the presentation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic be received for information.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

9:07 a.m.

Mr. Bussiere withdrew from the meeting.

**C/26/21  
Administrative  
Report**

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

***Moved by Mr. Ireland that the Administrative Report as at January 28, 2021 be received for information.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/27/21  
Red Tape Reduction  
Report**

Mr. Freitag advised that in July 2020 the Government of Alberta announced the \$500 million Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP). Funding through this program is allocated to municipalities using the same formula as the Gas Tax Fund (based primarily on population). This program provides additional capital infrastructure funding to municipalities with the primary objective to sustain and create local jobs; enhance provincial competitiveness and productivity; position communities to participate in future economic growth; and reduce municipal red-tape to promote job-creating private sector investment.

As a requirement for funding, municipalities that receive funding under the MSP are required to reduce municipal red tape. To meet this requirement municipalities must develop a red tape reduction plan and provide the Report Form to Municipal Affairs by February 1, 2021.

Lacombe County's 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report has now been developed for submission to Municipal Affairs. Mr. Freitag provided an overview of the various reduction strategies outlined in the Report. Mr. Freitag addressed questions of Council.

***Moved by Ms. Shepherd that:***

- 1) the Lacombe County 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report for the Municipal Stimulus Program funding be approved; and***
- 2) that the County Manager be authorized to submit the Lacombe County 2020 Red Tape Reduction Report to Municipal Affairs.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

10:10 a.m.

Mr. Freitag withdrew from the meeting.

**C/28/21  
Tax Penalty  
Cancellation Request**

Mr. Minchin advised Council of a request from a Lacombe County ratepayer regarding the cancellation of the late payment penalties that were levied on her 2020 property tax account. The amount of the late payment is \$ 271.58 levied on the tax balance for Tax Roll No. 4101342017. Council was provided with an overview of the circumstances resulting in the non-payment of this tax account by the tax payment deadlines.

***Moved by Mrs. Knight that Lacombe County approve the cancellation of the \$271.58 late payment penalty levied on Tax Roll No. 4101342017.***

***Motion Lost.***

**C/29/21  
Joint Orientation  
Training Workshop**

Mr. Cade advised that the Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that a municipality must offer orientation training to each Councillor within 90 days after the Councillor takes the oath of office.

Lacombe County provides the new Council with an orientation shortly after each election and will continue this with future elections. In addition to the County orientation the new Councils have also participated in a consultant lead, joint orientation workshop with a number of other municipalities.

Mr. Cade requested that Council consider Lacombe County coordinating and hosting a joint Council Councillor orientation workshop with the County's neighbouring urban and rural municipal partners.

***Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the report regarding Lacombe County coordinating and hosting a Council orientation training workshop following the 2021 municipal election with neighboring municipalities be received for information; and further, that Council attend the Muni 101 course.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/30/21  
Sunbreaker Cove  
Boat Launch –  
Commissionaires**

Mr. Cade commented that during the 2020 boating season the Sunbreaker Cove boat launch experienced a number of problems related to the heavy utilization of the boat launch due to COVID imposed restrictions. These problems included traffic congestion, parking issues, garbage, impacts on local residents, pedestrian safety, lack of enforcement, etc.

Sunbreaker Cove's boat launch problems are identical to those experienced this past summer at Sandy Point beach and boat launch. Commissionaires have been retained at Sandy Point for the last two years and this has proved very successful in addressing the various issues. The Summer Village of Sunbreaker Cove and Lacombe County have met and agreed to hiring Commissionaires for the Sunbreaker Cove boat launch for the summer of 2021. It was also agreed that all the surrounding municipalities on Sylvan Lake be approached with regard to assisting with the costs of the Commissionaires at the boat launch in 2021.

***Moved by Mr. Stephenson that Lacombe County partner with the Summer Village of Sunbreaker Cove in requesting all municipalities around Sylvan Lake to consider contributing towards costs of hiring Commissionaires for the purpose of vehicle, pedestrian and parking control at the Sunbreaker Cove boat launch for the 2021 boating season.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/31/21  
WCPS Thought  
Exchange Priority  
Engagement**

Mr. Cade advised that the Wolf Creek Public School Board has compiled a video called 2021 WCPS Thought Exchange Priority Engagement. The Board is requesting local municipal Councils and administration to view the video and then participate in the Thought Exchange to provide feedback to the Board regarding initiatives and decisions outlined in the video.

***Moved by Mrs. Kreil that the Wolf Creek Public School Board 2021 WCPS Thought Exchange Priority Engagement video be deferred to the February 11, 2021 Council meeting.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/32/21  
Agenda Item  
Follow-up**

***Moved by Mrs. Knight that the Agenda Item Follow-up for January 14, 2021 be received for information.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/33/21  
Consent Agenda**

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

***Carried Unanimously.***

Committee of the Whole

Future Committee of the Whole Agenda Items:

- Unsightly Premises
- ASB Conference Discussion

Councillor Inquiries

Mr. Stephenson inquired regarding the communication towers that have recently been vandalized. Mr. Boras advised that the County has no responsibility for those towers but will speak with the RCMP. The RCMP may be unable to share any information. He will report back to Council

Mr. Ireland inquired regarding Vesta leasing the property from the City of Lacombe that the decommissioned sewer lagoons are located on. Mr. Ireland inquired where Vesta is getting the water for those lagoons. Mr. Cade commented that to his knowledge the water is coming from adjacent sloughs. Mr. Ireland inquired if they use pumps and run lines in the area. Mr. Cade advised this was the practice last year.

Ms. Shepherd referred to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Directive 067 which is to provide feedback on energy licenses and approvals. Ms. Shepherd inquired if Council will provide feedback prior to the February 14, 2021 deadline. Council agreed to review the AER Directive at the February 11, 2021 Council meeting.

Ms. Shepherd referred to the recent ASB Conference and concerns shared by the Chair of the Red Deer County ASB. Council agreed that this matter be placed on the February 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole Agenda

11:25 a.m. Alan Litster, Daniel Luymes, BDO Canada LLP and Wendy Wiebe entered the meeting.

**C/34/21  
BDO Canada LLP  
Audit Process**

Mr. Litster provided a review of their audit process and audit plan highlighting the following key issues that are relevant to the audit:

- Audit Timeline
- Significant Audit Risks & Planned Responses
- Materiality
- Audit Strategy
- Independence Strategy
- Independence Letter
- Responsibilities
- Auditor's Responsibility for Detecting Fraud

Mr. Litster and Mr. Luymes addressed questions of Council.

***Moved by Mrs. Knight that the BDO Canada LLP plan for the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Lacombe County for the period ended December 31, 2020 be received for information.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

12:00 p.m. Mr. Litster, Mr. Luymes and Mrs. Wiebe withdrew from the meeting.

The Council reconvened following lunch with all Councillors, Mr. Cade, Mr. Minchin, Mr. Boras and Mrs. Turnbull present.  
Time: 1:00 p.m.

**C/35/21  
In-camera**

***Moved by Mr. Stephenson that the meeting recess in order to meet In-camera for the purpose of discussing regional wastewater line routing, wastewater main line construction, former landfill and taxable benefit.***  
***Time: 1:02 p.m.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/36/21  
Reconvene**

***Moved by Mr. Ireland that the meeting reconvene.***

***Time: 1:40 p.m.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

**C/37/21  
Adjourn**

***Moved by Mr. Wigmore that the meeting adjourn.***

***Time: 1:40 p.m.***

***Carried Unanimously.***

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Reeve

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County Manager