



County of Grande Prairie No. 1

January 9, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Type : Regular Council Meeting

Date : Monday, January 09, 2017

Start time : 10:00 AM

Location : County of Grande Prairie No. 1 Administration Building

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Present were:

2. Deputy Reeve

- Ross Sutherland

3. Council

- Corey Beck
- Daryl Beeston
- Harold Bulford
- Peter Harris
- Bob Marshall
- Brock Smith

5. Directors

- Arlen Miller
- Dale Van Volkingburgh
- Nick Lapp, Acting CAO
- Dan Sieben, Acting Manager of Corporate Services

7. Recording Secretary

- Tatiana Catana
- Amanda Westwater

Absent:

1. Reeve

- Leanne Beaupre

3. Council

- Karen Rosvold

4. Chief Administrative Officer

- Bill Rogan

5. Directors

- Dawn Sauv 

6. Manager of Legislative Services

- Sheryle Runhart

**CALL TO ORDER
AND QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with the singing of O'Canada.

**ADOPTION OF
AGENDA**

Resolution #CM20170109.1001

MOVED by B. MARSHALL that the agenda for the January 9, 2017 Regular Council Meeting (2017/01/09) be approved with the following amendments:

- Offer to Access & Purchase at NW-12-72-6-W6M (#20170105003);
- Councillor Harris - Appointment of Council Members to Tri-Municipality Committee (New Business - Item 11.6).

Carried

**Appointment of
Fire Chief**

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20170103021)

Arlen Miller, Director of Community Services, noted that Trevor Grant has been promoted into the Fire Chief position for the County. In accordance with the MGA and County Bylaw 2924, Fire Chief Grant must be appointed into the position by Council to provide Medical and Fire Emergency Response Services within the County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and Section 7.1 states Council shall appoint the Fire Chief on the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer or his designate.

A motion is required by Council to appoint Trevor Grant into this position for the County of Grande Prairie No. 1. An oath of office will also be administered with Fire Chief Grant.

Chief Grant possesses nearly 17 years of experience in emergency response and fire rescue and protection. He joined the County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service in 2011 first as a Platoon Captain, then as the Deputy Fire Chief of Urban Operations in 2014. He brings a strong background on incident command, firefighting, technical rescue and dangerous goods to the position. Members from County Regional Fire Services and City of Grande Prairie Fire Services were in attendance.

Resolution #CM20170109.1002

MOVED BY H. BULFORD to appoint Trevor Grant as the Fire Chief for the County of Grande Prairie No. 1, effective December 21st, 2016.

Carried

**Request to
change the
length/date of
spring Budget
deliberation**

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20161222001)

Dan Sieben, Acting Director of Corporate Services, noted that Administration is proposing that the number of days set aside for Spring Budget Deliberations be reduced from three days to one and the current budget date of April 4, 2017 be rescheduled to April 19, 2017 to allow Finance staff the time they require to incorporate the provincial budget into the final budget package. The provincial budget will most likely be released later in April.

In 2016, County Council required three days to go through spring budget deliberations because it was necessary to finalize the current year's budget and approve the next year's fiscal plan.

Administration has been working towards streamlining the budget deliberation process and as a result, Council was able to discuss the 2018 Fiscal Plan during the interim budget deliberations in December. The spring agenda can now be reduced to finalizing the 2017 Interim Budget which will only require one day.

Councillor Harris inquired when the deadline to have a budget approved would be. Mr. Sieben responded that all budgets have to be approved before the end of May each year. An additional budget meeting date could be added by Council motion if necessary.

Resolution #CM20170109.1003

MOVED BY P. HARRIS to reduce the number of days set aside for spring budget deliberations from three days to one and reschedule the budget date to April 19, 2017.

Discussion on April 19th being over the Easter break and some Councillors may not be in attendance.

Councillor Marshall made an amendment to the motion to have the spring budget date as May 4, 2017. Council voted on the amendment.

AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

Council returned to and voted on the main motion from Councillor Harris.

Carried

2017 Canwest Chamber Ball

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20170103003)

Nick Lapp, Acting CAO, noted that the Grande Prairie & District Chamber of Commerce is hosting their 2017 Canwest Chamber Ball on Saturday, February 4, 2017 at the Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre.

In the past Council has purchased tickets for the Reeve and spouse or a designate and spouse to attend. Tickets are \$100.

This event includes a Champagne Member Reception; prime rib buffet dinner; a farewell to Past Chair of the Board Felix Seiler; a welcome to new Chair of the Board Dennis Bell; recognition of the newest Quarter Century Members; presentation of Chamber Awards; door prize draws; and dancing/networking. The theme is the 1980's.

Resolution #CM20170109.1004

MOVED BY D. BEESTON to purchase two tickets for reeve and spouse for the 2017 Canwest Chamber Ball.

Carried

Highway 43X Construction

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20161219006)

Dale Van Volkingburgh, Director of Public Works, noted that the agenda package includes various Highway 43X construction drawings, consisting of Stage One construction plan, the signing plan for Highway 43X, the signing plan along Highway 43X and 116th Street, the signing plan at Junction 116th Street and the Southwest Service Road, and the Roundabout Landscaping. Also included is an overview map of Alberta Transportation's 2015 Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts, a zoomed in image of the Grande Prairie area showing the 2015 average annual daily traffic counts, a zoomed in image showing the Fort McMurray area 2015 average annual daily traffic counts and a traffic count conducted by the County of Grande Prairie in 2012.

The intersection of the by-pass and existing HWY 43 will be at-grade and will be controlled with traffic signals. The Westbound directional ramp will be free-flowing as it enters Highway 43 going up Richmond Hill. Bridge File 86190E and Bridge File 86191W will be constructed in the future when the interchange is completed. Recommendation from Administration to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting the upgrades to Highway 43 and Highway 43X intersection.

Councillor Smith commented that he had raised this concern as it is very dangerous. The County should write letters to the Minister, MLA's, and neighbouring municipalities asking for their support as the solution would be constructing one bridge. This is inside the City of Grande Prairie but we should look after the safety of ratepayers.

Resolution #CM20170109.1005

MOVED BY B. SMITH to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation requesting the following:

- the upgrades to Highway 43 and Highway 43X intersection, ultimate design, be completed as one phase rather than a Stage One Construction and a Future Construction as per the Appendix 1 drawing, thus using the savings to the contract to build the interchange without the signalization sooner rather than later.
- As Highway 43X is considered a Freeway Status along with Highway 43, having a traffic circle and a traffic light intersection is not in the best interest of safety and traffic movement as this location has the east bound traffic coming down Richmond Hill having to stop on the hill; and the west bound traffic leaving Grande Prairie having to stop on a hill making this a real safety concern.
- Send copies of the letter to the Alberta Transportation Engineer in Peace River, both MLA's, and the surrounding municipalities (Wembley, Beaverlodge, Hythe and the City of Grande Prairie) and ask them to also write letters of support for the County's position on Highway 43 and Highway 43X upgrades and design to the Minister of Transportation.

Considerable discussion on the proposed plans.

Carried

**Evergreen Park
Financial
Request**

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20170103022)

Mr. Lapp, Acting CAO and Director of Planning and Development, noted that Evergreen Park is requesting additional financial support from the County of Grande Prairie. Evergreen Park is requesting that the County forgive the outstanding County payroll and increase the annual operating monies available to Evergreen Park by \$400,000/year. Evergreen Park would only require an additional \$300,000 per year if they receive the requested funds from the M.D. of Greenview. This would be a 5-year term request.

Due to the economic conditions in the Grande Prairie area, Evergreen Park has faced significant financial challenges in 2016. They have seen lost revenue from a decrease in slot play and a decrease in facility, food and

beverage income. There was also a large capital funding requirement for 2016. Evergreen Park is projecting a \$600,000 cash-flow shortfall for 2016 and an initial projection of a \$400,000 shortfall for 2017.

In 2016, the County of Grande Prairie granted the Society \$400,000 for the 2016 operations and \$418,437 in waived interest payments on capital loans. The current accounts payable owed to the County for the Society's payroll is \$660,978.14 as of December 31, 2016.

Councillor Marshall inquired if the allocated funding for the interchange improvement approved at interim budget could be applied to this request, and the remainder deferred to final budget in April.

Resolution #CM20170109.1006

MOVED BY B. MARSHALL to forgive the outstanding accounts payable related to Evergreen Park payroll in the amount of \$660,978.14 and defer the additional operating grant request to final budget deliberations in April.

Considerable discussion on the motion and Evergreen Park's loss of revenue. It was noted that because the funding for the signalization at the intersection is being borrowed, this motion is not required.

Councillor Marshall withdrew his motion.

Withdrawn

Resolution #CM20170109.1007

MOVED BY B. SMITH to have Evergreen Park attend a County Council meeting and supply budget updates in May and November of every year.

Carried

Resolution #CM20170109.1008

MOVED BY B. SMITH that any Evergreen Park project with a funding request over \$100,000 must be approved by County Council.

Carried

Resolution #CM20170109.1009

MOVED BY P. HARRIS to defer the entire Evergreen Park funding request to final budget deliberations on April 19, 2017 for further consideration.

Councillor Bulford expressed concerns with the ongoing funding of Evergreen Park and whether they will ever be sustainable.

Mr. Sieben commented on the payroll costs covered by the County.

Carried

**Appointment of
Council Members
to
Tri-Municipality
Committee**

(NEW BUSINESS)
(Issue #20170109002)

Added at the Adoption of the Agenda by Councillor Harris.

Mr. Lapp noted that the County has entered into agreement with City of Grande Prairie and M.D. of Greenview on an industrial business park south of the Wapiti River. A Committee is being set up and two Councillors from each municipality are required to sit on the Committee. The suggested members are the Reeve and one other member of Council and a motion is required for the Councillors to sit on the committee.

Deputy Reeve Sutherland commented that after discussions with Reeve Gervais at the Reeves and Mayors Meeting, it was noted that time is short and they want to proceed as soon as possible. The appointments from the City and M.D. should be done by the end of this week.

Resolution #CM20170109.1010

MOVED BY P. HARRIS appoint Reeve Leanne Beaupre and Deputy Reeve Ross Sutherland to the Tri-Municipality Committee.

Discussion in regards to why the Reeve must be one of the members on the Committee, and whether an alternate can be assigned.

Carried

**Letter from
Minister of
Municipal Affairs
- Re: MSI
Operating Plan
Approval**

(INFORMATION ITEMS)
(Issue #20161229001)

Dan Sieben, Acting Director of Corporate Services, noted that a letter has been received from the Minister of Municipal Affairs noting that the County of Grande Prairie's Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Operating spending plan has been approved. The County may proceed to apply the municipality's operating allocation and any estimated 2015 carry-forward to the priorities identified in the plan.

The Alberta Government is committed to making the lives of Albertan's better. By providing significant funding to our municipal partners through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), they continue to assist municipalities in building strong, safe, and resilient communities while respecting local priorities.

**Offer to Access &
Purchase at
NW-12-72-6-W6M**

(ADDENDUM)
(Issue #20170105003)

Dale Van Volkingburgh, Director of Public Works, noted that Deryle Penner, Resource Specialist, has been approached by Seven Generations Energy asking to access the County Crossroads pond at NW-12-72-6-W6M to remove up to 400,000 m³ of water and offering to purchase at @ \$2.00/m³.

As per the County Schedule of Fees, less than 75,000 cubes of water is at a rate of \$3.50 and greater than 75,000 cubes of water is at a rate of \$2.75. The agreement from Seven Generations, if we choose to accept the offer, would be for \$2.00/m³.

Councillor Beck expressed concerns with locking into one certain dollar amount with a sole proprietor. Mr. Van Volkingburgh responded that the contract would only be from January to April 30th, and the terms could be re-addressed after that date to see if it is beneficial deal for the County. There are no other firm commitments from other industry members to purchase the water as of right now. In the past, Knelsen Sand and Gravel has extracted water from the Crossroads pond, but there is currently no formal agreement in place.

The water levels in the pond are dependent on how much snow falls in the winter. Councillor Smith commented positively on the agreement with Seven Generations Energy and noted that Public Works should be given the ability to negotiate the rates.

Resolution #CM20170109.1011

MOVED BY B. SMITH that approval be given to Public Works for the ability to negotiate the price for the sale of water at the Crossroads pond with Seven Generations Energy to \$2.00 - \$2.75, along with the sole proprietary agreement to be paid up front for 300,000 m³.

Councillors Beeston and Harris spoke in favour of the motion.

Carried

**COUNCIL
MEMBER
REPORTS**

Councillor Beck attended and commented on a Conference call for Bill 6 in regards to confined spaces. The Working Group has developed a suitable compromise and will provide a recommendation.

Councillor Smith had nothing additional to comment.

Councillor Beeston had nothing additional to comment.

Councillor Bulford had nothing additional to comment.

Councillor Harris noted that the new date for his operation is January 23, 2017.

Councillor Marshall attended and commented on a Water North Coalition conference call. They will be having a meeting on January 26, 2017.

Deputy Reeve Sutherland attended the Mayors and Reeves Meeting in Fairview. He noted that many other municipalities have the same concerns as the County and there is an interest to have Minister Ceci make a presentation and speak to the Carbon Tax.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORTS**

Mr. Lapp commented on the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission public hearings. There are occurring across Alberta and will be in Grande Prairie on January 19, 2017 at the Sandman Hotel; registration must be completed online by January 12, 2017 and the written submission deadline is in February.

Mr. Van Volkingburgh commented on the snow removal crew working in hamlets (Clairmont done; Westlake and Whispering Ridge next; then Carriage Lane and rural subdivisions today and tomorrow). He will be away on vacation from January 17-27, 2017 and Clint Diederich will be Acting Director in his absence.

Mr. Sieben noted that Dawn Sauvé is on vacation for next three weeks and he is the Acting Director of Corporate Services in her absence. Councillor Marshall inquired when the final 2016 surplus figures would be released. Mr. Sieben responded that the figures will be released officially after the audit, but that we would know unofficially within the next month.

Mr. Miller commented on a request from the RCMP to see if Council wanted to meet at the March AAMDC Meeting to discuss any issues raised by Council. The deadline to request an appointment is the end of January. Councillor Marshall inquired about the status of the sixth Enhanced RCMP Member. Mr. Miller responded that the RCMP have not officially advertised for the position yet, but the member would be located at the County's CSB Building.

Resolution #CM20170109.1012

MOVED by C. BECK that the meeting be recessed 11:24 a.m. for a short break.

Carried

The meeting was reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

**Agricultural
Advice**

(IN CAMERA)
(Issue #20170103005)

Resolution #CM20170109.1013

MOVED by B. MARSHALL that the meeting go in to In-Camera, at 11:38 a.m., pursuant to Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter F-25 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to the Agricultural Advice.

Carried

Resolution #CM20170109.1014

MOVED by H. BULFORD that the meeting come Out-of-Camera at 11:47 a.m.

Carried

Resolution #CM20170109.1015

MOVED BY C. BECK that Administration proceed with the Agricultural Advice as discussed In Camera.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Lapp noted that the County has submitted written comments in the past for the Alberta Electoral Boundaries public hearings. A motion is required to draft a written response and recommendations.

Resolution #CM20170109.1016

MOVED BY B. SMITH to schedule an appointment for the County at the Alberta Electoral Boundaries Commission Public Hearing on January 19, 2017.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #CM20170109.1017

MOVED by P. HARRIS that the meeting adjourn at 11:50 a.m.

Carried

These minutes approved the _____ day of _____ 2017.

Reference # _____

REEVE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR