

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
September 26, 2007**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Reeve: Myler Savill, Joussard
Deputy Reeve: David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie
Councillor: Violet Campiou, Faust
Ray Dupres, Enilda/Big Meadow
Randy Ehman, S. Sunset House/Gilwood
Ken Killeen, Kinuso
Fern Welch, Grouard

Absent: Alvin Billings, HP East/Banana Belt
Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle

Administration: Gilles Lussier, C.A.O.
Jeff Renaud, Deputy C.A.O.
David Lainchbury, Sup't of Public Works
Gerald Loewen, Treasurer
Gary Braithwaite, Ag. Fieldman
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary

Delegation: Clarence Auger
Monica Laderoute

Press: Chris Clegg, South Peace News
Raffaele Papaianni, CKVH

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Savill called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MINUTES:

Mr. Lussier referred to motion #2007-17-685 on page 9 of the minutes and noted that the actual cost of fireworks for the celebration in Swan Hills was higher than \$4000. Council confirmed their intent of the motion was to pay the entire cost of the fireworks.

2007-18-696

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMANN that the minutes of the September 12, 2007 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADDENDUM
TO AGENDA:**

2007-18-697

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the agenda with addendum for the September 26, 2007 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING:

Councillor Ehman requested an update on the issue regarding ATV use within the Winagami Lake Wildland Park as discussed during the September 24th Public Works Committee meeting. Mr. Lussier reported that Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture was accepting of the MD's participation and will send notification of the process they will be using to develop a management plan.

Councillor Killeen reported that he was advised by the Spruce Point Park secretary that in applying for the grant under the Tourism Highway Signage Incentive and Rebate Program, she was made aware of a \$1,000 annual permit fee for Tourism Oriented Directional Signs. Council discussed the information and suggested that administration confirm the program rules with Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation. Reeve Savill further suggested that administration contact neighboring municipalities in regard to the issue and commented that it may be appropriate to include on the upcoming Reeves/Mayors meeting agenda. Reeve Savill also asked that prior to the next meeting administration follow up with the Hon. Hector Goudreau, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture, the status of the request put forth at the Spring AAMDC Conference that access roads into parks and recreational areas be made eligible for resource road funding.

REPORTS:

REEVE:

Reeve Savill provided a detailed report on the September 17th presentation made to the Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Health and Wellness, regarding the need to include a renal clinic, cancer clinic and CT Scan capabilities in the new High Prairie Health Complex. Subsequent to the meeting, copies of the presentation were forwarded to the Ministers of Infrastructure and Transportation, Finance and the Associate Minister for Capital Planning seeking their support. Reeve Savill stated that there was no indication as to when decisions would be made; however, the Minister did acknowledge the urgency of the issue. Letters were sent on behalf of the group by the Town of High Prairie thanking MLA's Pearl Calahasen and Hector Goudreau for their support.

C.A.O.:

Mr. Lussier reported that he attended a meeting with the Big Meadow Water Co-op to review conditions of the transfer of ownership, a Municipal Planning Commission meeting as well as a Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance meeting. He noted that the Economic Alliance plans to put together a scope of some studies to be conducted as soon as incorporation takes place, which would include regional infrastructure priorities such as wireless internet access. Mr. Lussier asked the Council provide any suggested priorities to Councillor Billings. The next meeting will be held in November. Provincial staff will be assigned to this region, and as such, they are currently sourcing office space. Mr. Lussier further asked that Council provide any information on available office space they may be aware of.

Mr. Lussier reported that he was in attendance at Winagami Lake Provincial Park for the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture's funding announcement for the region. He also attended the September 24th Public Works Committee meeting.

Mr. Lussier briefly reported on a meeting that took place the previous day with a local gravel supply business regarding a possible partnership with the M.D. for the cost of dust control along the truck haul route.

Councillor Dupres informed Mr. Lussier that the Big Meadow Water Co-op intends to take a revised resolution to its membership regarding the balance of its funds. He suggested that Mr. Lainchbury check with the Co-op President, Arthur Smith, whether it is necessary for the M.D. to attend the meeting.

DEPUTY C.A.O.:

Mr. Renaud reported that he was absent for a week on family matters. He reported that election preparations are on going. Advance voting will take place in council chambers on October 12th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Renaud informed Council that the warranty for the paint on the administration building roof was for 10 years and has thus expired. Focus has offered to provide names of contractors experienced in this type of work if required.

Mr. Renaud advised that the engineers for the Municipal Services Facilities are currently on site and will be doing inspections no less than once per month as required. Council was updated on the progress of the construction.

Mr. Renaud notified Council of the locations for each of the polling stations for the upcoming elections.

2007-18-698

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the Reeve, C.A.O. and Deputy C.A.O.'s Reports be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC WORKS:**ROAD ALLOWANCE
LEASE APPLICATION:**

Council considered a request from Mr. Jim Zabolotniuk to lease the road allowance adjacent to the west boundary of the SW 02-75-17-W5 for additional farmland. The same request was denied at the September 12th meeting following the public hearing. Mr. Lainchbury explained that the individual who previously opposed the road closure no longer holds the adjacent lease. Discussion ensued.

2007-18-699

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the road allowance application adjacent to the west boundary of the SW 02-75-17-W5 be tabled pending a review of the Permits, Sale and Lease of M.D. Roadways Policy (PW-04).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT:***

Mr. Lainchbury reviewed the Public Works Superintendent's written report to Council. He further provided an update on the current status of the Gilwood Road regrading project.

Mr. Lainchbury & Mr. Vic Abel, Transportation Foreman, will be attending a Public Works Conference in Red Deer from October 1st – 3rd.

Mr. Lainchbury advised that Mrs. Mae Stewart will be returning from maternity leave on October 1st in the capacity as Municipal Engineer.

Reeve Savill inquired as to repaving plans at the location of the sewer leak repairs in Faust. Mr. Lainchbury advised that they would let the area settle first and repave next year as some paving is already scheduled in the area.

Councillor Campiou questioned if repairs have begun on the water leak at the east end of Faust. Mr. Lainchbury advised that the contractor is presently excavating the site.

Councillor Welch noted that she toured Grouard with Mr. Lainchbury who made a record of concerns. Mr. Lainchbury added that Mrs. Stewart will concentrate on obtaining the necessary easements for ditch backslopes upon her return to work.

2007-18-700

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the Public Works Superintendent Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was taken from 10:49 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Mr. Braithwaite joined the meeting.

AGRICULTURE:***ASB ACT REVIEW:***

Correspondence was received from Ms. Debbie Oyarzun, ASB Program Supervisor – Alberta Agriculture and Food, regarding the review of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Act and associated regulations. Mr. Braithwaite will be attending the consultation meeting in High Prairie on November 6th taking place during the Regional ASB Conference.

2007-18-701

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the correspondence from Ms. Debbie Oyarzun, ASB Program Supervisor – Alberta Agriculture and Food, dated September 13, 2007 regarding the review of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Act and associated regulations be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***AAMDC:***

Council was provided with a summary of a meeting between AAMDC and the Hon. George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Food.

2007-18-702

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the September 18, 2007 summary from the meeting between AAMDC and the Hon. George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Food, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Lainchbury left the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

***AG. FIELDMAN'S
REPORT:***

Mr. Braithwaite noted that the Regional ASB Conference will be held on November 6th at the High Prairie Inn. He provided an overview of presenters and requested that Councillors contact him with any resolution items they may want brought forward at the conference. Mr. Braithwaite mentioned that he is still in search of a chairman.

Mr. Braithwaite reported that the spraying program will be completed this Friday and he will then move an operator onto the third mower. He reviewed the mowing schedule for the remainder of the season. Deputy Reeve Marx noted the good job done mowing in his area and on the drainage ditches.

Mr. Papaianni entered the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Mr. Braithwaite will be at a Regional Agricultural Fieldmen's meeting on Friday, September 28th in Grande Prairie. During the meeting they will be putting together elements of the Provincial ASB Conference taking place in Grande Prairie in January, 2008. Discussion ensued regarding time commitments that will be required to organize the event resulting from fieldmen position vacancies in the Peace Region.

Mr. Braithwaite noted that he does not anticipate seasonal ASB crews working past the end of October. He reviewed a list of maintenance work that is planned for the remainder of the season.

2007-18-703

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report to Council be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT
COMM. SERVICES:

FCSS DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:

Council reviewed the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of August 2007.

2007-18-704

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of August 2007 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEV'T PERMIT
APP. 07-71:

Mrs. Olansky, in a written report to Council, reported that a development permit application was received from Cattail Cabins & RV Park Inc. to locate one summer rental cottage on their property in Faust. The M.D. Land Use Bylaw designates this lot as being within the Direct Control District and accordingly, Council shall decide upon all development permit applications located within a Direct Control District. Prior to making a decision, Council must provide public notice that a decision is to be made and afford an opportunity to any interested person to make representation on the application.

Mr. Braithwaite left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

2007-18-705

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that:

- 1) The Community Development Officer post a notice in the local newspapers informing the general public of the Development Permit Application received from Cattail Cabins & RV Park Inc.
- 2) The public notice contain a statement to the effect that:
 - i) if no objection to the application is received within the time prescribed in the notice, then it will proceed without further notice; and
 - ii) if objection to the application is received, then a public hearing will be held on a date and place specified in the notice.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEV'T PERMIT
APP. 07-72:

Mrs. Olansky, in a written report to Council, reported that a development permit application was received from Cattail Cabins & RV Park Inc. to locate four summer rental cottages on their property in Faust. The M.D. Land Use Bylaw designates this lot as being within the Direct Control District and accordingly, Council shall decide upon all development permit applications located within a Direct Control District. Prior to making a decision, Council must provide public notice that a decision is to be made and afford an opportunity to any interested person to make representation on the application.

2007-18-706

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that:

- 1) The Community Development Officer post a notice in the local newspapers informing the general public of the Development Permit Application received from Cattail Cabins & RV Park Inc.
- 2) The public notice contain a statement to the effect that:
 - i) if no objection to the application is received within the time prescribed in the notice, then it will proceed without further notice; and
 - ii) if objection to the application is received, then a public hearing will be held on a date and place specified in the notice.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**BIOENERGY
SYMPOSIUM:**

Information was received regarding a Global Networking Symposium on BioEnergy: BioFuels and Beyond to be held November 13 & 14, 2007 in Calgary.

2007-18-707

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the information regarding the November 13 & 14, 2007 Global Networking Symposium on BioEnergy: BioFuels and Beyond be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**FIRE CHIEF'S
REPORT:**

Council reviewed the Fire Chief's monthly report to Council for the month of August 2007.

2007-18-708

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the Fire Chief's report to Council for the month of August 2007 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**LSLEA:**

Council received a copy of the minutes from the September 20th, 2007 meeting of the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance.

2007-18-709

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the minutes from the September 20th, 2007 Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance meeting be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:****CHEQUE LIST:**

Council reviewed the current cheque list.

2007-18-710

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that cheques #37826 to #37939 in the total amount of \$1,273,981.63 for the period of September 12, 2007 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Welch stepped out of the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

**MUNICIPAL
SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM:**

Mr. Lussier explained that the Municipal Sponsorship Program grant is assigned to the Town of Swan Hills as part of the Inter-Municipal Cost Sharing Agreement. The funds will be utilized for renovations to the Town of Swan Hills Fire Hall.

2007-18-711

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES that Council authorizes the Municipal District of Big Lakes to participate in a Municipal Sponsorship Program grant application for the Town of Swan Hills Fire Hall Renovations under the Alberta Municipal Affairs Municipal Sponsorship Program; further

That the Municipal District of Big Lakes agrees that the Town of Swan Hills be designated the managing partner of the Town of Swan Hills Fire Hall Renovations for the purposes of applying, receiving, administering, allocating, reporting, and accounting for the grant funds on behalf of the partners; further

That the Municipal District of Big Lakes agrees to allocate 100% of its Municipal Sponsorship Program base grant to the Town of Swan Hills Fire Hall Renovations; and further

That the Municipal District of Big Lakes agrees to abide by the terms of the Conditional Grant Agreement signed by the managing partner on behalf of the other eligible municipal partners governing the purpose and use of the grant funds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***MUNICIPAL
SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE:***

Correspondence was received from Deputy Minister Shelley Ewart-Johnson, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, along with a news release announcing enhancements to the Municipal Sustainability Initiative for fiscal year 2008/09 and beyond.

A Member Bulletin was received from the AAMDC regarding the announced changes to the Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding allocation.

Correspondence was received from Deputy Minister Shelley Ewart-Johnson, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding estimated Municipal Sustainability Initiative allocations. Mr. Lussier stated that it appears the 2006 populations are still being used for calculation purposes. He noted that based on the recent federal census, the M.D.'s amount would be somewhat reduced from what was shown.

Councillor Welch returned to the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

2007-18-712

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the correspondence from Deputy Minister Shelley Ewart-Johnson, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing, dated September 17, 2007 and September 21, 2007 and the AAMDC Member Bulletin dated September 21, 2007 regarding the Municipal Sustainability Initiative and funding allocations be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***AAMDC REEVES/
MAYORS MEETING:***

Council received a copy of the minutes from the March 19th, 2007 AAMDC Reeves/Mayors meeting. Reeve Savill observed that the meeting took place six months prior to receiving the minutes.

2007-18-713

MOVED BY REEVE SAVILL that the March 19th, 2007 AAMDC Reeves/Mayors meeting minutes be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE:

FCM:

Council was provided with a copy of the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Annual Report 2006-2007 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

2007-18-714

MOVED BY REEVE SAVILL that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Annual Report 2006-2007 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***PROJECT
PORCHLIGHT:***

Correspondence was received from Mr. Scott Payne, Community Development Coordinator – Project Porchlight, inviting the M.D. of Big Lakes to become a partner in the campaign. Mr. Renaud provided information on a presentation made during the 2007 FCM Conference.

2007-18-715

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the correspondence from Project Porchlight dated September 4, 2007 regarding their campaign to promote energy efficiency be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AAMDC ZONE 4:

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the August 10th AAMDC Northern District Zone Four meeting.

2007-18-716

MOVED BY REEVE SAVILL that the August 10th, 2007 AAMDC Northern District Zone Four meeting draft minutes be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW HIGH PRAIRIE

HEALTH COMPLEX: Council was provided with a copy of correspondence sent to the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, Hon. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Finance, and the Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Associate Minister for Capital Planning, on behalf of the supporting municipalities and related agencies in regard to the September 17th presentation made to the Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Health and Wellness, to show the need to include a renal clinic, cancer clinic and CT Scan capabilities in the new High Prairie Health Complex.

2007-18-717 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the correspondence to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, Minister of Finance, and the Associate Minister for Capital Planning dated September 18, 2007 regarding the September 17th presentation made to the Hon. Dave Hancock, Minister of Health and Wellness, showing the need to include a renal clinic, cancer clinic and CT Scan capabilities in the new High Prairie Health Complex be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was taken from 11:40 a.m. to 11:49 a.m.

OPEN FORUM:

**CLARENCE AUGER
& MONICA
LADEROUTE:**

Mr. Clarence Auger and Ms. Monica Laderoute addressed Council to request that the M.D. not impose any further tax levies or penalties on a piece of property in Grouard that was assumed by the M.D. through tax forfeiture in 2004. Ms. Laderoute explained that they have been making monthly payments on the outstanding taxes since 2006 as the house located on this property belongs to them and they had to move out in 2004 after the M.D. took title. They wish to make a lump sum payout in order to revert the property back to the previous owner so they can move back into their house.

Mr. Loewen provided background details on the tax sale process, levies and penalties. He noted that the entire outstanding balance must be paid before title can revert back to the owner's name, Wesley Auger.

Chris Clegg left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Reeve Savill thanked Mr. Auger and Ms. Laderoute and advised that Council was understanding of their request and would address the matter later in the meeting. Mr. Auger and Ms. Laderoute thanked Council for their consideration and left the meeting.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 12:46 p.m. Mr. Clegg and Mr. Papaiani did not return to the meeting.

POLICY REVIEW:

**RESTRICTION ON OPEN
TENDERS, QUOTATIONS,
AND REQUESTS
FOR SERVICES
POLICY (Admin-13):**

The Restriction on Open Tenders, Quotations and Requests for Services Policy (Admin-13) was provided to Council for review. Mr. Renaud noted that he was advised by the M.D.'s legal counsel that no changes to the policy are warranted and recommended that Council retain this policy.

2007-18-718 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the Restriction on Open Tenders, Quotations and Requests for Services Policy (Admin-13) be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

D. MARX: Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he attended a High Prairie & District Recreation Board meeting and the September 19th Municipal Planning Commission meeting.

F. WELCH: Councillor Welch mentioned that Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation has begun some work at the Highway 750 and Grouard intersection.

Councillor Welch reported on the recent Big Lake Country Tourism meeting and discussions regarding the status of the organization. The Board will be advertising for an Executive Director under the new title of Marketing Director.

Councillor Welch attended a Grouard-Peace River Trail Committee meeting during which a presentation was made by Geotourism regarding guides being developed listing various tourism attractions in the province's northwest area.

Councillor Welch has attended a Heart River Housing meeting, traveled her ward with Mr. Braithwaite in regard to mowing concerns and with Mr. Lainchbury in regard to public works issues.

Councillor Welch added that the Tourism Advisory Council is being restructured by the Ministry wherein individuals can apply to sit on the committee rather than be appointed. Councillor Welch agreed to stay on the Council for another year.

K. KILLEEN: Councillor Killeen reported that he attended a Municipal Planning Commission meeting and Kinuso Recreation Board meeting. Another Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for tonight. Councillor Killeen provided an update on construction of the Kinuso Agriplex and noted that the Swan River Band has agreed to pay half of the operating costs in exchange to allow Band members' children to utilize the facility at no charge.

V. CAMPIOU: Councillor Campiou reported that she attended the September 24th Public Works Committee meeting and last weekend attended a Lesser Slave Lake Community Development meeting in Calgary. She noted that the name has been officially changed to Community Futures.

R. DUPRES: Councillor Dupres reported that he held a community meeting in Enilda last week and plans to hold another one.

R. EHMAN: Councillor Ehman reported that he attended a High Prairie & District Recreation Board meeting on September 17th and the Public Works Committee meeting on September 24th. He mentioned that there will definitely be two new Town councillors on the High Prairie Recreation Board following the elections.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

September 29, 2007		HP Library Antique Roadshow
September 29, 2007		Swan Hills Celebration
October 29, 2007	10:00 a.m.	Public Works Committee
October 29, 2007	1:00 p.m.	Special Council Meeting
November 6, 2007	9:00 a.m.	Councillor Seminar – Slave Lake

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on October 10, 2007 at the M.D. Administration Building.

OTHER: Reeve Savill noted that items I and J under the information section may be of interest to Council.

OPEN FORUM: Discussion took place regarding the delegation and the consensus of Council was to leave the situation as status quo.

2007-18-719 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a letter be sent to Mr. Clarence Auger and Ms. Monica Laderoute indicating that Council historically has not provided tax relief and will not be for this case either.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

2007-18-720

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the meeting adjourn at 1:07 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Myler Savill, Reeve

Gilles Lussier, C.A.O.