

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
May 14, 2008**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Reeve: Alvin Billings, HP East/Banana Belt
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
Guy L'Heureux, Jousard
Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle
Fern Welch, Grouard

Administration: Gilles Lussier, C.A.O.
Jeff Renaud, Deputy C.A.O.
David Lainchbury, Sup't of Public Works
Pat Olansky, Community Development Officer
Gary Braithwaite, Ag. Fieldman
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary
Karen Zelman, Development Clerk

Press: Chris Clegg, South Peace News
Keith Hopper, CKVH Radio

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Billings called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

MINUTES:

2008-09-305

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the minutes of the April 30, 2008 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES:**

Reeve Billings questioned if the issue over the Gaschnitz borrow pit has been worked out. Mr. Lainchbury indicated that he is waiting for a quote on the price of wells.

Councillors Dupres and Campiou joined the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Councillor Ehman asked for an update on the whirlpool north along Range Road 172. Administration advised that further investigation will ensue once the frost is out of the ground. In the interim, the hole has been filled in. Councillor Ehman asked to be kept updated.

**ADDENDUM
TO AGENDA:**

Rural Addressing
Wild Rose Internet Services
Peavine North Access Road
MD Economic Development Committee - Terms of Reference

2008-09-306

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the agenda with addendum for the May 14, 2008 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:*****BYLAW #13-2008:***

Bylaw No. 13-2008 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district Lot 1, Block 1, Plan 962 3442 west of Faust from the Agriculture (A) District to the Country Residential (CR) District to accommodate a proposed subdivision was tabled at the previous meeting.

- 2008-09-307 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that:
1. A public hearing date in the matter of Bylaw No. 13-2008 be set for June 11, 2008.
 2. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the May 28th and June 4th, 2008 issues of the South Peace News.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- BYLAW #04-2008:** Bylaw No. 04-2008 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district SE 13-73-10-W5 (southeast of Kinuso) from the Agriculture (A) District to the Country Residential - 2 (CR-2) District to accommodate 8 proposed country residential acreages was presented to Council. Mrs. Olansky noted that the response submitted from the applicant addressing Council's concerns with regard to flooding was attached to her report. It was further noted that the applicant referred to a ditch along Range Road 100 in need of cleaning in his correspondence. Council discussed past flooding issues and possible development stipulations to help mitigate potential flood damage in the future.

- 2008-09-308 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that:
1. A public hearing date in the matter of Bylaw No. 04-2008 be set for June 11, 2008.
 2. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the May 28th and June 4th, 2008 issues of the South Peace News.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- MD LAND SALE:** Council was provided with the results of the public bids received for the sale of Lot 43, Heart River & Salt Prairie Settlement Lesser Slave Lake. Letters of interest were received from the Salt Prairie Settlement Society and Salt Prairie Historical Foundation. Mrs. Olansky advised that she is waiting for the results of an historical title search from Land Titles in light of concerns expressed by the two groups. Administration suggested that the MD retain any portion of the parcel required, if any, to protect public historical/cultural intent and negotiate with the highest bidder the sale of the remaining portion of River Lot 43. Discussion ensued.

- 2008-09-309 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the sale of Lot 43, Heart River & Salt Prairie Settlement Lesser Slave Lake be tabled for further information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**COMM. DEV.
OFFICER'S
REPORT:**

The Community Development Officer's Report for the month of April 2008 was presented to Council.

- 2008-09-310 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Community Development Officer's Report to Council for the month of April 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ENVIRONMENTAL
RESERVE LOT:**

Council previously tabled a request from Rolf and Jodi Spode, owners of Lot 2, Plan 832-3067, for Council's consideration regarding the municipal Environment Reserve lot located in the Hamlet of Joussard directly behind their property. Mrs. Olansky presented a number of options for Council's consideration. General discussion took place.

- 2008-09-311 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a public hearing date be set for the lease of the Environmental Reserve lot (Lot 5ER Plan 832-3067) located in Joussard to adjacent property owners.

CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS:

**MINISTER OF
TRANSPORTATION:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, advising that the raw water reservoir aeration project in Faust and on-line analyzer project in Joussard have been approved for funding under the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership.

- 2008-09-312 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the correspondence from the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, dated April 29, 2008 regarding grant funding under the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT:***

Mr. Lainchbury reviewed the Public Works Superintendent's written report to Council. He further updated Council on the status of the gravel pit (SML) purchase, the Baker's Crossing Bridge project and construction of Township Road 754. Mr. Lainchbury added that a meeting with DCL Siemens has been scheduled for May 16th to review the Infrastructure Master Plan.

Councillor L'Heureux inquired as to the status of the outstanding issue regarding installation of water and sewer on Marc Goutier's lot in the Hamlet of Jousard. Administration will follow up.

2008-09-313

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the Superintendent of Public Works' Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was taken from 10:53 a.m. to 11:02 a.m.

***LAGOON ACCESS
POLICY:***

The draft Lagoon Access Policy (PW-17) was provided for Council's review.

2008-09-314

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the Lagoon Access Policy (PW-17) be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***RURAL
ADDRESSING:***

Reeve Billings requested that information on the new rural addressing system be sent out with each tax notice. If signs are incorrect or missing, residents will be encouraged to contact the MD office. Councillor Campiou questioned if residents could relocate their sign. Mr. Lussier noted that the signs must still be visible to the road and recommended that residents contact the MD office to coordinate the move. Councillor Welch noted that the street signs do not correspond with the new residence signs and will have to be changed.

It was noted that Prairie River Gas Co-op has requested all customers to call in their rural address. Mr. Renaud advised that the Mapping Technician has supplied the Gas Co-op with the digital information and is in contact with them to find out what else is needed in order to assist in providing them with the required information.

***PEAVINE NORTH
ACCESS ROAD:***

Deputy Reeve Marx requested that Mr. Lainchbury look into drainage problems along the south west Peavine access road (Range Road 163).

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

Mr. Braithwaite reported that the new post pounder has arrived and the new Schulte mower is expected to arrive this Friday. An older roadside mower will then be moved to the Kinuso rental fleet. He noted that the large tree planter was sent out for warranty work and should be back sometime in the next couple of days.

Mr. Braithwaite advised that the Alberta Tree Nursery trees are in, and the PFRA trees will arrive later this afternoon. Residents will be notified that their orders have arrived tomorrow. Additional summer staff will commence work next week. Spraying is scheduled to begin May 26th and mowing will begin on June 2nd in the Kinuso area.

Discussion took place in regard to providing opportunities to local trappers to remove beaver from problem areas in the spring when fur prices are higher rather than paying a contractor.

It was noted that the blasting contract is in place, and the contractor is tentatively scheduled to start on May 19th.

2008-09-315

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report to Council be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**COMMUNITY AND
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:**

**COMM. PEACE
OFFICER'S
REPORT:**

Council reviewed the Community Peace Officer's report for the month of April 2008. Councillor L'Heureux requested that the Community Peace Officer monitor quad use in the Hamlets in accordance with the General Traffic Bylaw. Mr. Renaud will pass on the request to Officer Bronson. Councillor Welch mentioned that Officer Bronson recently performed a quad check in Grouard.

Councillor Campiou returned to the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Mr. Lussier informed Council of News Releases announcing recent searches and arrests undertaken by the new enhanced police officers in High Prairie.

2008-09-316 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Community Peace Officer's report for the month of April 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**WILD ROSE INTERNET
SERVICES:**

Reeve Billings brought forth correspondence from Wild Rose Internet Services regarding rural high speed internet services. Mr. Renaud reported that Wild Rose previously submitted a proposal at the time Council was considering its involvement on a municipal perspective in providing rural high speed internet. He noted at the time administration was directed to monitor the progress in the private industry in meeting residents' needs. Council discussed current service levels within the private industry.

2008-09-317 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the correspondence from Wild Rose Internet Services regarding rural high speed internet services be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

**2008 OPERATING
BUDGET:**

Mr. Lussier reported an approximate 1% surplus in the proposed 2008 operating budget. Based on the multi-year plans, he recommended that a portion of the surplus be transferred to the Roadway Surfacing Reserve, Transportation General Reserve, and Recreation and Culture Reserve.

2008-09-318 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that \$100,000 be allocated to each of the Roadway Surfacing Reserve, Transportation General Reserve, and Recreation and Culture Reserve from the 2008 final budget surplus.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-09-319 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the 2008 Operating Budget be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2008 CAPITAL
BUDGET:**

Mr. Lussier reported no changes to the 2008 capital budget from the May 12th Special Council meeting.

2008-09-320 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the 2008 Capital Budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MILL RATE
BYLAW #16-2008:**

Mill Rate Bylaw No. 16-2008 to authorize the rates of taxation for the year 2008 was presented to Council for second and third readings.

2008-09-321 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that Mill Rate Bylaw No. 16-2008 be approved for second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-09-322 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that Mill Rate Bylaw No. 16-2008 be approved for third reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHEQUE LIST: Council reviewed the current cheque list.

2008-09-323 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that cheques #39706 to #39783 in the total amount of \$242,745.04 for the period of April 30, 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR & AT-LARGE HONORARIUM POLICY:

The revised Councillor and At-Large Honorarium Policy (Counc-04) was provided for Council's review. Mr. Renaud highlighted changes to the policy from the April 30th meeting. Council further suggested revising section 7 to read Reeve or Deputy Reeve shall approve all councillor allowance, honoraria and expense claims. A brief discussion took place on conditions regarding payment of conference fees within the Councillor Convention & Registration Policy.

2008-09-324 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the revised Councillor and At-Large Honorarium Policy (Counc-04) be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-09-325 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEURUEX** that the Councillor Convention & Registration Policy (Counc-06) be placed on the next meeting agenda for Council's review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C.A.O.'S REPORT: Mr. Lussier reported that the majority of his time has been consumed with the budget process. He is anxiously waiting for the new Treasurer to arrive on June 1st. Mr. Lussier attended the joint meeting with the MD of Greenview and worked with the Town of High Prairie on a presentation for the Northern Lakes College Board of Governors.

2008-09-326 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEPUTY C.A.O.'S REPORT:

Mr. Renaud reported that he has also been occupied with the budget process and is awaiting the new Treasurer. He attended a Peace River Oil Sands Synergy Group meeting along with Councillor Matthews as well as a recent Steering Committee meeting for the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance. A Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance board meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

2008-09-327 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the Deputy C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ECONOMIC DEV'T
COMMITTEE:**

Mr. Renaud presented a draft Terms of Reference for the MD Economic Development Committee for Council review and approval. He noted that the committee is also suggesting that the format change from ad hoc to a standing committee of council.

2008-09-328

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the MD Economic Development Committee be established as a standing committee of council with approved Terms of Reference as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:48 a.m. and reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:**BARRHEAD & DISTRICT
SOCIAL HOUSING
ASSOCIATION:**

Correspondence was received from Dorothy Clarke, CAO – Barrhead & District Social Housing Association, recommending that municipalities urge the government on behalf of the Management Bodies that provide lodge accommodation to increase the Lodge Assistance Grant in the 2008-2009 budget year.

2008-09-329

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that a letter be sent to the Hon. Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, in support of an increase to the Lodge Assistance Grant in the 2008-2009 budget year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**HP COMMUNITY
HEALTH COUNCIL:**

Correspondence to Peace Country Health Board of Governors was received from the High Prairie Community Health Council requesting confirmation of commitment to the CT Scan, cancer and diabetic treatment in the new High Prairie Hospital. They further suggested that the information package compiled by the Town of High Prairie and M.D. of Big Lakes be forwarded to the new Minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. Ron Liepert.

2008-09-330

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that a copy of the presentation made to the previous Minister of Health and Wellness recommending that the new High Prairie facility include a Renal Dialysis Clinic, a Cancer Clinic, and CT Scan capability be sent to the current Minister, Hon. Ron Leipter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**H.P. & DISTRICT
RECREATION
BOARD:**

Council received an invitation from Brianna Panasiuk, Summer Coordinator for the High Prairie & District Recreation Board, to attend the annual Senior Citizens Week Barbecue being held on June 6th.

2008-09-331

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that any councillor who is available for the High Prairie & District Recreation Board Annual Senior Citizens Week Barbecue being held on June 6, 2008 be approved to attend.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**PEACE COUNTRY
HEALTH:**

A request was received from Ms. Linda Duplessis, Director – Peace Library System, for the opportunity to meet with Council to provide an update on System activities.

2008-09-332

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that an invitation be extended to Peace Library System to attend a future council meeting as a delegation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINISTER OF
MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS:**

Information was received from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, on a new service, the Alberta Emergency Notification System, being offered by the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to municipalities and First Nations.

2008-09-333

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the correspondence from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated May 8, 2008 regarding the new Alberta Emergency Notification System be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- D. MARX:** Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he attended a High Prairie and District Recreation Board meeting on May 2nd. He noted that the Recreation Director tendered her resignation, with her last day being today. Deputy Reeve Marx also attended the Special Council meeting on May 12th.
- F. WELCH:** Councillor Welch reported that she has attended the April 28th Public Works Committee and MPC meetings and a High Prairie Library Board meeting. She reported on a Heart River Housing Remote Housing Committee meeting, noting that six new housing units will be located in Grouard and two in Faust.
- Councillor Welch reported on funding for libraries discussed by Peace Library System with the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs.
- Councillor Welch informed Council that she was absent from the last council meeting to participate in a visit by the Archbishop to Grouard. She stated that the Archbishop has indicated that the Archdiocese is hoping most churches can maintain themselves by 2010. She noted that major maintenance and preservation work is needed at the Grouard church. Councillor Welch further commented that tourism in the Grouard area needs to be considered. Reeve Billings noted that discussion has taken place with MLA, Pearl Calahasen, with regard to designating an historical site in Grouard.
- K. MATTHEWS:** Councillor Matthews reported that four physicians toured the area with members of the Physician Retention Committee over the past week.
- Councillor Matthews attended the Peace River Oil Sands Synergy Group meeting at Northern Sunrise Country and was elected Vice Chair. He is waiting for the receipt of the final Terms of Reference and commented that he feels it is in the MD's best interest to stay involved in the group.
- Councillor Matthews reported on a meeting sponsored by Community Futures he attended on May 12th with the oil and gas industry around High Prairie. He would like to invite a representative to speak to Council about the area at a future meeting.
- Councillor Matthews further noted that he attended the meeting with the Peavine Metis Settlement.
- K. KILLEEN:** Councillor Killeen reported that he attended the Special Council budget meeting on Monday, May 12th.
- V. CAMPIOU:** Councillor Campiou reported that she attended the May 6th joint meeting with the MD of Greenview and a Community Futures meeting on May 13th.
- G. L'HEUREUX:** Councillor L'Heureux attended the joint meeting with the MD of Greenview. He commented that Council needs to move towards improved access to the south shore of Snipe Lake.
- Councillor L'Heureux reported that installation has begun on water and sewer at the Jossard campsite, renovations at the Senior's Centre are near completion and the ice is almost off Lesser Slave Lake. He added that a steamer was brought into the Hamlet this morning to thaw frozen sewer lines under the streets. Councillor L'Heureux briefly reviewed plans for future expansion of the campsite.
- R. DUPRES:** Councillor Dupres reported that he attended the Special Council meeting on Monday, May 12th.
- A. BILLINGS:** Reeve Billings reported that he and Mr. Lussier met with Peavine Metis Settlement council on May 2nd and again with Peavine Settlement representatives on the evening of May 13th with Town of High Prairie representatives.
- A brief discussion took place regarding concerns with regard to the costs associated with the relocation of a storm retention pond on the property where new hospital is being constructed and the process for turning the Seal Lake North Access Road into a public road.
- Reeve Billings met with Pearl Calahasen, MLA, on May 3rd and discussed topics including Tolko's proposed wood realignment, education facilities for Northern Lakes College and Grouard.

Reeve Billings attended the meeting with the MD of Greenview. He informed Council that Greenview is proposing to construct a regional waterline and provided information regarding the twinning of Highway 43 to the west.

Reeve Billings also attended the Special Council budget meeting on May 12th.

R. EHMAN:

Councillor Ehman reported that he attended a High Prairie & District Recreation Board meeting on May 2nd and the joint meeting with the MD of Greenview. He asked to be kept updated on progress with the proposal for upgrades to the south access to Snipe Lake.

2008-09-334

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the Councillor Community/Committee Reports be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MEETING
SCHEDULE:**

May 25, 2008	2:00 p.m.	Mayor/Reeve's Walk
May 26, 2008	10:00 a.m.	Public Works Committee
May 26, 2008	1:00 p.m.	Municipal Planning Commission
May 30, 2008	1:00 p.m.	High Prairie Hospital Sod Turning
May 30 – June 2, 2008		FCM Conference

Mr. Lussier advised that an invitation was received from Peavine Metis Settlement to attend the sod turning ceremony for their future arena on May 20th at noon.

2008-09-335

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that Deputy Reeve Marx be approved to attend the May 20th sod turning ceremony in Peavine for the future arena.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Lussier further advised that an invitation was received to participate in the Recreation for Life 6th Annual Golf Tournament at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort on Monday, June 9th. He informed Council that the Town of High Prairie is the featured community at hole number one. Council discussed opportunities to promote recreation in High Prairie and region.

2008-09-336

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that Councillor Matthews be approved to attend the Recreation for Life 6th Annual Golf Tournament at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort on Monday, June 9th.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Lussier notified members of the Northern Lakes College Lobbying Committee that the next NLC Board of Governors meeting will be held June 17th at 3:30 p.m. in Grouard.

The following dates were set for Integrated Community Sustainability Plan public meetings:
 Tuesday, June 10th Faust Northern Lake College Campus @ 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 18th Grouard Northern Lakes College Campus @ 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Welch stepped out of the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

OTHER:

Councillor Matthews reported that he received a letter from the Peace Airshed Zone Association regarding membership renewal. He asked that administration follow up on the status of the committee. Mr. Lussier noted that the MD receives annual reports on all airsheds.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on June 11, 2008 at the M.D. Administration Building.

IN CAMERA:

2008-09-337

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the meeting go in camera to discuss personnel matters at 1:36 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Welch returned to the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

2008-09-338

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the meeting come out of camera at 3:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

2008-09-339

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES that the meeting adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alvin Billings, Reeve

Gilles Lussier, C.A.O.