

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
October 11, 2006**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Reeve: Myler Savill, Joussard
Deputy Reeve: David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie
Councillor: Alvin Billings, HP East/Banana Belt
Violet Campiou, Faust
Ray Dupres, Enilda/Big Meadow
Randy Ehman, S. Sunset House/Gilwood
Ken Killeen, Kinuso
Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle
Fern Welch, Grouard

Administration: Jeff Renaud, A.C.A.O.
Gilles Lussier, Sup't of P.W.
Gerald Loewen, Treasurer
Pat Olansky, Community Development Officer
Gary Braithwaite, Ag. Fieldman
Sharon Strang, FCSS Director
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary

Delegation: S/Sgt. Mike Pierson, High Prairie RCMP

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Savill called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Reeve Savill extended his congratulations and welcomed Councillors Dupres and Matthews to Council.

MINUTES:

Councillor Dupres noted that motion 2006-18-614 should read "Bylaw No. 16-2006" rather than "Bylaw No. 15-2006".

2006-19-643

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the minutes of the September 27, 2006 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as corrected.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADDENDUM
TO AGENDA:**

V.S.I.
Signs
Public Notices
Second Ice Surface/Lottery Cabin

2006-19-644

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the agenda with addendum for the October 11, 2006 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES:**

Mr. Renaud extended regrets on behalf of Mr. Eriksson who could not be in attendance because he was attending a meeting in Edmonton with regard to Sucker Creek drainage.

Mr. Renaud reported that the CFEP grant application has been submitted with a copy to the Hon. Pearl Calahasen.

Reeve Savill informed Council that the letter to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation with regard to funding for water and sewer extensions in the Hamlet of Grouard and the letter to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development regarding fire protection in the white zone have been held at his request for revisions.

REPORTS:

REEVE: Reeve Savill reported that he attended the last Economic Development Alliance meeting in Kinuso. He advised that all members were in agreement with the finalized bylaws of the alliance with minor modifications. Reeve Savill added that a couple of other interested parties were in attendance at the meeting but have not committed to joining the alliance.

C.A.O.: Mr. Eriksson's written report was included in the agenda package. Mr. Renaud added that Big Lakes agreed at the Economic Development Alliance meeting to be the facilitator for grant funding to pay the legal fees necessary to put the alliance bylaws in place.

Mr. Loewen entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Renaud noted that copies of the agenda for the October 25th organizational meeting were distributed for information for the benefit of those Councillors that will not be in attendance at the meeting. It was suggested that the new Councillors sit on the same committees as their predecessors. Councillor Dupres stated that he would be willing to fill the positions left vacant by Councillor Bissell. Councillor Matthews mentioned that he would like information on some of the committees.

2006-19-645 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS** that the Reeve and C.A.O.'s Reports be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC WORKS:***LANDOWNER
COMPENSATION:***

Mr. Lussier reported that the preliminary assessment on the Gilwood Road has been completed by the consultant who has suggested a 40 meter right-of-way based on previous projects and widths of other resource roads. Mr. Lussier recommended that Council proceed with widening the Gilwood roadway to 40 meters (131 ft) and compensate landowners in accordance with the schedule of compensation rates recommended by AMEC Infrastructure Limited. Mr. Lussier presented photographs showing a comparison between 30 meter and 40 meter right-of-way. Discussion ensued.

2006-19-646 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that Council proceed with widening the Gilwood roadway to 40 meters (131 ft) and compensate landowners as per recommendations submitted by AMEC Infrastructure Limited.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SIGNS: Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he received a call from a Salt Prairie resident requesting that 'No Littering' signs be installed along S.H. 750 at the Salt Prairie Hall and at the north east boundary of the M.D.

Councillor Ehman reported that the stops signs at the intersections of Range Roads 173 & 175 and the Gilwood Road are down.

Reeve Savill further reported that the first street light on the left hand side entering Jousard has been blinking for the past year. Mr. Lussier will once again advise ATCO.

***PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT:***

Mr. Lussier reported that there is 1 ½ miles of shoulder pulling to be completed before crews can proceed with construction of the two farm access roads. There are a couple of miles remaining on the ditching program and hydroaxe brushing will continue until the end of this week. Additional hydroaxing will be done later in the fall if funds permit. The contractor has returned to Jousard to install the microfilter at the water treatment plant. Mr. Lussier added that public works has begun to switch a couple of trucks over to plows and sanders for the winter.

Mr. Lussier reported that he was pleased to have the opportunity to attend the CPWA Annual Alberta Conference in Red Deer and provided a brief overview of some of the topics of interest.

Mr. Braithwaite entered the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Deputy Reeve Marx questioned if hydroaxe brushing is being slowed down due to budget constraints. Mr. Lussier replied that was the reason in part. He explained that at one time consideration was given to adding gravel sections this fall and because the hydroaxe made good headway additional gravelling will be completed if enough funds can be taken from the maintenance programs. Deputy Reeve Marx stated that he would like hydroaxe

brushing to continue if the weather remains suitable and if there are more projects to complete. Mr. Lussier advised that he will review the budget figures.

2006-19-647

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Lussier left the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

AGRICULTURE:

V.S.I. SERVICES:

Correspondence was received from Mr. J.M. Henderson, Manager – V.S.I. Services (1980) Inc., advising that the annual meeting will be held on November 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Peace River. Mr. Braithwaite indicated that VSI costs this year are approximately \$10,000 higher than other years due in part to the closure of the vet clinic in Valleyview. He explained that many M.D. of Greenview residents with VSI cards in both municipalities have been utilizing the High Prairie vet clinic. He further noted that costs may have increased with the recovery of the beef market. Mr. Braithwaite provided an explanation of the V.S.I. program.

Mrs. Olansky entered the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Mr. Braithwaite will put forth a request for additional funding for V.S.I. if required.

V.S.I.:

Reeve Savill reported that correspondence was received from Clearhills County Agricultural Service Board and Council seeking support from partnering municipalities to include certain services for elk and bison in the V.S.I. program. Discussion took place on the request and reasons that the program was not opened up to other animals in the past. Reeve Savill noted that Council should make a decision prior to the November 23rd V.S.I. meeting. Councillor Billings suggested that the discussions be held with the partnering municipalities.

2006-19-648

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS that the request from Clearhills County to include services for elk and bison to the V.S.I. program be tabled to the next meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***2006 PEACE REG'L
ASB AGENDA:***

Council was provided with an agenda for the October 31, 2006 Peace Regional ASB Conference to be held in Nampa. Reeve Savill recommended that the resolution on modernization of seed cleaning plants not be re-opened since the vote defeating the resolution at the AAMD&C spring conference was not very close. Council discussed the suggestion and agreed not to put the resolution on the agenda for the ASB conference.

2006-19-649

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that any Councillor wishing to attend the 2006 ASB Peace Regional Conference be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Mr. Braithwaite reported that he will be attending a meeting with the Town of Swan Hills this evening on their request that the M.D. partner in a weed control program within their town. Mr. Braithwaite suggested that a program be developed similar to that with Gift Lake Metis Settlement which began on a partial cost recovery basis and worked up to full cost recovery. He noted that he will not know the extent of Swan Hill's request until following the meeting. Discussion took place regarding cost recovery and grant eligibility for the Town of Swan Hills.

2006-19-650 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report to Council be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was taken from 10:59 a.m. to 11:11 a.m.

PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT
COMM. SERVICES:

TELUS: Correspondence was received from Telus in response to Council's request to expand the Kinuso local calling area to include the High Prairie area. Telus advised that because local calling area expansion would affect the local rates charged to customers in various communities affected, the Village of Kinuso and the Town of High Prairie would also be required to pass a motion to proceed with the changes. Councillor Ehman expressed interest in having the Sunset House area included in the High Prairie local calling area. Councillor Welch suggested that administration find out if the smaller communities between Kinuso and High Prairie will be included.

2006-19-651 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that Council seek support from the Village of Kinuso and the Town of High Prairie to expand the Kinuso local calling area to include the High Prairie area and that Telus be requested to determine the cost implications to the local rates charged to customers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council requested that Mr. Renaud contact Telus to investigate the cost implications of expanding the local calling areas within the M.D.'s boundaries to include all M.D. communities.

COMM. DEV.
OFFICER'S
REPORT:

The Community Development Officer's Report for the month of September 2006 was presented to Council. Mrs. Olansky informed Council that 94 development permit applications have been received to date, which is well over double from any previous year. One new Land Use Bylaw amendment application was received today proposing to change an area from Agricultural District to Industrial District. Mrs. Olansky reported that an MPC meeting has been scheduled for October 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Strang entered the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

2006-19-652 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the Community Development Officer's Report to Council for the month of September 2006 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reeve Savill questioned if the M.D. should consider a bylaw increasing the M.D.'s off site levies. Mr. Renaud advised that a draft bylaw has been prepared pursuant to amendments in the M.G.A. and has been circulated within administration for comment. He explained that a requirement under the new legislation is to show the fee calculation, which staff is currently working on. He stated that the bylaw should be forthcoming.

PUBLIC NOTICES: Reeve Savill requested that a more detailed description be added to public notices placed in local newspapers because he has been informed that some people have difficulty in determining the locations affected. Mrs. Olansky stated that she would. She noted that she previously addressed this issue on the development permit side but overlooked other notices such as Land Use Bylaw amendments.

Councillor Dupres noted that the public notice for Bylaw No. 14-2006 appeared in the same issue of the *South Peace News* twice. Mrs. Olansky noted that one of the other bylaws may have been missed in the issue; however if it appeared in the High Prairie Times then all statutory obligations would have been met. Mr. Clegg stated that he advised *South Peace News* staff last week that there is a need for a better system of identifying ads. Reeve Savill requested that administration double check the ad.

Mrs. Olansky left the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

FCSS DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:

Mrs. Strang reviewed the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of September 2006.

2006-19-653 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of September 2006 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***FIRE CHIEF'S
REPORT:***

Council reviewed the Fire Chief's monthly report to Council for the months of August and September 2006. Questions were raised with regard to Fire Chief Gould's Working in Partnership 2006/2007 report.

2006-19-654 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the Fire Chief's report to Council for the month of August 2006 be tabled to the next meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2006-19-655 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS** that the Fire Chief's report to Council for the month of September 2006 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***2ND ICE SURFACE/
LOTTERY CABIN:***

Councillor Ehman commented that now that budget deliberations are upcoming and there are issues regarding the second ice surface in terms of funding, he suggested that Council meet with the Town of High Prairie Council to discuss plans for completing the project.

2006-19-656 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a meeting be arranged with the Town of High Prairie Council and Second Ice Surface Committee to discuss plans for completion of the second ice surface along with a separate meeting with the Town of High Prairie Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Ehman reported that he inquired whether there was anything that the M.D. and Town of High Prairie councils could jointly work on for the lottery cabin as a show of support for the second ice surface. It was suggested that the two councils contribute labor to landscaping once the cabin is raffled off and relocated to Joussard. Councillor Killeen suggested that Council mention the idea to the Town council during their meeting about the second ice surface.

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:51 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

CHEQUE LIST: Council reviewed the current cheque list.

2006-19-657 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that cheques #34959 to #35054 in the total amount of \$1,905,990.75 for the period of September 30, 2006 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***COUNTY OF
GRANDE PRAIRIE:***

Correspondence was received from Reeve Everett McDonald, County of Grande Prairie No. 1, advising that the proposed inter-municipal meeting to be held October 20, 2006 regarding the new Grande Prairie acute care hospital will begin at 3:00 p.m. rather than 2:00 p.m.

2006-19-658 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the correspondence from Reeve Everett McDonald, County of Grande Prairie No. 1, dated September 27, 2006 regarding the proposed inter-municipal meeting to be held October 20, 2006 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALMS: A membership application for the 2006-07 year was received from the Alberta Lake Management Society. Council discussed advantages of becoming a member.

Councillor Campiou returned to the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

2006-19-659 **MOVED BY REEVE SAVILL** that the 2006-07 membership application from the Alberta Lake Management Society be tabled for further information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AUMA RESOLUTION: Council was provided with a copy of an Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution calling for a provincial freeze on commercial and residential development and subdivisions within 8 km from any urban municipality until the Provincial Land Use Policy framework is legislated in Alberta.

2006-19-660 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that a letter be sent to the AAMD&C expressing concerns with regard to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution on provincial development freeze and inquiring as to how the AAMD&C is addressing the issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CATTAIL CABINS
& RV PARK INC.:**

Correspondence to the Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, was received from Ms. Sherrie Hay, owner of Cattail Cabins & RV Park, expressing concern with the unfairness that the tax mill rate levied to small businesses is the same as large corporations.

2006-19-661 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the correspondence to the Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, from Cattail Cabins & RV Park dated September 22, 2006 regarding the tax mill rates levied to small business be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

S/Sgt. Mike Pierson joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

It was suggested that Council discuss with the Minister a proposed change to legislation separating commercial tax rates from industrial.

DELEGATION:

**HIGH PRAIRIE
R.C.M.P.:**

Staff Sergeant Mike Pierson of the High Prairie RCMP detachment joined the meeting with regard to the new planning process implemented in the RCMP. He advised that his detachment has identified two areas of concern in particular to the High Prairie and Faust areas to concentrate on; namely drugs and domestic violence. S/Sgt. Pierson provided statistics on domestic violence charges to date and stated that members will focus on education and enforcement on both issues. He explained that each municipality within his detachment's jurisdiction must acknowledge and agree upon these areas of concern. Council discussed the increasing drug problem throughout the area which has resulted in subsequent offenses being committed and ways in which the Government can be lobbied to make changes to the court system.

Reeve Savill inquired as to the status of the Protocol Agreement for enhanced policing. S/Sgt. Pierson advised that Mr. Eriksson has arranged a meeting for October 17th to begin drafting the agreement. He noted that the postings are on the top of the list for the 2007/08 year. Reeve Savill commented that it would be nice to have a finalized document prior to the AAMD&C conference in November.

2006-19-662 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that Council supports the two priorities identified by the RCMP as areas of concern to focus on, being drugs and domestic violence.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

S/Sgt. Pierson reported that a RCMP dog and handler will be posted out of the High Prairie detachment in the near future. The position will be advertised nationally within the next two weeks.

S/Sgt. Pierson assured Council that the Faust detachment will not be losing a member due to integration.

S/Sgt. Pierson left the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Councillor Ehman noted in the C.A.O.'s written report that Mr. Bill Sweeney was appointed Deputy Commissioner and suggested that Council send a letter of congratulations.

2006-19-663 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a letter be sent to Mr. Bill Sweeney, former Assistant Commissioner in charge of K-Division Alberta, in congratulations of his appointment as Deputy Commissioner responsible for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the NWT.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**INTEREST RATE
REPORT:**

Mr. Loewen provided Council with information regarding interest rates on M.D. investments as of August 31st. He noted that the rates range from 4.0% to 5.28%. Mr. Loewen indicated that the M.D.'s RBC investor reviews the entire marketplace and does not just stay within the Royal Bank. He noted that all investments fall under the M.G.A. guidelines. Mr. Loewen was asked to include interest rate information with each quarterly financial report to Council.

Mr. Loewen reported that the current auditor's three-year term is expiring. Of the seven requests for proposals sent out, four responses were received. The lowest quote was received from Hawkings Epp Dumont which included the audit for the Big Lakes Library Board and High Prairie Waste Management Authority.

2006-19-664

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS that Hawkings Epp Dumont be appointed auditor for 2007 to 2009.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Loewen asked that Council consider setting dates in early December for budget meetings. It was agreed that the meetings be scheduled for December 4th & 5th.

CORRESPONDENCE:**AB HOUSING
INDUSTRY TECH
COMMITTEE:**

Correspondence was received from Gord Bontje, Chair – Alberta Housing Industry Technical Committee, expressing concern with the general approach and the technical solutions proposed by the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution entitled City of Edmonton Alberta Building Code Changes.

2006-19-665

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the correspondence from the Alberta Housing Industry Technical Committee dated September 19, 2006 regarding the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association resolution entitled City of Edmonton Alberta Building Code Changes be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINISTER OF
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Denis Ducharme, Minister of Community Development, thanking Council for its letter in support of the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association's position paper on the need for increasing capital funding for community recreation and parks infrastructure.

2006-19-666

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the correspondence from the Hon. Denis Ducharme, Minister of Community Development, dated September 25, 2006 in regard to Council's letter of support for the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association's position paper on capital funding for community recreation and parks be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINISTER OF
CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, requesting that Council proclaim October 16 – 22, 2006 as Canada's Citizenship Week.

2006-19-667

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS that the correspondence from the Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, regarding Canada's Citizenship Week be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**AB CHILD & FAMILY
SERVICES AUTH:**

Correspondence was received from North Central Alberta Child & Family Services Authority, Region 7, requesting that Council proclaim October 15 – 21, 2006 as Foster Family Appreciation Week.

2006-19-668

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the correspondence from North Central Alberta Child & Family Services Authority, Region 7, regarding Foster Family Appreciation Week be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**REQUEST FOR
LETTER OF
SUPPORT:**

Council considered a request from the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation for a letter in support of their proposal under the Canadian Forest Service "Forest Communities Program" grant.

2006-19-669

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that a letter be provided to the Woodland Operations Learning Foundation in support of their proposal under the Canadian Forest Service "Forest Communities Program" grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council reviewed the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Bulletin included in the information section of the agenda regarding changes to the Traffic Safety Act.

2006-19-670

MOVED BY REEVE SAVILL that the Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security Bulletin regarding changes to the Traffic Safety Act be placed in the next M.D. newsletter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Billings asked for an update on the Special Constable recruitment. Mr. Renaud advised that a candidate from Flagstaff County was offered and has accepted the position. He is expected to begin on November 6th.

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- D. MARX:** Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he attended the road tour on October 10th.
- F. WELCH:** Councillor Welch reported that she also attended the road tour.
- K. MATTHEWS:** Councillor Matthews reported that he attended the October 10th road tour.
- K. KILLEEN:** No report.
- V. CAMPIOU:** Councillor Campiou reported that she attended the road tour as well as a Lesser Slave Lake Community Development Corporation meeting on October 10th.
- R. DUPRES:** No report.
- A. BILLINGS:** Councillor Billings reported that he attended the October 10th road tour. He commented that the mowing looks great and the roads were in pretty good condition considering the weather.
- R. EHMAN:** Councillor Ehman reported that he attended the October 10th road tour.

**UPCOMING
MEETINGS:**

October 16, 2006		H.P. Recreation Board
October 20, 2006	10:00 a.m.	Municipal Planning Commission
October 30, 2006	10:00 a.m.	Public Works Committee
October 28, 2006	10:00 a.m.	M.D. of Spirit River Anniversary
October 31, 2006	9:30 a.m.	Regional ASB Conference - Nampa

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on October 25, 2006 at the M.D. Administration Building.

Councillor Welch noted that Northern Lakes College will be holding its annual Round Dance on October 21st.

2006-19-671

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the meeting go in camera to discuss personnel issues at 1:51 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2006-19-672

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the meeting come out of camera at 2:35 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2006-19-673

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BILLINGS that the M.D. carry out an open advertised competition for the position of C.A.O.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

2006-19-674

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the meeting adjourn at 2:36 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Myler Savill, Reeve

Jeff Renaud, A.C.A.O.