

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
October 22, 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, October 22, 2008 following the Organizational Meeting.

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.
Mike Rudkin, Treasurer
Gary Braithwaite, Ag. Fieldman
Pat Olansky, Community Development Officer
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary

Observer: Jordan Lewis, E.W. Pratt High School Student

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Billings called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m.

MINUTES:

Reeve Billings noted on page six of the minutes in the second paragraph of the Peace Officer's report that the word "is" should be replaced with "in".

Councillor L'Heureux noted on page five of the minutes under Jousard ditching that the flooding concerns are on adjacent property to the school and not at the school.

2008-20-756

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the minutes of the October 8, 2008 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as corrected.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES:**

Reeve Billings thanked administration for their assistance with the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant.

Councillor Welch questioned if a meeting has been set with Northern Lakes College in regard to Moosehorn Lodge and the Cultural Village. A misunderstanding occurred last meeting whether the meeting was with the Economic Development Committee. It was clarified that the Committee members would be in attendance along with Mr. Lussier and Reeve Billings. Mr. Renaud advised that he is waiting for a response to his email to the President of NLC for possible meeting dates.

Councillor Matthews questioned if revisions had been made to the fire hall lease agreement. Mr. Lussier advised that the modifications are being worked on.

Councillor Campiou inquired as to the final completion date for the Municipal Services Facilities. Mr. Renaud advised that he has not spoken with the engineers or contractor since he returned to work. Mr. Lussier noted that the contractual completion date is the end of January 2009. Councillor Matthews expressed that the time frame for construction of that type of facility was unacceptable.

**ADDENDUM
TO AGENDA:**

Mission Creek Bridge Engineering
High Prairie Rural Fire Tanker
SARDA
Jousard Community Association Campground

2008-20-757

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the agenda with addendum for the October 22, 2008 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

BYLAW #28-2008: Bylaw No. 28-2008 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district a portion of NW 22-73-17-W5 from the Agriculture (A) District to the Country Residential (CR) District to accommodate a proposed subdivision was presented to Council for first reading. Councillor Ehman requested that Mrs. Olansky ensure that the proposed access to the remnant of the parcel is suitable.

2008-20-758 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that:
 1. Bylaw No. 28-2008 be approved for first reading.
 2. A public hearing date be set for November 26, 2008.
 3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the November 12th and 19th, 2008 issues of the South Peace News.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BYLAW #29-2008: Bylaw No. 29-2008 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district a portion of SW 9-74-13-W5 in the Hamlet of Joussard from the Hamlet of Joussard Urban Reserve (HJUR) District to the Hamlet Commercial (HC) District to accommodate a proposed subdivision was presented to Council for first reading.

2008-20-759 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that:
 1. Bylaw No. 29-2008 be approved for first reading.
 2. A public hearing date be set for November 26, 2008.
 3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the November 12th and 19th, 2008 issues of the South Peace News.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BYLAW #30-2008: Bylaw No. 30-2008 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district Lot 1, Block 8, Plan 0822756 in the Hamlet of Joussard from the Hamlet of Joussard Urban Reserve (HJUR) District to the Hamlet Commercial (HC) District to accommodate a restaurant development was presented to Council for first reading.

2008-20-760 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that:
 1. Bylaw No. 30-2008 be approved for first reading.
 2. A public hearing date be set for November 26, 2008.
 3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the November 12th and 19th, 2008 issues of the South Peace News.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PUBLIC WORKS:*****AWARD OF
ENGINEERING -
BF 08297:***

Council reviewed the engineering proposal submitted by MPA Engineering Ltd. for bridge repairs at Bridge File 08297 (Mission Creek in Joussard). Mr. Lussier advised that approval is required as the project is not a budgeted item but the engineering portion will be 100% funded by Alberta Transportation.

2008-20-761 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the engineering for the bridge repairs at BF 08297 (Mission Creek, Joussard) be awarded to MPA Engineering Ltd. in the amount of \$119,862.00 excluding GST, subject to the approval of Alberta Transportation, and that the budget be amended accordingly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**AGRICULTURE:*****PEACE COUNTRY BEEF
AND FORAGE
ASSOCIATION:***

A request was received from Ms. Jaime Borduzak, Peace Country Beef & Forage Association Manager, for a contribution towards the 2008/2009 program in the amount of \$10,000. Councillor L'Heureux suggested that Council consider increasing the funding amount as per discussions at the October 21st Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

2008-20-762

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the request for funding from Peace Country Beef & Forage Association be tabled to the December 2 & 3, 2008 Special Council meetings.

CARRIED

**AG. FIELDMAN'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Braithwaite reported that the MD's contract beaver blaster would be performing work to assist accessibility to the Seal Lake route.

Mr. Braithwaite informed Council of payments made to date to the contract beaver blaster in response to inquiries made at the October 21st Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. Discussion took place on whether material costs should be over and above the contractor's minimum monthly payment.

Reeve Billings commented that the good weather may present an opportunity for additional mowing to be completed. He suggested that councillors contact Mr. Braithwaite if they have mowing to be done in their area. Mr. Braithwaite made note of a ditch in Banana Belt with a number of large rocks that may be valuable for use as rip rap. Reeve Billings will follow up with Mr. Braithwaite.

Mr. Braithwaite informed Council of an Athabasca Watershed Planning and Advisory Council focus group taking place in Barrhead on Tuesday, October 28th. He will provide the information to Councillor L'Heureux.

2008-20-763

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that Councillor L'Heureux be approved to attend the Athabasca Watershed Planning and Advisory Council focus group on Tuesday, October 28th in Barrhead.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Braithwaite also informed Council of a carbon credit trading session being held in Fairview on November 21st. It was noted that Councillors Matthews and Ehman attended a similar session in Fairview earlier this year.

2008-20-764

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the information regarding the November 21st carbon credit trading workshop be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-20-765

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SARDA:

Councillor Ehman reported that the Smoky Applied Research and Development Association is requesting an additional \$5,000 in funding. He recommended that the request be tabled to the budget meetings. Mr. Lussier explained that provincial funding has been scaled back and suggested that the topic be brought forth at the November Mayors'/Reeves' meeting. He advised that SARDA's manager has offered to provide a briefing.

2008-20-766

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the funding request from SARDA be tabled to December 2 & 3, 2008 Special Council meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-20-767

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that funding under the Agriculture Opportunities Fund be added to the agenda for November 11th Mayors' and Reeves' meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12:56 p.m. Mr. Lewis did not return to the meeting.

**COMMUNITY AND
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:**

***FCSS DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:***

Council reviewed the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of September 2008.

2008-20-768

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the F.C.S.S. Director's Report to Council for the month of September 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Fire Chief Gould reviewed the Fire Chief's monthly report to Council for the month of September 2008.

2008-20-769

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the Fire Chief's report for the month of September 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***LETTER OF
SUPPORT:***

Mr. Lussier distributed copies of the minutes from the October 16th Regional Training Facility Committee meeting. A letter of support is requested from the MD of Big Lakes to accompany provincial and/or federal funding applications.

2008-20-770

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that a letter be sent to the Regional Training Facility Steering Committee in support of their application for Rural Diversification Initiative Funding for the proposed regional medical training facility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***AB CENTRE FOR
INJURY CONTROL
& RESEARCH:***

Correspondence was received from the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research regarding November being Seniors' Falls Prevention Month. Mr. Lussier will speak with the FCSS Director in regard to providing information to the communities.

2008-20-771

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH that the correspondence from the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research regarding Seniors' Falls Prevention Month be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***HEART RIVER
HOUSING:***

A request was received from Patricia Billings, Heart River Housing Administrator, for a letter in support of their Affordable Supportive Living Initiative grant application. Councillor Welch explained that Heart River Housing is planning expansions at the Pleasantview Lodge and Red Willow Lodge. Councillor Matthews suggested that Heart River Housing consider the possibility of replacing the old portion of the Pleasantview Lodge. Councillor Welch commented that the suggestion could be brought forth to the Board.

2008-20-772

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH that a letter be sent to Heart River Housing in support of their grant application to the Department of Alberta Seniors and Community Supports through the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

***H.P. RURAL FIRE
TANKER TRUCK:***

Mr. Renaud recommended that the MD contribute \$1,000 towards a mural for the sides of the new High Prairie rural water tanker truck to assist in recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters. The project will be cost shared on a 50/50 basis with the High Prairie Fire and Rescue Society.

2008-20-773 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that \$1,000 be contributed toward the creation of a firefighting mural on the High Prairie rural fire water tanker, and that the budget be amended to reflect the expense coming from account #6-23-10-35-760.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J.C.A.

CAMPGROUND:

Councillor L'Heureux provided an invoice from the Joussard Community Association for completed water and sewer installation at 16 campsite lots. He noted that JCA requested that the MD cost share 50% of the project last spring.

2008-20-774

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that Council approves contributing 50% of the costs for water and sewer installation at 16 lots in the Joussard Community Association campsite as per the Community Services Policy (Admin-30).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

CHEQUE LIST:

Council reviewed the current cheque list.

2008-20-775

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that cheques #41193 to #41296 in the total amount of \$597,743.68 for the period ending October 8, 2008 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINISTER OF
MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, accepting the MD's project applications for Bridge File 76362 and the Peavine North-Seal Lake Resource Road under the capital funding component of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative

2008-20-776

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES that the correspondence from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated October 7, 2008 accepting the MD's project applications for Bridge File 76362 and the Peavine North-Seal Lake Resource Road under the capital funding component of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**SEAL LAKE
ROAD:**

Councillor Matthews requested an update on the Seal Lake North Access Road. Reeve Billings reported that Arrow Energy has just approved releasing EXH Engineering from their LOC work to allow them to work on the municipal RDS project. The MD's contractor is blasting beaver dams in order to proceed with survey and design work. Mr. Lussier mentioned that the plans are near satisfactory for Public Lands' approval. EXH has been requested to assist with the resource road application because they have much of the background information.

Councillor Campiou stepped out of the meeting at 1:15 a.m.

Mr. Lussier added that the Treasury Board – Oil Sands Secretariat has requested a briefing for the proposed meeting regarding funding for the Seal Lake Road. Reeve Billings reported further on wood allocations and preliminary consultations with first nations. Reeve Billings noted that Arrow Energy is considering the supply of EXH's work to date as their contribution to the project.

2008-20-777

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN a letter be sent to Arrow Energy Ltd. in recognition of their valuable contributions to the Seal Lake Road project with copies to MLA, Pearl Calahasen and all other contributing partners.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Matthews questioned if a meeting had been arranged through Pearl Calahasen with the Hon. Ted Morton, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. Reeve Billings advised that MLA Calahasen was working on scheduling a meeting during the upcoming AAMDC Conference. He will follow up.

Councillor Campiou returned to the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

**TANGIBLE CAPITAL
ASSETS POLICY:**

The draft Tangible Capital Assets Policy was presented to Council for review.

2008-20-778 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the Tangible Capital Assets Policy be tabled to the next meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C.A.O.'S REPORT:

Mr. Lussier reported that he has assisted the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant in putting together a briefing for funding applications. He attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting, and found the presentation on Shell's Peace River Carmon Creek project interesting. Mr. Lussier noted that a student from E.W. Pratt High School was in attendance to observe council proceedings. He added that the Kinuso School felt that the distance was too great to send a student to council meetings; however, Mr. Lussier suggested that the Kinuso students follow the Village dissolution study procedure. Administration will provide the school with information if needed.

Mr. Lussier reported that Mr. Lenard Racher will be starting as the new Public Works Superintendent on November 10th.

Councillor L'Heureux questioned if the MD will be proceeding with installation of fish waste tanks in Jousard. Discussion took place on locating the tanks within the Jousard Community Association's recreation lease area dependant on the terms of the lease. Mr. Lussier will follow up with Sustainable Resource Development in regard to the status of the lease.

Councillor L'Heureux inquired as to the status of the ditching project along the main Jousard access. Mr. Lussier advised that an agreement is in place with conservation for the east side. Arrangements are being made with the grazing lease holder on the west side. Hydrovac for Supernet will begin right away.

2008-20-779 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DEPUTY C.A.O.'S REPORT:

Mr. Renaud noted that he was away the past couple of weeks. He participated in an interview in Edmonton for the Quality Health Council of Alberta. The shortlist of candidates should be submitted to the Minister within the week.

Mr. Renaud attended portions of the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting. He and Mr. Rudkin attended the ARMAA zone meeting in Peace River and a session on the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

Mr. Renaud distributed a tentative agenda for the November 6th council strategy session. He asked that council bring forth any additional agenda items.

2008-20-780 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Deputy C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE:

LAC LA BICHE COUNTY:

Correspondence to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association was received from Mayor Peter Karylchuk, Lac La Biche County, regarding a recommendation put forth by AUMA to the membership on changing the membership structure.

2008-20-781 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a letter be sent to the AAMDC stating that the MD of Big Lakes does not support an amalgamation of membership of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AAMDC:

A Member Bulletin was received from the AAMDC regarding the responses from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Government of Alberta regarding Resolution 11-08S: Immigration and Certification Process for Medical Staff. Councillor Matthews commented on the response and noted that Council should not let up on the issue.

2008-20-782

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that a letter be sent to the AAMDC in appreciation of the update on Resolution 11-08S: *Immigration and Certification Process for Medical Staff* and advising that the MD of Big Lakes would like the lobbying effort to continue due to the importance of the issue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**PRAIRIE ECHO
COMM LEAGUE:**

A request for funding was received from Prairie Echo Community League for the 50th Anniversary Event taking place November 22, 2008. It was suggested that the request be tabled until the next meeting following a review of the draft Tourism and Event Support Policy and that Prairie Echo Community League be asked to provide a budget for the event at that time. Deputy Reeve Marx will contact the group.

2008-20-783

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the request for funding from Prairie Echo Community League for their 50th Anniversary Event be tabled to the next meeting and that a letter be sent to Prairie Echo Community League advising that their request will be considered once a policy is in place.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**H.P. NATIVE
FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE SOCIETY:**

An invitation was received from Ms. Victoria Barsalou, Executive Director of the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre Society, to attend the 28th Annual Elder's Christmas Banquet to be held on December 6th at the Eagles Nest Complex in Enilda. Any councillors wishing to attend will make their own arrangements.

2008-20-784

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH that the invitation to attend the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre's 28th Annual Elder's Banquet on December 6th be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

D. MARX:

Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he attended a High Prairie & District Recreation Board meeting. He noted that the Town of High Prairie retained the same board members at their organizational meeting. Tenders have been put out for both ice rinks.

Deputy Reeve Marx recently spoke with two local young men currently attending medical school regarding their interest in returning to the area to practice if the MD commits to covering some expenses.

F. WELCH:

Councillor Welch reported that she has attended a Heart River Housing meeting and Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

K. MATTHEWS:

Councillor Matthews reported that he attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting and expressed his interest in the Shell presentation.

Councillor Matthews participated in a tour of the area for another physician on Friday, October 17th. She has decided to practice in McLennan, but will travel to High Prairie to perform anesthetics.

Councillor Matthews attended the open house for Finance and Enterprise, the annual meeting of the Hospital Board, the Training Facility Steering Committee meeting October 16th and the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

K. KILLEEN:

No report

V. CAMPIOU:

Councillor Campiou reported that she attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting, Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting and a Community Futures meeting.

G. L'HEUREUX:

Councillor L'Heureux reported that he also attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting. He noted that Shell's presentation was the best he had seen by an oil company and provided the best explanation of operations.

Councillor L'Heureux attended the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on October 21st. He mentioned that many producers are not registering their cattle because the forms are all on-line, and they are not taking advantage of the assistance offered by local offices.

Councillor L'Heureux attended a Joussard Community Association meeting last night. He noted an increase in revenue from JCA's campsite in the last six months from last year.

R. DUPRES: No report

A. BILLINGS: Reeve Billings reported that he attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting and thanked those councillors that also attended. He commented that the promotional video turned out well. Copies of the video will be sent out after final editing. He added that the LSLEA Community Profiler is currently in print. Reeve Billings noted that he will be watching the progress and results of a survey being distributed by economic alliances regarding the possibility of expanding their capacity.

Reeve Billings attended the open house for Finance and Enterprise, the Common Ground Forum on October 20th and the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. Reeve Billings asked that staff assist in making arrangements to speak with Prairie River Junior High students regarding local government.

R. EHMAN: Councillor Ehman reported that he attended the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance annual general meeting and reiterated that the promotional video and information presented by Shell was very well done. Councillor Ehman attended a High Prairie & District Recreation Board meeting on October 14th, a SARDA meeting on October 17th and the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on October 21st.

2008-20-785 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Councillor Community/ Committee Reports be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEETING SCHEDULE:

October 27, 2008	10:00 a.m.	Public Works Committee
October 27, 2008	1:00 p.m.	Municipal Planning Commission
October 31, 2008	10:00 a.m.	Economic Development Committee
October 31, 2008	11:00 a.m.	Regional Landfill Authority
November 5, 2008	9:30 a.m.	ASB Regional Meeting
November 6, 2008	10:00 a.m.	Council Strategic Planning Session
November 7, 2008	12:00 p.m.	Training Facility Steering Committee
November 11-14, 2008		AAMDC Fall Conference

Mr. Lussier reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, October 24th at the MD office regarding Gift Lake regional water supply. The initial meeting will take place between administration and the consulting engineers. Council will be kept informed of the progress.

Council review the AADMC fall conference itinerary.

Mr. Lussier advised that an MD staff and council Christmas dinner will be held on December 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Northern Lites. He asked that councillors RSVP for reservation purposes.

Council discussed travel arrangements for the AAMDC conference. The majority will carpool.

Councillor Welch mentioned that she has been requested to make a presentation on local government to the grade 6 class in Grouard this Friday.

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on November 26, 2008 at the M.D. Administration Building.

A break was taken from 2:19 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

IN CAMERA:

2008-20-786 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the meeting go in camera to discuss personnel matters at 2:30 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2008-20-787 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the meeting come out of camera at 3:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

2008-20-788

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alvin Billings, Reeve

Gilles Lussier, C.A.O.