

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
November 25, 2009**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 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
Ken Killeen, Kinuso
Guy L'Heureux, Jousard
Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle
Fern Welch, Grouard

Absent: Randy Ehman, S. Sunset House/Gilwood

Administration: Jeff Renaud, C.A.O.
Mike Rudkin, Treasurer
Len Racher, Sup't of Public Works
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary

Delegation: George Wright, Big Lake Country Tourism
Lorne Carson, Carson Forestry
Tara Jamison, Carson Forestry
Dale Thomas, Sustainable Resource Development
Angelo Murphy, Steven Murphy, Terri Forseille,
Levi Forseille, Nolen Forseille, Branden Forseille, Diane Bellerose, Dave Crooks, Kyle Crooks

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Billings called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

MINUTES:

2009-22-876

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that the minutes of the November 10, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

Reeve Billings questioned if a digital AutoCad sketch has been prepared for the Faust Community League. Mr. Renaud advised that the MD's mapping technician began immediately following the last council meeting.

Mr. Renaud noted that amendments are in order to the draft Swan Hills Airport Agreement prior to it proceeding.

Deputy Reeve Marx inquired whether all items of correspondence as noted at the last meeting have been sent. File copies of the letters will be provided to Council. Reeve Billings informed Council that Sustainable Resource Development has indicated that they will be dealing with the fox issue in Jousard.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:

Christmas Light Up
In Camera – Business Interests
Kinuso Library
The FCSS Director's Report was moved up in the agenda

Councillor Dupres joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

2009-22-877

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the agenda with addendum for the November 25, 2009 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:****BYLAW #35-2009:** Being a bylaw to provide for off-site levies.

Councillor Campiou joined the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

2009-22-878

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that:

1. Bylaw No. 35-2009 be approved for first reading.
2. Bylaw No. 35-2009 be advertised for two weeks.
3. A non-statutory public hearing be scheduled for January 13, 2010.

Councillor L'Heureux requested a recorded vote.

In Favor: Reeve Billings, Deputy Reeve Marx
Councillors Matthews, Dupres, Campiou

Opposed: Councillors Welch, Killeen, L'Heureux

CARRIED**COMMUNITY AND
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:*****FCSS DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:***

Mrs. Strang was in attendance to present her October activity report. She requested to expend \$3,500.00 per each new municipal services facility to build an enclosure for youth program supplies. Funds will be taken from the 2009 budget. Council had no objections to the request.

2009-22-879

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the FCSS Director's October Report be received for information.**CARRIED****DELEGATION:*****BIG LAKE COUNTRY
TOURISM:***

Mr. George Wright, Executive Director – Big Lake Country Tourism, joined the meeting and distributed information packages and left copies of the November 2009 Alberta Outdoorsmen and Summer 2009 Road Trip Guide, which included Big Lake Country Tourism advertising.

Councillor Campiou stepped out of the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Mr. Wright noted that they will be going by Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism as the name is more recognizable. He highlighted several initiatives that were focused on in 2009 to market the region including attendance at spring trade shows, obtaining funding from Travel Alberta for a number of projects and events in the region, promotions that did not cost the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism, as well as focus on the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Slave Lake.

Councillor Campiou returned to the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Mr. Wright updated Council on website visitors, open houses, media/travel agent groups that visited the region.

Mr. Wright noted that they are asking for additional funding for 2010 from each of the funding partners in the amount of \$3,333.00.

Reeve Billings suggested that Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism work jointly with the Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance to address concerns with regard to the lack of restroom facilities by possibly looking at developing an RV pull in at the VIC. Mr. Wright further recommended that the Tourist Information Centre in High Prairie should be improved within the next few years.

Councillor Welch commended Mr. and Mrs. Wright for their work with Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism. Mr. Wright thanked Councillor Welch for her time over the years spent on the committee and welcomed Councillor L'Heureux as the new committee member. Reeve Billings thanked Mr. Wright for his presentation and noted that Council would deal with the funding request.

**CARSON FORESTRY/
SRD:**

Mr. Lorne Carson and Ms. Tara Jamison, Carson Forestry, and Mr. Dale Thomas, Forest Health Officer – Sustainable Resource Development, joined the meeting to provide an update on the Mountain Pine Beetle Control Program from last year and to discuss options for the upcoming year.

Mr. Thomas presented Council with aerial survey maps from 2008 and 2009 showing a comparison of the level of Mountain Pine Beetle infestation rates within the MD. He noted that there has been a major increase in infestation and the highest concern in this region is in the Swan Hills because of the amount of pine trees.

Mr. Thomas explained that management zones are established by the provincial government and funds for control programs are distributed based on priority. \$25 million has been allocated for survey control work this year by the provincial and federal government. The MD of Big Lakes, however, is not eligible for grant funding this year because it is outside of the leading edge.

Council was advised of other potential funding options through Western Economic Diversification - Fire Smart or Forest Health programs. Private landowners can access information on the Mountain Pine Beetle website. Mr. Thomas noted that the Town of Swan Hills, in conjunction with the Forest Health Officer in Whitecourt, successfully applied for funding for survey and control work within the Town of Swan Hills through Western Economic Diversification.

Mr. Carson indicated that proposals for Western Economic Diversification must be submitted prior to December 4th. He noted that the main objective of the fund is to employment, and suggested that the MD focus its efforts on protecting and cleaning up areas of importance and aesthetics such as campgrounds, community halls, church sites, and graveyards. He added that they will not be able to perform work on private property any more. The MD will be required to administer the program similar to the last couple of years. Assistance in preparing a proposal was by both Mr. Thomas and Mr. Carson. Mr. Carson provided his contact information and will be in touch with administration.

A break was taken from 11:34 a.m. until 11:42 a.m.

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT CON'T:**

BYLAW #34-2009: Being a bylaw to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district the NE 32-73-10-W5 from the Agriculture (A) District to the Bare Land Condominium – 2 (BLC-2) District.

Councillor Dupres returned to the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

2009-22-880

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that:

1. Bylaw No. 34-2009 be approved for first reading.
2. A public hearing date be set.
3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the *South Peace News*.

CARRIED

***BIG LAKE COUNTRY
TOURISM:***

2009-22-881

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the request from Lesser Slave Lake Regional Tourism for an additional \$3,333.00 in funding for 2010 be referred to budget deliberations.

CARRIED

Councillor Welch returned to the meeting 11:44 a.m.

MDP/LUB REVIEW:

Council was provided with results of the Request for Proposal issued for the review of the MD of Big Lakes' Municipal Development Plan/Land Use Bylaw.

2009-22-882

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the contract for the Municipal Development Plan/Land Use Bylaw review project be awarded to North Star Planning & Associates in the amount of \$90,150 plus GST.

CARRIED

2009-22-883

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that Councillor L'Heureux and Councillor Matthews be appointed to the MDP/LUB Review Steering Committee.

CARRIED

A break was taken from 11:55 a.m. to 12:03 p.m.

DELEGATION:***HP SKATEBOARD
PARK:***

Angelo Murphy, Steven Murphy, Terri Forseille, Levi Forseille, Nolen Forseille, Branden, Diane Bellerose, Dave Crooks, and Kyle Crooks joined the meeting.

Mrs. Bellerose advised that a group got together some time ago to look at providing more public recreation in the community that would be free to utilize for everyone. The group is proposing to build a skateboard park and seeking money to use as leverage in applying for matching grant dollars. They are requesting \$50,000 from both the MD and the Town of High Prairie. She reported that the group has been approved to assume the High Prairie Sports Complex Society non-profit status in July 2010 which comes with approximately \$10,000 and a casino. The estimated cost to build the skateboard park is \$300,000 to \$400,000, not including the cost to purchase some land. It was noted that this development would have low maintenance and operational costs. The group provided additional details including suitable locations. They made note of potential benefits for tourism and business ventures. Council questioned if other municipalities have been approached for contributions. Mrs. Bellerose stated that the MD is their first presentation, but they would be agreeable to presenting to other municipalities.

Reeve Billings informed the group that Council requires a formal proposal and budget prior to addressing the funding request. He noted that Council is in the preliminary budgeting stage currently, and the final budget will be passed in May 2010.

Reeve Billings thanked the group for attending the meeting and noted that Council will put their request under consideration. He further commented that it is good to see the young kids coming to the meeting.

A break was taken from 12:28 p.m. until 12:45 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS:***TRAIL CAMERA
QUOTATION:***

Council was provided with quotations on a number of styles of trail cameras for the purpose of managing illegal waste disposal along municipal roadways.

2009-22-884

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the public works report on trail cameras for the purpose of managing illegal waste disposal along municipal roadways be received for information.

CARRIED***FAUST EAST END
WATER LINE
HOOK UP FEES:***

2009-22-885

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH that the proposed water hook up fee of \$7,000.00 for all new hook ups to the water line on the east end of Faust from the 2nd Street East road allowance continuing east to the Faust hamlet boundary be deferred to the November 30th Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED***PUBLIC WORKS
REPORT:***

Mr. Racher presented a verbal public works activity report.

Mr. Racher will arrange to have a representative from Prairie Fuel Advisors to make presentation at the January 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Campiou mentioned that the cul-de-sac in Faust is in need of grading.

Councillor Welch noted that the MD recently acquired title to a lot in Grouard north of the fire hall that was the site of a trailer fire. She requested that MD crews clean up the property and dispose of the debris.

2009-22-886

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

CARRIED

AGRICULTURE:***WILD BOAR BOUNTY PROGRAM:***

2009-22-887 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the MD of Big Lakes continues with the Wild Boar Program for 2010/2011 as well as the continuation of the additional \$50.00 subsidy provided by the MD of Big Lakes for every pair of wild boar ears.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES:***PEACE OFFICER'S REPORT:***

Officer Bronson was in attendance to review his October activity report. Councillor Welch requested that Officer Bronson patrol large trucks in Grouard once again along Highway 750 within the 80 km zone.

2009-22-888 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the Community Peace Officer's October 2009 Report be received for information.

CARRIED

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Fire Chief Gould was in attendance to review his October 2009 activity report.

2009-22-889 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the Fire Chief's report for the month of October 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED

MD FIRE SERVICE REVIEW:

Mr. Renaud reviewed the results of an internal evaluation of the MD of Big Lakes fire service.

2009-22-890 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the internal review of the MD of Big Lakes' fire service be received for information.

CARRIED

ROADSIDE POINT OF INTEREST SIGN:

2009-22-891 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WELCH** that the Grants Manager's report regarding roadside point-of-interest signage for the Hamlet of Grouard be received for information.

CARRIED

CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP:

Reeve Billings received a request from the High Prairie Beautification Association that Council consider providing a contribution in the amount of \$500 for the 2010 community Christmas light up.

2009-22-892 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the funding request from the High Prairie Beautification Association in the amount of \$500 for the 2010 community Christmas light up be deferred to budget deliberations.

CARRIED

KINUSO LIBRARY: Councillor Matthews informed Council that the MD's budget for the Big Lakes Library Board will significantly increase now that the Kinuso Library is run by the Big Lakes Library Board.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:***CHEQUE LIST:***

2009-22-893 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that cheques #44785 to #44952 in the total amount of \$3,896,405.37 for the period ending November 13, 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED**TAX SALE
RESERVE BIDS:**

The reserve bids for the December 7th tax sale as determined by Compass Assessment Consultants were presented to Council for approval.

2008-22-894

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the reserve bids for the December 7, 2009 Tax Sale be approved as presented.

CARRIED**C.A.O.'S REPORT:**

Mr. Renaud presented a verbal activity report.

Councillor Matthews stepped out of the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

2009-22-895

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that the C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Matthews returned to the meeting at 1:34 pm.

Councillor Campiou questioned if the responses to Ms. Burger and Ms. Freeman from the last meeting have been sent. Mr. Renaud advised that they are ready for signature.

CORRESPONDENCE:

2009-22-896

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the following items of correspondence be received for information:

- a. Letter from Lesser Slave Lake Watershed Council to MLA, Pearl Calahasen, dated November 5, 2009 expressing thanks for her support
- b. Canadian Federation of Independent Business dated November 13, 2009 introducing the new Director
- c. Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA, dated November 16, 2009 congratulating Reeve Billings on his re-appointment as Reeve
- d. Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA, dated November 16, 2009 congratulating Deputy Reeve Marx on his re-appointment as Deputy Reeve

CARRIED**ATHABASCA
WPAC:**

An invitation was received from the Athabasca Watershed Planning and Advisory Council to attend the first general meeting of the Athabasca Watershed Council.

2009-22-897

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that Councillor Dupres attend the Athabasca Watershed Council First General Meeting on Saturday, November 28th in Athabasca.

CARRIED**HIGH PRAIRIE
LIBRARY:**

Members of the High Prairie Municipal Library Board would be available to attend council's budget meeting with regard to the High Prairie Library 2010 budget.

2009-22-898 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the correspondence from the High Prairie Municipal Library dated November 12, 2009 regarding the High Prairie Library 2010 budget be received for information.

CARRIED

***KINUSO/FAUST
CITIZENS ON
PATROL:***

A request was received for funding in the amount of \$1000 to assist with costs of insurance and operational expenses.

2009-22-899 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the funding request from the Kinuso/Faust Citizens on Patrol be deferred to budget deliberations.

CARRIED

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councillor Welch requested that the councillor community/committee reports be omitted for this meeting.

Councillor Killeen informed Council that the cement was poured yesterday for the Kinuso community arena.

Councillor Matthews commented on a report by the Hon. Jack Hayden, Minister of Infrastructure, during last week's AAMDC convention regarding redevelopment of the vacant Federal Building at the Legislature grounds

2009-22-900 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that administration investigate the costs associated with the restoration of the Federal Building at the Legislature grounds.

CARRIED

2009-22-901 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the Councillor Community /Committee Reports be waived for the November 25, 2009 meeting.

CARRIED

**MEETING
SCHEDULE:**

2009-22-902 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the December 23, 2009 regular council meeting be cancelled.

CARRIED

2009-22-903 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the December 28, 2009 Municipal Planning Commission and Committee of the Whole meetings be cancelled.

CARRIED

2009-22-904 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the rescheduling or cancellation of the January 27, 2009 regular council meeting be tabled to the next council meeting.

CARRIED

A joint council meeting with the Peavine Metis Settlement and Town of High Prairie will be held in the Town council chambers on Thursday, December 10th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Reeve Billings, Deputy Reeve Marx, Councillors Matthews, Welch and Campiou and Mr. Racher will attend.

A meeting of the Emergency Management Committee was scheduled for Monday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m.

The November 26th road tour was cancelled.

November 30, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Municipal Planning Commission
November 30, 2009	1:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole
December 3, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Special Council Meeting
December 4, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Special Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING: The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on December 9, 2009 at the M.D. Administration Building.

IN CAMERA:

2009-22-905 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the meeting go in camera to discuss business interests at 1:57 p.m.

CARRIED

2009-22-906 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the meeting come out of camera at 2:10 p.m.

CARRIED

2009-22-907 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the MD of Big Lakes transfers the land in question to Heart River Housing for the purposes of sustainable, affordable housing.

CARRIED

2009-22-908 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the meeting go in camera to discuss personnel matters at 2:15 p.m.

CARRIED

2009-22-909 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the meeting come out of camera at 4:00 p.m.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

2009-22-910 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the meeting adjourn at 4:01 p.m.

CARRIED

Alvin Billings, Reeve

Jeff Renaud, C.A.O.