

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES  
COUNCIL MEETING  
October 8, 2010**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Friday, October 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

**PRESENT WERE:**

Reeve: Alvin Billings, HP East/Banana Belt  
Councillor: Violet Campiou, Faust  
Ray Dupres, Enilda/Big Meadow  
Randy Ehman, Sunset House/S. Gilwood  
Ken Killeen, Kinuso  
Guy L'Heureux, Jousard  
Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle  
Fern Welch, Grouard

Absent: David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie  
Harvey Prockiw, CAO

Administration: Bill Landiuk, Treasurer  
John Gould, Fire Chief  
Amanda Nepstad, Agricultural Fieldman  
Pat Olansky, Community Development Officer  
Len Racher, Public Works Superintendent  
Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary  
Karen Zelman, Development Clerk

Delegation: Phil Dirks, Hawkings Epp Dumont  
Al McNaughton, Compass Assessment  
Ryan Herben, Shaw's Point Resort

Members of the Public: Art & Bonnie Verreault

Press: No press was present

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MINUTES:**

2010-19-627

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the minutes of the September 22, 2010 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED****BUSINESS ARISING  
FROM MINUTES:**

Updates were provided on the letter of support for All Peace Industries, the letter to Alberta Transportation regarding the culvert installation along Highway 750, the letter to Northern Lakes College regarding a course for water treatment plant operators and the letter to the Premier regarding recent responses from the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development.

Councillor Welch joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

2010-19-628

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that motion no. 2010-18-591 be delayed.

**DEFEATED****ADDENDUM  
TO AGENDA:**

Letter from Alberta Transportation re: AAMDC Convention  
AAMDC Convention Attendance  
Access to Stewart's Land  
Lower Athabasca Regional Plan  
Land Inventory

Mrs. Nepstad will inquire with other municipalities as to policies related to century farm recognition.

2010-19-629

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the agenda with addendum for the October 8, 2010 Council Meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

Council agreed to entertain an open forum item in advance of the allotted time.

**OPEN FORUM:**

***ART & BONNIE  
VERREULT:***

Art and Bonnie Verreault addressed Council with regard to water and sewer servicing for a previous subdivision at the east end of Faust. Mrs. Verreault indicated that at the time of subdivision they had agreed to wait to hook on to servicing until the east end project proceeded so that the pavement would only be disturbed once. They had also agreed to pay \$500 to hook up to water but are now being told that the connection fee will cost \$7,000. Mrs. Olansky clarified that the \$500 paid was the standard offsite levy fee that is charged for subdivisions and is not related to hook up fees. Mr. and Mrs. Verreault also paid a \$300 application fee and a \$100 endorsement fee. It was further noted that no new connections to the transmission line were being permitted at the time of the Verreault's subdivision. Mr. and Mrs. Verreault made reference to two water hook ups that occurred in that area within the past year. Administration will follow up on the specifics of the noted connections.

A break was taken from 10:36 a.m. until 10:40 a.m.

**DELEGATION:**

***HAWKINGS EPP  
DUMONT:***

Mr. Phil Dirks, of Hawkings Epp Dumont, provided a report on the actual results of the 2009 audit. He briefly commented on the audit report and continued with a review of the consolidated statement of financial position (balance sheet), schedule of operating fund activities, and schedule of capital fund activities as at December 31, 2009. An audit letter was issued to Council and reviewed by Mr. Dirks. A management letter will be issued to Mr. Prockiw and the Financial Information Return will be submitted to Alberta Municipal Affairs. Reeve Billings thanked Mr. Dirks for his presentation.

2010-19-630

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the 2009 audit report and audited financial statements be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

A break was taken from 11:22 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT:**

***REQUEST TO CLOSE  
AND PURCHASE  
ROAD ALLOWANCE:***

Councillor Welch, being one of the interested parties that submitted the request to purchase, declared interest and left the room.

A request was received from Fern and Gary Welch to purchase portions of road allowances and lane within the Hamlet of Grouard.

2010-19-631

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that:

1. The MD enter into an Agreement for Sale of Land with Garry and Fern Welch for the closure and purchase of portions of road allowances adjacent to Plan 2359AR, Block S, Plan 2359AR, Block 27, Lot 1, Plan 3367AY, Block 36, Lot 14A, and Plan 3367AY, Block 27, Lot 14A; and
2. Plan 2359AR, Block S, Plan 2359AR, Block 27, Lot 1, Plan 3367AY, Block 36, Lot 14A, and Plan 3367AY, Block 27, Lot 14A be consolidated as a condition of sale; and
3. A new road closure bylaw be prepared; and
4. The sale price be set at \$2,863.00; and
5. That a bylaw be drafted to rescind Bylaw No. 1-2007.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Welch returned to the meeting.

***PLS 090003/090004:***

Two applications to purchase leased lands were forwarded to the MD of Big Lakes by Sustainable Resource Development for comment and recommendation.

2010-19-632 **MOVED BY REEVE BILLINGS** that the applications to purchase PLS 090003 and PLS 090004 from Sustainable Resource Development be tabled for further information regarding SRD's process for the sale of leased land and comments from the Shaw's Point private cabin owners.

**CARRIED**

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

Council reviewed the Community Development Officer's Report for the month of August 2010.

2010-19-633 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Community Development Officer's Report to Council for the month of September 2010 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12:17 p.m.

**LOWER ATHABASCA  
REGIONAL PLAN:**

Mrs. Olansky provided information regarding an email requesting completion of the workbook on the Lower Athabasca Regional Advisory Council's advice to the government. Councillor Matthews will assist in completing the workbook.

**AGRICULTURE:**

**REGIONAL ASB  
CONFERENCE:**

Council considered information regarding the 2010 Regional ASB Conference.

2010-19-634 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that any councillor wishing to attend the 2010 Regional ASB Conference on November 3, 2010 in Grimshaw, Alberta be approved and that Reeve Billings be appointed as the MD's voting delegate.

**CARRIED**

**AG. FIELDMAN'S  
REPORT:**

Mrs. Nepstad reviewed her written activity report.

**WOLF BOUNTY:**

Input was sought by WildCanada Conservation Alliance from a number of municipalities regarding livestock predation by wolves.

2010-19-635 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a response to the inquiry from the WildCanada Conservation Alliance with regard to livestock predation by wolves be tabled for further information.

**CARRIED**

2010-19-636 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report to Council be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**FARM WOMEN'S  
CONFERENCE:**

Council considered a request for a contribution towards the 2010 Farm Women's Conference.

2010-19-637 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that a general contribution in the amount of \$600.00 be allocated to the 2010 Farm Women's Conference from account 2-63-20-00-770.

**DEFEATED**

2010-19-638 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a general contribution in the amount of \$500.00 be allocated to the 2010 Farm Women's Conference from account 2-63-20-00-770.

**CARRIED**

2010-19-639 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that Event Support Policy (ADMIN-35) be rescinded.

**CARRIED**

***UFA SAFETY***

***SMARTS PROGRAM:*** Council considered a request from the Alberta Farm Safety Centre for funding for the Safety Smarts Program.

2010-19-640 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a letter be sent to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre outlining Council's reasoning for refusing the funding request for the Safety Smarts Program.

**CARRIED**

***DROUGHT MTG:*** A meeting has been scheduled for October 26, 2010 in Edmonton with MLAs and Ministers to review the drought situation in the Peace region.

2010-19-641 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Reeve and Deputy Reeve be appointed as MD representatives to attend the October 26, 2010 Ministers meeting in Edmonton to discuss the drought situation in the Peace region.

**CARRIED**

**COMMUNITY AND  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:**

***SAFE COMMUNITIES***

***INNOVATION***

***FUND PROGRAM:*** Council considered a report from the Grant Manager with regard to the Safe Communities Innovation Fund.

2010-19-642 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the 2011 Safe Communities Innovation Fund Program be tabled to the next meeting for further information.

**CARRIED**

***ELDER'S BANQUET:*** Council considered correspondence from the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre with regard to the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder's Banquet.

2010-19-643 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the funding request from the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder's Banquet be received for information.

**DEFEATED**

2010-19-644 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that:

1. A grant of \$500 be awarded to the High Prairie Native Friendship Centre for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder's Banquet scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010; and
2. The MD be officially represented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder's Banquet scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 by the Reeve and any councilors who wish to attend.

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding the deadline for Capital and Special Project funding applications.

2010-19-645 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the Grant Administration Policy (ADMIN-36) and Community Services Policy (ADMIN-30) be amended to change the deadline for Capital and Special Project funding applications from September 30<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATION:**

***COMPASS***

***ASSESSMENT:*** Mr. Al McNaughton, Compass Assessment, joined Council to discuss matters relating to an increase in assessment on properties owned by Shaw's Point Resort. Mr. McNaughton advised that the valuation standard for non-regulated properties is market value and explained how that figure is calculated. He discussed the increase with Mr. Herben who initially filed an assessment complaint to the Assessment Review Board and subsequently withdrew the appeal. It was noted that the deadline for appeals has passed, but Shaw's Point will have the opportunity to appeal in 2011 if deemed necessary.

Mr. Herben made reference to differences in the property value in comparison to an appraisal of the properties that was completed in 2006. Mr. McNaughton advised that he will conduct a follow up inspection with Mr. Herben following this meeting and will consider the appraisal as this was the first he was aware of there being an appraisal on the property.

Reeve Billings thanked the delegation for attending.

**COMMUNITY AND  
PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
CON'T:**

***HP GOLF CLUB:*** Council considered a request brought forward by Councillor Matthews from the High Prairie & District Golf Club for a funding contribution towards paving of the golf cart trails.

A break was taken from 1:46 p.m. until 1:54 p.m.

**2010-19-646** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a contribution from the 2011 budget in the amount of \$15,000 be approved to the High Prairie Golf Club for paving of the golf cart trails.

**CARRIED**

***KINUSO  
FIRE HALL:***

Council was provided with a proposal to provide preliminary design drawings for the renovations/construction of the Kinuso Fire Hall.

**2010-19-647** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the contract to create preliminary design drawings for the renovation/construction of the Kinuso Fire Hall be awarded to Bearden a Division of Genivar in the amount of \$5,500.00.

**CARRIED**

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

Council reviewed the Fire Chief's August Monthly Report.

**2010-19-648** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the Fire Chief's August 2010 Monthly Report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

***HP & DISTRICT  
TENNIS CLUB:***

Council considered a request from the High Prairie and District Tennis Club for a letter in support of their application for a Community Initiatives Grant for resurfacing of the tennis courts.

**2010-19-649** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a letter be provided to the High Prairie and District Tennis Club in support of their application for a Community Initiatives Grant for resurfacing of the tennis courts.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Welch stepped out of the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

***PRAIRIE ECHO  
COMM. LEAGUE:***

Council considered a request from the Prairie Echo Community League for a letter in support of their application for a grant under the Community Facility Enhancement Program to assist with costs to renovate the hall bathrooms and update the plumbing system.

**2010-19-650** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a letter be provided to the Prairie Echo Community League in support of their application for a grant under the Community Facility Enhancement Program to assist with costs to renovate the hall bathrooms and update the plumbing system.

**CARRIED**

**PUBLIC WORKS:*****PUBLIC WORKS  
REPORT:***

Mr. Racher reviewed his written public works activity report.

Councillor Welch returned to the meeting at 2:08 p.m. and Councillor Campiou stepped out.

Councillor Killeen stepped out of the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

***LAND INVENTORY:***

Discussion took place on providing an inventory of available MD owned property for a service industry workshop taking place in High Prairie in November.

Councillor Campiou returned to the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Discussion took place on the municipal sponsorship grant and possible redesign of the Gilwood transfer station.

Councillor Killeen returned to the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Mr. Racher will follow up on the water hookups in Faust mentioned during the open forum at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor L'Heureux stepped out of the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

2010-19-651

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR DUPRES** that the Public Works Report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

***ACCESS TO  
STEWART'S LAND:***

Council was advised that subsequent to the MD's letter in support of Tom Stewart's application for a license of occupation (LOC) to cross crown land located at the NE 9-72-17-W5 to access his private property, it was denied by Sustainable Resource Development.

Councillor L'Heureux returned to the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

2010-19-652

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMANN** that the MD of Big Lakes make application under its name for a license of occupation (LOC) to cross crown land located at the NE 9-72-17-W5 in order to guarantee access to two quarters of privately owned property.

**CARRIED**

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

2010-19-653

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that cheques #47646 to #47818 in the total amount of \$1,724,241.45 for the period ending September 20, 2010 and cheques #47819 to #47890 in the total amount of \$672,597.03 for the period ending September 30, 2010 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

***AAMDC  
CONVENTION:***

2010-19-654

**MOVED BY REEVE BILLINGS** that the Executive Secretary be approved to attend the AAMDC 2010 Fall Convention.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

2010-19-655

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

- a. STARS dated September 2, 2010 in appreciation of the MD's funding contribution
- b. Hon. Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated September 13, 2010 regarding recently enacted changes to the *Local Authorities Election Act*
- c. Alberta Historical Resources Foundation dated September 20, 2010 regarding the MD's funding application under the Heritage Preservation Partnership Program

- d. Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, dated September 21, 2010 in response to Council's letter regarding the permit approval process
- e. Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, dated September 21, 2010 regarding conditional approval of the Roadside Development Permit #2010-14-053 from Alberta Transportation
- f. Donald Johnson dated September 22, 2010 regarding his presidency of the AAMDC
- g. AAMDC dated September 22, 2010 regarding notice of elections and procedures for the AAMDC Board of Directors
- h. High Prairie Fire Department in thanks for the contribution towards the 2010 FireChase
- i. Invitation to an open house at the new 93.5 Prairie FM studios

**CARRIED**

**AB ENVIRONMENT:** An invitation was received from Alberta Environment to meet with regional staff during the upcoming AAMDC Fall Convention.

**2010-19-656** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a letter be sent to Brian Jean, MP, requesting that, in the event it is possible to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in Ottawa, a delegation from the MD of Big Lakes attends with Mr. Jean to discuss issues related to the Shadow Creek Resort development.

**CARRIED**

**2010-19-657** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a meeting be scheduled with Alberta Environment during the AAMDC 2010 Fall Convention.

**CARRIED**

**GROWING RURAL  
ALBERTA:**

Information was received regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Growing Rural Alberta Symposium taking place from November 3 – 5, 2010 in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

**2010-19-658** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the information regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Growing Rural Alberta Symposium taking place from November 3 – 5, 2010 in Medicine Hat be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**RENNIE CAUCHIE  
RETIREMENT:**

An invitation was received from the MD of Greenview to attend a retirement dinner for Councillor Rennie Cauchie on October 21, 2010.

**2010-19-659** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that any councilor wishing to attend the retirement dinner for Councillor Rennie Cauchie on October 21, 2010 be approved at their own cost.

**CARRIED**

**ALBERTA  
TRANSPORTATION:**

An invitation was received from Alberta Transportation to meet with regional staff during the upcoming AAMDC Fall Convention.

**2010-19-660** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a meeting be scheduled with Alberta Transportation during the AAMDC 2010 Fall Convention.

**CARRIED**

**FOREST  
INDUSTRY:**

An invitation was received from the Faculty of Forestry – University of BC to participate in a conference call with Mayors and Reeves of forest based communities to discuss the future of the forest industry in Alberta.

2010-19-661 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that Councillor Killeen participate in the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 conference call with the Faculty of Forestry – University of BC regarding the future of the forest industry in Alberta

**CARRIED**

**IN CAMERA:**

2010-19-662 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the meeting go in camera at 3:03 p.m. to discuss land negotiations and third party confidentiality.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Killeen left the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

2010-19-663 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the meeting come out of camera at 3:18 p.m.

**CARRIED**

2010-19-664 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a letter be provided to All Peace Industries Inc. in support of their proposed crush plant and biodiesel refinery in the Peace District as well as indicating that no tax incentives will be offered by the MD of Big Lakes.

**CARRIED**

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on October 27, 2010 at the M.D. Administration Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

2010-19-665 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the meeting adjourn at 3:19 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Alvin Billings, Reeve

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Harvey Prockiw, C.A.O.