

**MINUTES
SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2006**

Meeting of the Council for Saddle Hills County was held in the Council Chambers of the Saddle Hills County Administration Building on Tuesday April 25, 2006.

PRESENT:

<i>TIM STONE</i>	<i>REEVE</i>
<i>DAVID ROWE</i>	<i>DEPUTY REEVE</i>
<i>CINDY CLARKE</i>	<i>COUNCILLOR</i>
<i>CLIFF TRAVIS</i>	<i>COUNCILLOR</i>
<i>BRUCE JACK</i>	<i>COUNCILLOR</i>
<i>BARBARA BUCK</i>	<i>COUNCILLOR</i>
<i>MIKE McRANN</i>	<i>COUNCILLOR</i>
<i>RICK MCDONALD</i>	<i>INTERIM CAO</i>
<i>SANDY PEDDLE</i>	<i>RECORDING SECRETARY</i>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Tim Stone called the meeting to order at 10:46 a.m.

Emdadul Haque, Director of Public Works entered the Council meeting at 10:47 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- 8.4 Meeting with Brad Pickering, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Resource Development – Reeve Stone
- 8.5 Weyerhaeuser Meeting – Councillor Clarke
- 8.6 Branding the Peace – Councillor Travis
- 9.8 Information item – Gas Prices – Councillor Rowe

**MOTION
01.25.04.06**

Moved by Councillor Buck that County Council adopt the agenda as amended.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Council Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2006

The minutes from the April 4, 2006 regularly scheduled meeting of Council were presented for Council's review. The following corrections were noted:

Pg. 4 remove the word *it* in front of new

Pg. 7 It was confirmed that MOTION 16.04.04.06 was made by *Councillor Jack*

Pg. 9 item 7.12 – spelling of the word *moth to month*

Pg. 10 MOTION 26 – correction of the word *buy to by*

Item 8.1 add *cent* behind 50 and correction of *an Ox-eye Daisy*

Pg. 11 – 8.2 correction of *rout to route*

8.5 remove the second *that* from the second sentence and remove the word *things*

Pg. 12 change the spelling of *ells* to *else*

MOTION

02.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that the Council minutes from the April 4, 2006 regular scheduled Council meeting be adopted as amended.

Carried

5.1 CAO Regular Council Meeting Report

The Chief Administrative Officer presented his report to Council.

MOTION

03.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council accept the Chief Administrative Officer report for information purposes only.

Carried

5.2 Director of Public Works Report

The Director of Public Works presented his report to Council:

<Clarification was requested on road band. Public Works reported that it obtains updated information on the frost conditions from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

<Council requested that administration report back specification on our gravel for the next meeting.

<Council requested that Public Works review the policy on grading roads following a rainfall to optimize the moisture content in the road.

MOTION

04.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council accept the Director of Public Works report for information purposes only.

Carried

5.3 Westmark – Waste Bin Sites

Administration was requested to bring this item to Council for discussion. It was noted that on many occasions collection bins do not appear to be returned to their proper spot after having been emptied.

Several other concerns regarding waste management were discussed. For example the Woking bin site had not yet been found. Administration agreed to review the goals of the program and report back to a future Council meeting.

5.4 Tender for Pouce Coupe River and East Doe River Maintenance

Administration presented Council with the bid for the Pouce Coupe River including the East Doe river grader maintenance beat. Only one bid was received, 'Chuck's Road Maintenance and Construction Ltd.'

MOTION

05.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council award the Pouce Coupe River including the East Doe River grader beat maintenance work to Chuck's Road Maintenance and Construction Ltd. for the price of One Hundred Five (\$105.00) dollars per hour.

Carried

5.5 Extended Warranty for Gravel Truck

Administration presented Council with a request to purchase extended warranty for **\$600** for the newly purchased Mack Gravel Truck. Council requested additional information regarding the truck usage and the proposed extended warranty program.

5.6 Tender for RR131 and Twp Road 802

Administration presented Council with the tender results for Range Road 131 and Town Ship Road 802 combined project.

MOTION

06.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council award the grading and other work of Range Road 131 and Town Ship Road 802 combined project to Central Peace Contracting Ltd for the price of Two Million Five Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine (\$2,558,769.00) dollars including 10% contingency, supply of SCP, Engineering and potential bonus.

Carried

Council recessed for lunch at 12:00 pm and reconvened at 1:31 P.M.

6.1 Road Rights-of-Way Obstruction Clearing Policy

Administration had been directed to bring this item back with the noted amendments for review.

MOTION

07.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council adopt the Rights-of-Way Clearing Policy PW24 as amended.

Carried

Emdadul Haque, Director of Public Works departed the Council meeting at 1:38 p.m.

6.2 Internet Update

Deputy Reeve Rowe presented Council with an update on the Satellite options and costs. Discussion ensued and it was noted that members from Explore Net and Skyline have shown interest in being the ISP providers for Saddle Hills County. It was mentioned that they would like to have one more meeting with Deputy Reeve Rowe, prior to presenting Council with further information.

6.3 Kevin Miner – Vacation Leave Request

Council is requesting to approve annual leave for Kevin Miner, CAO to cover April 22 to April 30, 2006.

MOTION

08.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Buck that County Council approve the annual leave for Kevin Miner to cover April 22 to April 30, 2006.

Carried

7.1 Funding Request – Northern Alberta Mayor’s and Reeves’ Caucus

Council reviewed a letter and questionnaire from Edmonton City Mayor Stephen Mandel, Caucus Chair, requesting **\$250.00** funding for the hiring of a consultant by the Caucus. The questionnaire asked if the Council would contribute to the request.

**MOTION
09.25.04.06**

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council direct Reeve Stone to submit the questionnaire responding ‘NO’.

Carried

7.2 Seniors Week

Administration presented Council with a letter from the Alberta Seniors Advisory Council asking if Saddle Hills County would like to proclaim Seniors Week.

**MOTION
10.25.04.06**

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council proclaim seniors week on June 5th to June 11th 2006.

Defeated

7.3 Funding Request – Spirit River Library

Council reviewed a letter from the Spirit River Municipal Library requesting funding.

**MOTION
11.25.04.06**

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council donate \$500.00 dollars to the Spirit River Library.

Carried

Administration was directed to bring back the information from Peace Library Systems to a future Council meeting for further discussion.

7.4 Branding the Peace Country Association Membership

Administration presented Council with the annual membership renewal from *Branding the Peace Country Association*. The membership renewal cost is \$150.00.

MOTION

12.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council renew their annual membership with Branding the Peace Country Association.

Carried

7.5 Bonanza Agriculture Society Fair

Council reviewed a letter from the Bonanza Agricultural Society requesting donations towards their annual Bonanza Agricultural Fair being held on July 21 – 23, 2006.

MOTION

13.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Travis that County Council direct administration to submit the Bonanza Agricultural Society request to the Agricultural Service Board.

Carried

7.6 Rental Equipment Policy

Administration presented Council with a draft Rental Equipment Policy AG12 for review.

MOTION

14.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Travis that County Council adopt the Rental Equipment Policy AG12 as presented.

Carried

7.7 Weed Appeal/ Agricultural Pest Appeal Committee Appointment

As per section 28(6) of the *Weed Control Act*:

“A local authority shall at least once a year appoint an independent committee to hear and determine appeals under this section and on receipt of a notice of appeal a local authority shall refer the appeal to that committee.”

As per section 14(5) of the *Agriculture Pest Act*:“

“*A local authority shall at the beginning of each calendar year appoint a committee to hear and determine appeals under this section and on receipt of a notice of appeal a local authority shall refer the appeal to that committee.*”

The current members on the County’s Weed /Pest appeal committee are Ken Titford, Barry Nelson, Jim Lillico and Jim Dennis. These members have been contacted and have agreed to let their names stand for another year.

MOTION

15.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Travis that County Council appoint the members from the 2005 Weed/Pest appeal committee Ken Titford, Barry Nelson, Jim Lillico and Jim Dennis to the 2006 Weed/Pest appeal committee under section 28(6) of the *Weed Control Act* and section 14(5) of the *Agricultural Pest Act*.

Carried

7.8 Weed Control on Drainage Ditches Policy

Administration presented council with a draft Weed Control on Drainage Ditches Policy AG11 for review.

MOTION

16.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Buck that County Council adopt the Weed Control on Drainage Ditches Policy AG11 as presented.

Carried

7.9 Tree Planting Policy

Administration presented Council with a draft Tree Planting Policy AG13 for review.

MOTION

17.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Travis that County Council adopt the Tree Planting Policy AG13 as presented.

Carried

7.10 Mill Rate Bylaw 149-2006 & Budget

Administration presented Council with the Mill Rate Bylaw 149-2006 for review. Administration agreed to bring this item back to the next Council meeting with appropriate amendments.

7.11 2006 Cemetery Maintenance and Capital Projects Grant Applications

Administration presented Council with the list of applications for 2006 Cemetery Maintenance and Capital Project Grant. Applications were to be presented to Council by April 30th, of each calendar year for review.

MOTION

18.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council approve the Twenty Two Hundred (\$2,200.00) dollars for the Maintenance Grant portion and defer the Capital Project Funding allocation until more detailed capital projects information can be provided by administration.

Carried

8.1 Agricultural Service Board

Reeve Stone presented Council with his report on the Agricultural Service Board. It was noted that several policies have been updated and brought forward for Councils' adoption. It was noted that the joint pancake breakfast with MD133 was successful and received positive feedback. They had good presentations and an informative speaker on Bio-Diesel.

8.2 Challenge North 2006

Councillor Buck presented Council with her report on the Challenge North 2006 conference. It was noted that this was one of the better-organized conferences she has attended. There were good activities that allowed for interaction with other attendees. Reeve Stone added that he felt there were some good seminars; in particular he noted the seminar on Education. It was mentioned that they had Cabinet Ministers scheduled to speak at the conference but due to the weather their plane could not land.

8.3 Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Reeve Stone Nomination)

Reeve Stone presented Council with his nomination to sit on the FCM Board of Directors. It was noted that his nomination would not cause any conflicts with his current duties as Reeve. It was also noted that if elected he would serve on behalf of the AAMD&C and his expenses etc. would be covered by the AAMD&C.

Reeve Stone declined to vote during this voting process due to his name being considered for nomination.

MOTION

19.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council support the nomination of Reeve Stone to sit on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Board of Directors.

Carried

8.4 Meeting with Deputy Minister Brad Pickering

Reeve Stone presented Council on his meeting with Deputy Minister Brad Pickering of Sustainable Resources Development. Reeve Stone noted that the meeting was positive with good feedback. They discussed two key issues of concern to the County:

1. The issue of TB testing for Bison on grazing leases. SRD indicated that the current regulation is being reviewed.
2. The issue of Forest Fire protection in rural Alberta and the apparent discrepancies between S.7 of the *Municipal Government Act* and Section 75 of the *Forest & Prairie Protection Act*. It was suggested that this matter be brought forward to AAMD & C as a resolution.

8.5 Weyerhaeuser

Councillor Clarke presented Council with her report on the Weyerhaeuser meeting she attended. It was noted that they had a slow start to the hauling season and they had lower than average pulp and lumber sales. It was noted that they are currently working on an educational project to raise awareness about forestry. This project is intended to raise awareness through commercials, newspaper advertisements and website information pages. It was also mentioned that they are planting genetically enhanced conifer stock in 2006.

8.6 Branding the Peace Country Association

Councillor Travis presented Council with his report on the Branding the Peace Association meeting he attended. It was noted that they are looking to raise membership fees in 2007 for different levels of sponsorship. It was mentioned that the mayor of Dawson Creek talked about hiring a manager for Branding the Peace Country.

MOTION

20.04.25.06

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council accept the Agricultural Service Board, Challenge North 2006, Federation of Municipalities nomination, meeting with Brad Pickering, Weyerhaeuser and Branding the Peace reports for information purposes only.

Carried

9. Information Items

1. Contact (assorted material)
2. AAMD&C Highlights of the Throne Speech
3. Peace Country Health (assorted material)
4. FCM
5. GPREMS
6. Reeves / Mayors' Meeting Minutes
7. Royal Canadian Mint Reply Letter

MOTION

21.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council accept the information items for information purposes only.

Carried

Royal Canadian Mint Reply Letter

MOTION

22.25.04.06

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council direct administration to distribute a copy of the response letter from the Royal Canadian Mint to all Agricultural Service Boards.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

Reeve Tim Stone declared the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

REEVE

CAO