

**MINUTES
SADDLE HILLS COUNTY
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2009**

Meeting of the Council for Saddle Hills County was held in the Council Chambers of the Saddle Hills County Administration Building on Tuesday November 10, 2009.

PRESENT:

*TIM STONE
MIKE MCRANN
JOHN MOEN
ALVIN HUBERT
BRUCE JACK
BARBARA BUCK
CINDY CLARKE*

*REEVE
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR
COUNCILLOR*

DIANNE NELLIS

*CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER*

SANDY PEDDLE

RECORDING SECRETARY

JASON JAGODICH

*DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
AND PUBLIC WORKS*

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Stone called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Jason Jagodich, Director of Engineering and Public Works entered the Council meeting at 10:16 a.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Foreign Ownership of Land
- Volunteer Fire Fighter Insurance Coverage
- Council Accident Insurance Coverage

MOTION

01.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council adopt the agenda for the November 10, 2009 regular meeting with the noted additions.

Carried

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Council Meeting Minutes – October 27, 2009

The minutes from the October 27, 2009 regular and organizational meetings of Council were presented for Council's review.

MOTION

02.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Moen that the Council and Organizational minutes from the October 27, 2009 meetings be adopted as amended.

Carried

5.1 CAO Report

The Chief Administrative Officer's written report was presented to Council. The following items were discussed:

- Meeting with the Minister of Transportation
- FCSS Programs
- Meeting with Minister Goudreau
- Library Board
- Collective Agreement

MOTION

03.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council establish December 8th, 2009 as the only Council meeting date in December.

Carried

MOTION

04.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Buck that County Council establish the Collective Agreement negotiations representatives to be the Reeve, Deputy Reeve, CAO and legal representative Albert Laverne.

Carried

MOTION

05.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council accept the Chief Administrative Officer's written report for information purposes only.

Carried

Sandy Peddle and Brian Ballard were thanked for their work in the Bonanza Volunteer Fire Department's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

5.2 Director of Engineering and Public Works Report

The Director of Engineering and Public Works written report was presented to Council. The following items were discussed;

- Doe River Contract
- Graveling on RR 74
- Gravel Pits
- New Garbage Bins for House Hold Waste
- Range Road 84
- Hamlin Road
- ASB Chemical Pesticide Jug Site
- Cameras at Bay Tree Bin Site

MOTION

06.11.10.09

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

Carried

Sherry Blake entered the Council meeting at 11:03 a.m.

4.1 Bill 50

Sherry Blake presented Council with information regarding the new Bill 50 that is being proposed by the Alberta Government. She also showed a power point presentation for Council's information.

Sherry Blake departed the Council meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Laurie Jackson, Manager of Planning and IT Services entered the Council meeting at 11:25 a.m.

7.3 High Speed Internet Update – Saddle Hills County Survey

During the summer of 2009, Industry Canada began an inquiry campaign to determine the availability of high speed internet to rural Canadians. As Saddle Hills County Council was also interested in this issue, the County advertised in the Community Update for people to contact Industry Canada as well as the County office to express any concerns that ratepayers/residents are having in obtaining high speed internet within the municipality.

A few years before, the County advertised a Request for Proposal, asking interested Internet Service Providers to submit a proposal on how their company could offer high speed internet to the majority of County ratepayers. AB North advised that they were in the process of installing towers and intended to provide this service without any assistance from the County/government. Council decided to hold off on any cost-sharing proposals, to allow private industry the opportunity to serve the municipality. A number of County ratepayers are still unable to access a high speed internet solution that is satisfactory for their needs.

Laurie Jackson, Manager of Planning and IT Services departed the Council meeting at 11:45 a.m.

7.1 2009 Gravel Crushing Tender

Administration presented Council with results of the gravel tender for the Fourth Creek and Silver Valley pits. The gravel tender Contract No. SHC-C09 consists of crushing 200,000 tonnes of modified designation Class 4 specification gravel. 100,000 tonnes of gravel is to be crushed at the Silver Valley No. 2 (Cotillion) Pit and 100,000 tonnes of gravel is to be crushed at the Fourth Creek.

MOTION
07.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council award the gravel crushing tender for Fourth Creek and Silver Valley No. 2 pits to R Bee Crushing for the total tender value of \$625,000.00 plus GST, and directed that a contract be prepared based on the tender.

Carried

7.2 Tiger Calcium Services Inc.

Tiger Calcium Services Inc. would like to have the opportunity to renew a 3-5 year contract agreement with Saddle Hills County for their dust control program. Tiger Calcium Services Inc. will hold this season's supply and application of calcium chloride gold 35% at a price of \$0.1975/ litre for 2010 season, with an escalating rate of 2% /year for each year.

MOTION

08.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council renew the contract for Calcium Chloride with Tiger Calcium Services Inc. for a term of 3 years with a 2% escalation rate for each year after the first year.

Carried

7.4 Declaration of Agricultural Disaster

County Council discussed the declaration of an agricultural disaster in Saddle Hills County at their September 8, 2009 Council meeting. Per Motion 16.09.08.09, it was decided to forward a letter to the Federal Agriculture Minister, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, requesting that Saddle Hills County receive tax deferral for 2009 instead. This letter was sent on September 11, 2009, however no reply had been received. Administration has contacted the Minister's office for an update on the status of this letter.

The lower than average precipitation levels and early snow received by Saddle Hills County have changed the hay/pasture and grain outlook for the County's agricultural producers. Approximately 15% of field crops are still in the swath and the quality of harvested crops has been good (canola) to fair (grain) overall. In addition, a combination of below average hay yields (95% of insured producers in Saddle Hills County are in a claim position), low hay quality, high bale prices (\$50/bale) and poor pasture conditions (57% reported as poor condition) have resulted in some local livestock producers reducing their herd to deal with these financial hardships. Due to these new weather developments, both grain and livestock producers are faced with agricultural disaster conditions and we believe they would benefit from the declaration of an agricultural disaster in Saddle Hills County.

MOTION

09.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council rescind Motion 15.09.08.09 and reconsider declaring Saddle Hills County as an Agricultural Disaster Area.

Carried

MOTION

10.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Jack that County Council declare Saddle Hills County an Agricultural Disaster Area.

Carried

Council recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:35p.m.

Jason Jagodich, Director of Engineering and Public Works departed the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

7.5 October 2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Administration presented the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for October 2009 for Council's review.

MOTION

11.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council accept the October 2009 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for information purposes only.

Carried

7.6 Spirit River Minor Hockey Association

Administration presented Council with a letter from the Provincial Host Committee looking at bidding for the privilege of hosting the 2010 Minor Hockey Alberta Provincial.

MOTION

12.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council write a letter of support to the Spirit River Minor Hockey for their application to host the 2010 Minor Hockey Alberta Provincials.

Carried

7.7 Foreign Land Ownership – SW 24-79-11-W6

Administration presented Council with a request for input regarding the sale of land (SW 24-79-11-W6) to foreign buyers.

MOTION

13.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council not support the transfer of Agricultural land, SW 24-79-11-W6 to a foreign controlled entity.

Carried

7.8 Volunteer Fire Fighter Insurance Coverage

Administration presented Council with two possible levels of coverage for the Volunteer Fire Fighter Insurance Coverage.

MOTION

14.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor McRann that County Council upgrade the level of insurance coverage for the Volunteer Fire fighters to plan B as presented.

Carried

7.9 Councillor Insurance Plan Coverage

Administration presented Council with information on two possible plans for Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Plan for Councillors.

MOTION

15.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council upgrade the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance coverage plan for Councillors to plan B as presented.

Carried

8.1 Councillors Corner

County Councillors did a round table verbal discussion on various topics for information purposes only.

9. Information Items

1. Accounts Payable
2. Growing the North Agenda
3. AAMD&C – Resolution 13-09S Status
4. Landowner Information Sessions
5. Alberta Transportation - Funding
6. Letter from Minister Goudreau

7. RCMP – 2010 Olympics
8. Contact (assorted material)
9. AAMD&C – The Advantage
10. AAMD&C Jubilee Insurance
11. Newspaper Clippings
12. County of Grande Prairie – Grand Opening
13. Bill 50 (AAMD&C Package)
14. ENMAX – Bill 50
15. Community Futures
16. Letter from Minister Morton – Forestry Meeting

MOTION

16.11.10.09

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

Carried

MOTION

17.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council authorize attendance to the Growing the North Conference on January 21 & 22, 2010 in Grande Prairie at the Evergreen Park TEC Centre.

Carried

Councillor Moen departed the Council meeting at 2:13 p.m.

MOTION

18.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Clarke that County Council authorize attendance to the Landowner Information Sessions being held December 2, 2009 in Rycroft/ Spirit River and December 11, 2009 in Grande Prairie for members of the Oil and Gas Committee.

Carried

MOTION

19.11.10.09

Moved by Councillor Hubert that County Council authorize Councillor Buck to attend the County of Grande Prairie's open house on Friday, November 13th, 2009.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Reeve Stone declared the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

REEVE

CAO