

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, September 28th, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, September 28th, 2022, commencing at 9:02 a.m.

Attendance

Present: Reeve: Steve Wannstrom
Deputy Reeve: Bob Sargent
Councillors: John Rew, Mark Landry, and Jackie Watts
Staff: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Shirley Bremer
Corporate Services Director (CSD)
Judy Fazekas
Legislative Services Director (LSD)
Jason Carlson

C22-232 Agenda Approval

[C22-232] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the agenda for the September 28th, 2022 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the following additions:

- Councillor Landry – resident complaint on grader route
- CAO Bremer – waterline extension application

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-233 Approval of Minutes

[C22-233] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the September 14th, 2022 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Councillor Watts and Councillor Landry checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery on September 28th, 2022. Concerns were noted on shale being used on main street in Rowley. This is done every 15 years or so but will check to see if correct shale was purchased.

C22-234 Accounts

[C22-234] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that accounts (cheque numbers 54554 to 54608 and EFT 800000000) totalling \$842,348.37 be approved for payment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAO Report

CAO Bremer reviewed the CAO Report with Council. Highlights of the report included the following:

- Reeve Wannstrom and CAO Bremer met with Mayor Colberg and CAO Drohomerski of the Town of Drumheller to discuss areas of mutual interest in regard to economic development. Bremer contacted Kimberley Worthington with CAEP to assist us in establishing a partnership agreement with the Town of Drumheller and defining the terms of reference. From there, will explore contracting an Economic Development Officer to assist our partnership in providing visions of opportunity and working towards establishing some type of development.
- Bremer and Safety Officer Chris Peoples were out on September 15th and completed several safety inspections. This was a great opportunity for Bremer to see current projects being worked on and to note that the safety aspects were being followed.
- The weather was great for the Annual Michichi Fishing Derby last Saturday.
- CAO Bremer, MSD Glen Riep, Laura Cawiezel and Reeve

Wannstrom met with many of the seasonal campsite residents at the Michichi Campground. Issues were discussed and efforts will be made to resolve them. They were also invited to sign up again for next year if they are interested.

- Several projects have been wrapped up including three bridge files, two being installed and the third being removed. The Walker Road deficiencies and clean-up is near completion and road side mowing is coming along nicely. The cement pad is ready for the columbarium at the Rumsey Cemetery as is the cement pad for the CLV building in Drumheller. Hamlet Clean-up days went well this year thanks to Doug Finkbiner and his crew. With good weather holding, crews are still working hard to finish off various other projects as well. The gravelling crew has completed 141 miles of re-gravelling.
- Harvest is still ongoing for many as they wait for the canola and flax to cure, but it has been a great harvest season with very few weather delays.

Potential
Recreational
Opportunities

Council discussed the potential for recreation developments at the Horsethief Canyon and Starland Recreation Areas.

Alphabow Energy
Ltd

The County followed up with Greg Pleister of Brownlee in regard to the County's Statement of Claim against Alphabow Energy Inc. for not paying their taxes. Alphabow did submit a Statement of Defence, however it offered no valid reasons as to why they have done nothing to resolve this. Alphabow has not been paying several municipalities their taxes for a few years now, yet the Alberta Energy Regulator's (AER) continues to allow them to renew their operating licenses. RMA president, Paul McLaughlin, previously reported to Starland County, that in a recent conversation he had with the Minister of Energy, Sonya Savage, that Savage felt it is not the AER's responsibility to hold these companies accountable for their unpaid taxes. The only option appears to be litigation which is yet another financial burden on rural municipalities. The AER's website states that part of their mandate is to "provide economic benefits for all Albertans" yet when the AER continues to license Alphabow to operate, they are subsidizing the provincial economic benefits off the backs of rural citizens. With Alphabow's outstanding tax debt with Starland County close to one million dollars, Council recommends Starland County have Brownlee LLP apply for Summary Judgment against Alphabow Energy Inc. to collect on their tax debts.

C22-235
Summary
Judgment
against
Alphabow

[C22-235] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Brownlee LLP apply for Summary Judgment against Alphabow Energy Inc. for the purpose of recovering unpaid taxes and associated expenses in collecting said taxes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RMA Fall 2022
Convention
Meeting with
Minister

CAO Bremer received a request to see if we wanted to meet with the Minister of Alberta Transportation at the 2022 Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall Conference. Council would like to meet with the Minister regarding the outstanding items from last year's submission. In addition, Highway 576 has an increased use by heavy truck traffic and the road is now in bad shape.

Leaders of
Tomorrow
Scholarship
Awarded
Recipients

The Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship committee met last Monday, September 26th. The academic category was awarded to Victoria (Tori) James. No applications were received for the trade category. The agricultural category was awarded to Delaney McDougald.

Councillor Rew suggested as a corporate citizen, that perhaps the County accept donations from corporations who would like to be involved but not have to administrate it, for the purpose of allowing for more recipients.

Attendance

Palliser Regional Municipal Services delegation entered the meeting at 10:05 a.m. including:

- Devin Diano, CAO Palliser Regional Municipal Services
- Kyle Olsen, Chair of Palliser Regional Municipal Services Board
- Ian Grey, Nichols Applied Management

Palliser Regional Municipal Services Delegation

Devin Diano and Ian Grey presented to Council an analysis of Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS) that was completed by Nichols Applied Management. The review compared the PRMS to other similar organizations in Alberta and addressed several identified challenges. The primary challenges are the organization historically had too much turnover and has been running off their reserves which is not sustainable. The recommendation is to increase staffing levels by two positions which would allow for some redundancy and stability and they also are needing to increase the amount municipalities pay.

The delegation also shared the various supports and services they offer municipalities including what services will be included under the new model and what services will be additional expenses. This is still a plan that is seeking membership input and may change before it is presented at the Annual General Meeting.

One area of concern Council shared was with the lack of information being shared with our Council and a lack of representation for Starland County on the Board. Council also questioned why larger municipalities were subsidizing villages that were not within the larger municipality membership. Kyle Olsen found Council's comments helpful and will look further into their concerns. Olsen and Diano also provided information on the current board such as how their board members are selected and/or elected.

In summary, the report found the PRMS was a needed service and municipalities wanted to see the organization become more viable and stable. Although the details of how the price increases will be divided up are still in the works, they are necessary to give the organization viability and sustainability while meeting their obligations.

Attendance

The PRMS delegation left the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

RCMP Town Hall

The County received a request from Cpl. Alex MacDonald, acting RCMP Detachment Commander, to have our assistance in setting up a date and location for a rural town hall meeting. MacDonald would like to give the public an opportunity to engage the RCMP with questions and answers session so they can better serve our region.

C22-236
RCMP Town Hall Meeting

[C22-236] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

to have the RCMP Town Hall Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on either October 25th or 27th in Rumsey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CRMA Zone 2 District Meeting Resolutions

Stettler County has asked if Starland County would consider seconding any of their Resolutions for the CRMA Zone 2 District Meeting. Their resolutions were for:

1. Advocate for Increased Resourcing for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement
2. Community Agreement Payment Levy – provide for a uniform method of auditing and enforcing compliance with Community Aggregate Payment Levy Bylaws
3. Allow for qualified third parties to conduct inspections for Gravel Pit Reclamation.

C22-237
CRMA Zone 2
Resolution
Secunder -
Commercial
Vehicle
Enforcement

[C22-237] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Starland County second Stetter County's CRMA Zone 2 District Meeting Resolution to Advocate for Increased Resourcing for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-238
CRMA Zone 2
Resolution
Secunder -
Community
Agreement
Payment Levy

[C22-238] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Starland County second Stetter County's CRMA Zone 2 District Meeting Resolution regarding the Community Agreement Payment Levy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-239
CMRA Zone 2
Resolution
Secunder -
Contracted
Inspectors for
Gravel Pits

[C22-239] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County second Stetter County's CRMA Zone 2 District Meeting Resolution to allow for qualified third parties to conduct inspections for gravel pit reclamations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Offer to purchase
Michichi lots

Starland County received an offer from Frank Barron, where he would like to purchase two lots in Michichi for \$1,500.00 each. Lots 8 & 9 of Plan 2232BA, Block 3 are the lots Barron seeks to purchase and they are adjacent to two lots he already owns.

C22-240
Sale of Plan
2232BA, Block 3,
Lots 8 & 9 in
Michichi

[C22-240] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Starland County sell Lots 8 & 9 of Plan 2232BA, Block 3, to Frank Barrons for \$1,500.00 each plus taxes, totalling \$3,000.00 plus taxes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Schedule
Organizational
Meeting

CAO Bremer requested Council to make a motion to set the date for this year's Council Organizational Meeting.

C22-241
Schedule Council
Organizational
Meeting

[C22-241] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

to schedule this year's Council Organizational Meeting to be at 9:00 a.m. on October 26, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Signing
Authorities Policy
970-11

CAO Bremer went over the needed policy changes to ensure operations are not affected when LSD Jason Carlson leaves employment with Starland County. She has requested removing Carlson's signing authority and adding CSD Judy Fazekas to the policy. We will also require a separate motion to send a letter to ATB to advise them of the new signing authorities.

C22-242
Policy 970-11
Financial Signing
Authorities
Policy
Amendment

[C22-242] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

to amend policy 970-11 whereas Legislative Services Director, Jason Carlson's financial signing authority is removed and Corporate Services Director, Judy Fazekas is added to have financial signing authority.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-243
ATB notification
of Financial
Signing Authority
Amendment

[C22-243] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

to send a letter of instruction to the Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB) to advise them of our new signing authorities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial
 Reserves & Policy
 970-1

CSD Fazekas went over our financial reserves with Council. Council reviewed reserves policy 970-1 and our current list of reserves. This new policy will be reviewed at our next meeting, giving Council additional time to review it.

Citizen Complaint
 on Grader Service

Councillor Landry received a complaint that he shared with Council where the citizen claims a grader operator is not doing an acceptable job. Bremer will look into the claim.

Citizen Complaint
 on Trees

Ken Ireland informed Starland County, that when the road construction was done on 18-2, trees were moved at the start of the project and then transplanted back when construction was completed. The trees are now dead, and Ireland would like the trees replaced. As this was several years ago, Council said they would not consider this, owners are responsible for tending to their own trees.

Waterline Service
 Extension for
 Raelene Minchau

Raelene Minchau would like to get a water line service into her property for a modular home. CAO Bremer presented to council a quote the Waterline Service Extension which would cost approximately \$18,034.90.

C22-244
Waterline Service
Extension for
Raelene Minchau
Property

[C22-244] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

to approve a waterline service extension for Raelene Minchau at property located on quarter section SW-16-31-16-W4, and that she must pay the connection fee of \$17,500.00 plus and additional costs associated with the installation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
 Committees

All councillors present reported briefly on the committees to which they are appointed.

Council
 Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Prairie Provident Resources re: Invitation to Information Session and Appreciation Dinner
- ii. BluEarth Renewables re: Hand Hills Wind Project Newsletter
- iii. Marigold Library System re: August Board Meeting Highlights
- iv. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) re:
 - Contact Newsletter – 2 Issues

C22-245
November
Council Meeting
Date Changes

[C22-245] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

to cancel the November 9th and 23rd, 2022 Regular Council Meetings and instead have them on November 16th and 30th, 2022 to accommodate for this year's RMA 2022 Fall Conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	EFT# 800000000	1.00
STARLAND SEED CLEANING PLANT	CK# 54554	546,750.00
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 54555	10,182.38
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 54556	96.08
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL	CK# 54557	3,902.26
ANGIE'S WINDOW TINTING	CK# 54558	1,685.25
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 54559	974.06
BREMER, SHIRLEY J.	CK# 54560	262.67
BURT, EDWIN L.	CK# 54561	150.00
CALGARY PETERBILT LTD.	CK# 54562	480.00
CAWIEZEL, LAURA	CK# 54563	1,100.00
CINTAS CANADA LIMITED	CK# 54564	211.66
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 54565	50.17
DIRECTDIAL.COM	CK# 54566	217.35

DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 54567	599.08
DRUMHELLER CHRYSLER	CK# 54568	476.13
EAST CENTRAL GAS CO-OP LTD.	CK# 54569	144.11
FLAMAN, HEATHER	CK# 54570	903.20
FRANK FLAMAN SALES	CK# 54571	1,652.84
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 54572	210.00
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 54573	2,642.10
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA	CK# 54574	129.15
GREATWEST KENWORTH LTD.	CK# 54575	876.99
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 54576	265.90
HR OUTLOOK	CK# 54577	1,732.50
HUMAN EDGE EXECUTIVE SEARCH	CK# 54578	5,250.00
LAPP	CK# 54579	21,653.82
MCDUGALD, KOREN	CK# 54580	184.86
MUNICIPAL INFORMATION NETWORK	CK# 54581	315.00
NETAGO	CK# 54582	330.60
NEW WEST FREIGHTLINER INC.	CK# 54583	258.74
NEXTGEN AUTOMATION	CK# 54584	266.79
OLD MACDONALD KENNELS, ANIMAL SERVICES	CK# 54585	315.00
PITNEYWORKS	CK# 54586	4,000.00
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 54587	56.30
QUADROCK TRUCKING & EXCAVATING	CK# 54588	5,292.00
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 54589	54,826.30
SCHOFER, KORY R	CK# 54590	81.08
STANTEC CONSULTING LTD.	CK# 54591	2,735.78
STONE BLUE ENTERPRISES INC.	CK# 54592	449.54
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 54593	18,237.86
TELUS	CK# 54594	497.03
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 54595	1,841.70
TREMBLAY, DANIELLE	CK# 54596	130.00
VIKING CIVES LTD.	CK# 54597	685.65
VILLAGE OF MORRIN	CK# 54598	2,350.00
VILLAGE OF MUNSON	CK# 54599	960.00
WARWICK PRINTING CO. LTD	CK# 54600	668.92
WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CANADA CORPORATION	CK# 54601	59.36
WATER PURE & SIMPLE MINILAKE DIST LTD.	CK# 54602	63.00
WOLF, TRACY	CK# 54603	2,828.00
WOLF, TRACY & MONTGOMERY, CINDY	CK# 54604	4,274.50
WSP CANADA INC.	CK# 54605	412.31
1325856 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 54606	9.00
20/20 SEED LABS INC	CK# 54607	178.50
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 54608	10,725.75
	TOTAL:	\$715,632.27

**C22-246
Adjournment**

[C22-246] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the meeting be adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, October 12th, 2022, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.



**Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom**



**Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer**