

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, January 12th, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, January 12th, 2022, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

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

C22-001 Agenda Approval

[C22-001] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the agenda for the January 12th, 2022 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the following additions:

- Council Rew: Discussion on Graders using Coolant Heating Systems
- CAO Bremer: Discussion on Columbarium options now that samples and more information has arrived. Also discussion on sick policy with recent wave of Covid outbreaks and staff concerns

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-002 Approval of Minutes

[C22-002] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the December 22nd, 2021 regular meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Deputy Reeve Sargent and Councillor Rew checked accounts with Administrative Assistant Laya Montgomery on January 12th, 2022.

C22-003 Accounts

[C22-003] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that accounts (cheque numbers 53305 to 53392) totalling \$566,539.96 be approved for payment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAO Report

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

- Eddie Bourque, Drumheller RCMP, informed us the Policing Committee was disbanded and the Town of Drumheller is looking to establish a new committee, but it will be exclusive to those residing within the town. Bourque hopes to commence regular Town Hall Meetings in the rural Counties and Villages once Covid has settled and noted that if there is a need, we could have discussions in regard to forming a Citizen's Advisory Policing Committee for our rural areas.
- County is seeking costs associated with the possible re-purposing of the old Public Works Office trailer to be used as a library in Rumsey. If this route is pursued, one of the costs that would fall to the county is having the SuperNet connection moved to the new location.
- Reeve Wannstrom and CAO Bremer attended the Zone 2 CRMA Director's meeting virtually on Friday, January 7th, 2022. Crystal

Kissel from Rocky View County is the new chair and Barb Shepard from Lacombe County is the Vice Chair. Councillor Watts is now on the resolutions committee. The Spring Zone Meeting will be hosted in Red Deer on February 4th. Starland County will be hosting the Fall Zone Meeting on October 7th.

- County crews are preparing for the demolition of the Anthony Kloster house that was purchased a few years ago in Morrin. Wise Abatement will handle the asbestos removal on January 17th and demolition permits have been applied for as well as requests to confirm all utilities are disconnected. Public Works will then do the demolition and the material being hauled to the landfill in Drumheller.
- The inventory audit will be completed by Ascend personnel this week on Friday. They will audit all the parts, etc. from the Public Works, Utilities, and ASB Departments.

Brownlee
Emerging Trends
in Municipal Law
Seminar

Brownlee is offering a seminar on Emerging Trends in Municipal Law. The date of the Calgary session conflicts with the in-person Alberta Police Transition sessions Council and staff were registered for. As the Alberta Police Transition session will happen virtually on a later date, Council and senior staff will go to Brownlee in Calgary except for Legislative Services Director, Carlson who will attend the session virtually on the 17th due to a conflicting schedule. Of course, Covid may alter in-person sessions and attendance can be adjusted accordingly.

PERC & DIRC
Application

As noted in our last meeting, the County can now apply for the Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) without having to write off unpaid taxes. However, if the property tax has not been expensed as bad debt and written off, there must be a motion from council confirming submission of the PERC/DIRC applications. The companies that are behind on their taxes are Alphabow Energy Ltd. and Tallahassee Exploration Inc.

C22-004
PERC & DIRC
Application

[C22-004] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County apply to the PERC & DIRC programs for the following eligible unpaid taxes:

- **Alphabow Energy Ltd.**
2019-2021 PERC \$101,795.98
2019-2021 DIRC \$2,461.16
- **Tallahassee Exploration Inc.**
2021 PERC \$78,677.74
2021 DIRC \$2,193.28

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Amended Water
Rate Change
Bylaw

In early 2019 Council introduced Bylaw 1137 which governs the provision of water utility services in Starland County. Schedule C of this Bylaw outlines the rates charged to customers which may be updated by amending this Bylaw. As proposed in the spring of 2019, the eventual goal was to recover 100% of the supply costs of water (as represented by cost of water, power and goods) as well as 50% of capital replacement costs (as represented by water system annual depreciation).

Bylaw 1180 was presented with the new water rate changes as recommended. Corporate Services Manager, Fazekas also provided a Water Revenue and Expense Analysis for 2020/2021.

Councillor Watts suggested looking into water meter installations in Rumsey and whether that might reduce expenses by helping to pin point water leaks.

C22-005
Bylaw 1180 –
Amended Water
Rates

[C22-005] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Bylaw 1180, for the purpose of amending Schedule “C”, the Water Utility Rates and Charges of Water Utility Bylaw 1137 and to repeal Bylaw 1159, be established.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-006
Bylaw 1180 –
1st Reading

[C22-006] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Bylaw 1180, for the purpose of amending Schedule “C”, the Water Utility Rates and Charges of Water Utility Bylaw 1137 and to repeal Bylaw 1159, be given first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-007
Bylaw 1180 –
2nd Reading

[C22-007] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Bylaw 1180, for the purpose of amending Schedule “C”, the Water Utility Rates and Charges of Water Utility Bylaw 1137 and to repeal Bylaw 1159, be given second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-008
Bylaw 1180 –
Motion to have
3rd Reading

[C22-008] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Bylaw 1180 be presented for third reading at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-009
Bylaw 1180 –
3rd and Final
Reading

[C22-009] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Bylaw 1180, for the purpose of amending Schedule “C”, the Water Utility Rates and Charges of Water Utility Bylaw 1137 and to repeal Bylaw 1159, be given third reading and finally passed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Drumheller and
District Seniors
Foundation

The Drumheller and District Seniors Foundation (DDSF) has submitted a requisition under Section 7(1) of the Alberta Housing Act, for a total of \$985,000.00 from municipalities of which Starland County’s portion will be \$401,092.00. In accordance with the Alberta Housing Act, the County has 90 days to pay the requisitioned amount after being notified.

Alberta Municipal
Affairs

Starland was informed of a potential opportunity for Council to meet with the Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs at the 2022 RMA Spring Convention. If Council would like to meet with Minister McIver during the convention, they must submit a request by email including one specific policy item or issue they would like to discuss. As not all requests can be approved due to time constraints, municipalities submitting meeting requests will be notified at least two weeks prior to the convention as to the status of their request.

Economic
Development
Seminar for
Elected Officials

Palliser Economic Partnership, the Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA) for Southeast Alberta has invited Council to attend an Economic Development for Elected Officials Seminar on February 2, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hanna Community Centre. Reeve Wannstrom and Councillor Landry are on the Council’s Economic Development committee, but all councillors showed interest in going. Other than travel there are no costs for the seminar. As Starland is looking to focus on economic development to diversify industry in our area there were questions on whether senior administration staff could also attend.

C22-010
Palliser
Economic
Partnership
Seminar

[C22-010] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the Palliser Economic Partnership, Economic Development Seminar in Hanna on February 2nd, 2022; be approved for attendance by Council and senior staff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ASB Annual Appointments

Starland's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) requires annual appointments of the Weed Inspector, Pest Control Officer and Soil Conservation Officer. A request was made for a motion to appoint Ryan Hallett and Dara Kudras to these positions.

There is also a need to appoint an independent Appeal Committee for the Agricultural Pest Act and the Soil Conservation Act. A request for a motion was provided to appoint Cody Kopjar, Barry Mason, Logan Olsen, Lindsay Burnett, and Terra Adams to the Ag Pest Act Appeal Committee and to the Soil Conservation Appeal Committee.

C22-011
ASB Annual Appointment for Weed Inspector, Pest Control Officer & Soil Conservation Officer

[C22-011] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Ryan Hallett, Agricultural Fieldman and Dara Kudras, Assistant Agriculture Fieldman, be appointed as Weed Inspectors, Pest Control Officers and Soil Conservation Officers for Starland County for the year of 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-012
ASB Annual Appointments to Ag Pest Act Appeal Committee

[C22-012] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Cody Kopjar, Barry Mason, Logan Olsen, Lindsay Burnett, and Terra Adams, be appointed to the Ag Pest Act Appeal Committee and the Soil Conservation Act Appeal Committee for the 2022 year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tax Payment Plan

CAO Bremer reviewed with Council draft copies of a tax payment agreement between Starland County and a citizen that is behind on their taxes on tax roll account numbers: 120405200, 120406200, 120407200, and 120412400. The agreement includes a schedule "A" that shows payment schedules, penalties and includes the estimated 2022 taxes so the accounts will be brought up to date by December 30, 2022.

C22-013
Tax Payment Agreement

[C22-013] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Starland County enter into a Tax Payment Agreement with the citizen responsible for Tax Rolls: 120405200, 120406200, 120407200, and 120412400; to be paid as per Schedule "A" of the agreement; and that these rolls will be removed from the 2022 Tax Recovery Sale.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Cost of Living Information

2022 Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Information was presented however, the final numbers for 2021's annual average will not be available until January 19th. It was decided to postpone the discussion until those numbers were available.

Historical / Tourism Podcast Episode

Craig Baird sent a letter requesting sponsorship to create a historical podcast episode for the Starland County area. He has been doing podcasts since 2018 and has been writing history columns for newspapers in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He typically sees between 1,500 and 2,000 downloads of his podcasts each day. Last year he was focused on small towns and this year is looking to do broader history of counties, municipal districts and larger areas around communities. To sponsor an episode there is a one-time fee of \$250. An episode will include:

- The community's history
- Things to do in the area
- Why someone should visit

C22-014
Historical / Tourism Podcast Episode

[C22-014] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Starland County sponsor Craig Baird to create a Canadian History podcast episode for \$250.00 that is focused on the Starland County area.

MOTION CARRIED.

Hosting CRMA
Fall Zone 2
Meeting

Starland County will be hosting the Central Regional Municipalities of Alberta (CRMA) Fall Zone 2 meeting on October 7th, 2022. CAO Bremer asked Council to choose a venue so other details such as caterers can be booked. Bremer is also asking Council for ideas and suggestions of ways to welcome our guests and showcase our region and residents to them.

C22-015
CRMA Fall Zone
2 event venue

[C22-015] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Starland County host the Central Regional Municipalities of Alberta Fall Zone 2 meeting on October 7th, 2022 at the Rumsey Community Centre pending availability.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Grader Engine
Coolant Heaters

Councillor Rew was interested if the County's graders used engine coolant heaters or just the standard block heaters. Engine coolant heaters make it easier on the motors and only require about 2 hours of run time. He has used this on his own equipment and highly recommends them. Hardware is about \$900.00 and there are a few different brands to choose from. The County could handle the installations. CAO Bremer will look into what is currently being used on our graders.

Columbarium
information

CAO Bremer received some columbarium material samples and information that was shared with council. Two providers were very helpful. One company located in Ontario has their own quarry and manufacturing, meaning nothing is imported and they were considerably less money but do not include installation. Bremer was given more specifics on what was wanted in a columbarium to help narrow down and better compare the final costs between the vendors. The specifics Bremer are to look for are:

- 24 standard size niches (12"x12")
- Square/Rectangle shaped columbarium
- 12 niches on front and 12 niches on back
- Solid granite construction
- Light coloured sides and dark coloured niche coverings/fronts
- All installation requirements, recommendations, and costs
- Planning costs around it being installed in the Rumsey Cemetery

Staff Sick Policy
Temporary
Changes due to
Covid

Concerns were raised at the Starland Safety Committee Meeting that the County's current sick leave policy requires staff to provide a doctor's note if they are missing 3 or more days due to illness. With the Covid Omnicron strain outbreak, staff are being asked to use sick days if they are showing any symptoms. As rapid tests are in short supply and Alberta doctors are currently not wanting to see anyone who only has cold symptoms, Council is being requested to temporarily relax this portion of the sick leave policy.

C22-016
Temporary Relax
Condition in Sick
Leave Policy

[C22-016] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Starland County temporarily remove the requirement for a doctor's note from the County's Sick Leave Policy until the end of March 2022, at which time Council will re-evaluate the situation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FCM Conference

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference is being held June 2-5th in Regina. With the January 26th council meeting being cancelled, Councillor Watts wanted room availability looked into. As details were still vague on the event, it was decided that when more details come out if time is a concern to ensure booking rooms that Council could discuss this via email if necessary.

EDA Xperience
2022 Leaders'
Summit and
Conference

Councillor Landry brought forward the upcoming Economic Developers Alberta (EDA) Xperience 2022 Leaders' Summit and Conference on April 6th-8th that will be held at the Pomeroy Mountain Lodge in Kananaskis. Registration for this event must be completed before the end of the month. Strengthening the region's economic development to diversify industry is one of the priorities identified in Starland's Strategic Action Plan. Reeve Wannstrom and Councillor Landry are on the Starland Economic Development Committee, and both expressed interest in attending.

C22-017
EDA Xperience
2022 Summit &
Conference

[C22-017] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the EDA Xperience 2022 Summit and Conference, held in Kananaskis on April 6-8th, 2022; be approved for attendance by Reeve Wannstrom and Councillor Landry.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council
Committees

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

Council
Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Prairie Land Pride Newsletter
- ii. RMA District Update
- iii. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Contact Newsletter – 2 Issues

C22-018
Motion to
Proceed in
Closed Session

[C22-018] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that under the exemptions granted by Sections 16 and 17, Division 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Personal Privacy Act, Reeve Wannstrom, Deputy Reeve Sargent, Councillors Rew, Watts, and Landry proceed with the meeting in Closed Session at 12:26 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-019
Motion to
Proceed Out of
Closed Session

[C22-019] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 12:58 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Accounts - see prior motion.

CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA	CK# 53305	6,872.13
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 53306	5,880.00
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 53307	352.98
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES INC.	CK# 53308	1,277.98
APEX UTILITIES INC.	CK# 53309	7,732.11
ASCEND	CK# 53310	8,400.00
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 53311	570.10
CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA	CK# 53312	15,480.52
COMMERCIAL TRUCK EQUIPMENT CO.	CK# 53313	1,229.76
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 53314	94.55
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA	CK# 53315	37.80
HACH SALES & SERVICE CANADA LP	CK# 53316	1,993.95
HALLETT, RYAN	CK# 53317	1,153.00
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53318	255.49
KLEINSCHROTH, TERENA R.	CK# 53319	66.30
LANDRY, MARK	CK# 53320	2,608.96
LAPP	CK# 53321	38,560.84
MORRISON, LILLIAN	CK# 53322	2,150.00
MPE ENGINEERING LTD.	CK# 53323	1,952.37
NELSON, MELANIE	CK# 53324	80.00
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 53325	52,241.40
REW, JOHN	CK# 53326	6,833.21
ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHOENIX	CK# 53327	10,279.92
RONACO INDUSTRIES	CK# 53328	26,533.50
SARGENT, ROBERT	CK# 53329	5,743.93

SHAW GMC CHEVROLET BUICK LTD. PARTNERSHI	CK# 53330	544.44
STANTEC CONSULTING LTD.	CK# 53331	19,515.34
TELUS	CK# 53332	223.87
WANNSTROM, STEVE	CK# 53333	3,503.50
WATTS, JACKIE	CK# 53334	2,807.33
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 53335	4,200.00
CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA	CK# 53336	1,643.98
AIR LIQUIDE CANADA INC.	CK# 53337	446.27
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES	CK# 53338	90.00
ALBERTA ONE-CALL CORPORATION	CK# 53339	3.31
ATB FINANCIAL MASTERCARD	CK# 53340	2,316.74
BIG COUNTRY GAS CO-OP	CK# 53341	976.52
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	CK# 53342	2,012.06
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 53343	286.30
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 53344	97.81
ENMAX	CK# 53345	111.56
GANE VACUUM SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53346	3,150.00
HALLETT, RYAN	CK# 53347	178.50
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICES CO	CK# 53348	6,496.61
HYDRODIG CANADA INC.	CK# 53349	3,617.25
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 53350	157.50
NEW WEST FREIGHTLINER INC.	CK# 53351	152.55
ROADATA SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53352	636.30
SCHOFER, KORY R	CK# 53353	100.00
SEED CHECK TECHNOLOGIES INC.	CK# 53354	192.15
SPROUSE FIRE AND SAFETY CORP.	CK# 53355	539.11
TELUS	CK# 53356	905.22
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 53357	1,024.94
THE DRUMHELLER MAIL	CK# 53358	157.96
TOWN OF DRUMHELLER	CK# 53359	3,704.96
VILLAGE OF MORRIN	CK# 53360	275.15
WATER PURE & SIMPLE MINILAKE DIST LTD.	CK# 53361	18.00
WFR WHOLESALE FIRE & RESCUE LTD.	CK# 53362	4,709.23
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 53363	8,673.00
ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION	CK# 53364	125.00
ALBERTA MUNICIPAL TAXATION PROFESSIONALS	CK# 53365	300.00
ALTALIS ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	CK# 53366	2,022.30
AMSA	CK# 53367	800.00
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 53368	55.61
BENOIT, PELAGIOUS P.	CK# 53369	87.90
DELIA SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY	CK# 53370	50,000.00
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 53371	49,936.97
FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES	CK# 53372	663.25
HANNA MEDICAL PROPERTIES	CK# 53373	10,636.20
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53374	285.34
KRYWCUN, DEREK J.	CK# 53375	177.75
KUDRAS, DARA	CK# 53376	77.29
LARSEN, MARTIN	CK# 53377	152.00
MONTGOMERY, LAYA	CK# 53378	87.90
NETAGO	CK# 53379	955.25
PALLISER REGIONAL MUNICIPAL SERVICES	CK# 53380	41,477.84
PRAIRIE LAND REGIONAL DIVISION NO 25	CK# 53381	50,000.00
RED DEER RIVER WATERSHED ALLIANCE	CK# 53382	1,033.00
SYLOGIST LTD.	CK# 53383	45,291.75
STETTLER TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	CK# 53384	367.50
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 53385	16,737.60
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 53386	151.20
TELUS	CK# 53387	251.99
THE DRUMHELLER MAIL	CK# 53388	5,734.25
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 53389	630.81
WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE	CK# 53390	7,875.00
2022 PROVINCIAL ASB CONFERENCE	CK# 53391	5,103.00
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 53392	3,675.00
TOTAL:		\$ 566,539.96

C22-020
Adjournment

[C22-020] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the meeting be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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



Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom



Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer