

STARLAND COUNTY

COUNCIL MEETING, February 9th, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council of Starland County was held at the Starland County Administration Building in Morrin, Alberta on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022, commencing at 9:03 a.m.

Attendance

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

C22-021 Agenda Approval

[C22-021] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the agenda for the February 9th, 2022 meeting of the Council of Starland County be approved as presented with the following additions:

- Bremer: In "Other" section of agenda add discussion on upcoming 2022 tax sale

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-022 Approval of Minutes

[C22-022] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the minutes of the January 12th, 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 February 9th, 2022.

C22-023 Accounts

[C22-023] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that accounts (cheque numbers 53393 to 53505) totalling \$657,067.53 be approved for payment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Statements

Brief overview of current financial statements but as not all year end financials are received only a summary was presented.

CAO Report

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

- Starland County will host a virtual town hall meeting in partnership with the Drumheller RCMP for our rural residents on February 15, 2022 starting at 6:00 p.m. Registration information is on the County website.
- CAO Bremer provided updates on some of the estimated costs it would take if the old public works office trailer was re-purposed to be used as the library in Rumsey. Still waiting for costs to relocate the SuperNet service.
- Demolition of house in Morrin will commence this week and should be completed in a few days. Final landscaping will be completed in the spring after the ground thaws.
- CAO Bremer has been working on several bylaws of which 3 will be included on the agenda today for discussion.
- CAO Bremer has been working on gathering information on our hamlets to forward on to MP Kurek's office for his "Community of the Week" newsletter. Finding information on Michichi has been more

difficult than on the other hamlets.

- The RMA conducted survey on Unpaid Municipal Taxes. As a recap, the overall outstanding taxes owed by oil and gas is \$11,368,936.69 of which Starland has written off \$9,508,636.96 since 2015. The outstanding amount does not include the two companies which have repayment agreements totalling \$1.26M.
- Regarding the amalgamation of Apogee to Pine Cliff Energy Ltd., they both expressed intent to pay Apogee's taxes from 2021. Apogee has paid 1/3 of the total. Pine Cliff then intends to cover the outstanding balance and expediate the repayment to the end of March 2022. The balance owing is \$474,230.81
- The CAO from Paintearth County reached out to see if neighbouring municipalities are interested in meeting once again at our annual regional intermunicipal meeting.
- Dara Kudras is working on a draft tourism brochure for our recreation areas and campsites.
- Village of Morrin is losing yet another business. Western Financial Group will be closing their doors in Morrin as of February 25th, 2022. This will be a loss to the community and surrounding area.
- Naloxone Training was held at the office on January 20th, 2022.
- Jason Carlson is working on finishing development on the online fire permit system with intentions of having it in place for March 1st.
- Meska Outdoors is interested in booking 2 – 3 campsites at the Tolman East Campground for his "glamping" business.

Attendance

Delegation from Prairie Land Public School Division (PLSD) Board including:

- Holli Smith, Board Chairperson
- Shandele Battle, Delia Trustee
- Ken Macfarlane, Morrin Trustee

arrived at 9:36 a.m.

2021 Friends of Education Award

Delegation from PLSD Board Chairperson Holli Smith greeted Starland Council, introduced their delegation, and passed on regrets from Cam McKeage, PLSD Superintendent. Smith reviewed the original nomination application which summarized the various contributions and benefits Starland County has made to PLSD programs including:

- Pledging a total of \$400,000.00 towards the construction of both the new Delia and Morrin schools.
- \$60,000.00 annually of funding directed to preserve Family Resource Worker programs
- Financial contribution to CTS Trailers for Morrin and Delia Schools.

The delegation then presented Starland County with the Alberta School Boards Association Zone 5 2021 Friends of Education Award. The award was a replication of an old brass school hand bell.

Attendance

Delegation from PLSD left the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Discussion on Rumsey library

CAO Bremer included in her earlier report some of the estimated costs to relocate the old public works administration trailer to Rumsey to serve as a library and possibly post office. We are still waiting for the estimated costs to relocate the SuperNet.

Alberta Provincial Police Service

Councillor Landry attended the Alberta Provincial Police Service (APPS) engagement session. Presenters were unable to answer any questions about gaps in the report's costs and/or plans. Nothing new from what was already learned in the RMA sessions.

Brownlee LLP Emerging Trends Seminar

In person sessions were cancelled so there are now only virtual options available. Virtual sessions are booked for February 10th and 17th which will be hosted at the County office for staff and council to attend.

Village of Morrin, Proposed Land Acquisition

CAO Bremer received a letter from the Village of Morrin regarding the Land Acquisition of Lots 6,7,8,9; Block 1; Plan 4110AJ. Starland's request for acquisition of these lots was denied by the Village of Morrin. Starland County

received a request from Thomas Welch to buy these lots back from him as Covid was putting a financial struggle on his business plans. Welch expressed interest in re-purchasing the land back once his business stabilized. A municipality is required to get permission to purchase land if it is within another municipality. The Village denied the sale of these lands to Starland as the Village wanted to keep these properties on the Village's active tax roll.

Delia Municipal Library Grant

An email was received from the Delia Municipal Library noting their disappointment in not being approved for funding to their Library from the 2021 Starland County Operational Grants this past year. CAO Bremer noted that these grants are based on a percentage of the amount of utilities paid, however, there has always been consideration given to the libraries as well, based on the nominal utility/operation expenses they submit. Council requested further information from Delia as to what expenses they were responsible to pay from their Board and where funding if granted would be spent.

2022 Cost of Living

The Province of Alberta's 2021 annual inflation rates for Alberta have been published. Historically the inflation rate as of November has been used so it could be approved and allocated for January 1st. However, administration was recommending this year that the final yearly COLA rate be used instead. As of November of this year the yearly inflation rate was 4.3%, but the final yearly rate was 3.183%.

Tax Payment Plan

CAO Bremer reviewed with Council draft copies of two separate tax payment agreements. Both agreements have payment schedules that also include estimated 2022 taxes so accounts will be caught up in full by December of 2022.

C22-024
Tax Payment Agreement

[C22-024] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Starland County enter into a Tax Payment Agreement with the landowner responsible for Tax Roll: 8918120; 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.

C22-025
Tax Payment Agreement

[C22-025] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Starland County enter into a Tax Payment Agreement with the landowner responsible for Tax Rolls: 20105400, 20107800, 20113800, 20114800, 20110700, and 20114700; 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.

2022 Borrowing Bylaw 1181

CAO Bremer presented Bylaw 1181 to authorize Starland County to make borrowing arrangements for interim financing of operations. While Starland currently still has a positive balance in our account, there may be the need for short-term borrowing before our taxation deadline of September 30th, 2022.

C22-026
Bylaw 1181 – 2022 Borrowing Bylaw

[C22-026] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Bylaw 1181, for the purpose of making short-term borrowing arrangements for the interim financing of 2022 operations, be established.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-027
Bylaw 1181 – 1st Reading

[C22-027] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that Bylaw 1181, for the purpose of making short-term borrowing arrangements for the interim financing of 2022 operations, be given first reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-028
Bylaw 1181 –
2nd Reading

[C22-028] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that Bylaw 1181, for the purpose of making short-term borrowing arrangements for the interim financing of 2022 operations, be given second reading.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-029
Bylaw 1181 –
Motion to have
3rd Reading

[C22-029] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that Bylaw 1181 be presented for third reading at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-030
Bylaw 1181 –
3rd and Final
Reading

[C22-030] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that Bylaw 1181, for the purpose of making short-term borrowing arrangements for the interim financing of 2022 operations, be given third reading and finally passed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hamlet Sewer
Utility Bylaw 1182

CAO Bremer presented Bylaw 1182 to repeal and replace Bylaw 1063, originally the Water & Sewer Utility Bylaw. This new bylaw is being established to provide for the regulation, operation, and maintenance of a sewer system in the Hamlets, and the levying of rates and charges thereof. The original bylaw, Bylaw 1063 included both water and sewer, but the water portions were all repealed when replaced with the Bylaw 1137. This left a large portion of this bylaw as irrelevant and repealed, making it hard to read and interpret. This new bylaw will provide information only relevant to the hamlet sewer systems and will be easier to interpret and apply.

The rates in the bylaw were unchanged since the original bylaw was established in 2002 making them 20 years old. Council would like this tabled while administration research actual costs and comparative municipality rates.

Nuisance
Abatement Bylaw
1184

CAO Bremer presented Bylaw 1184 to regulate, control and abate nuisances, including dangerous and unsightly premises. It would repeal our present Nuisance Abatement Bylaw No. 1092 and would now include a definition for loud noises, inclusion of “loud noises” to various sections, and an improved definition for “nuisance” which now includes unsightly premises more specifically. With this improved wording, this bylaw can more easily be enforced.

After some discussion, it was decided to table the discussion and consider the following changes:

- the “Noise” definition was too vague and opened it up for abuse
- need to remove “vehicles” from “Noise” definition
- section 3.6 needs to also include “or Designated Officer”
- have consistent times 7 days a week, 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.

Ember Resources
Refund

Ember Resources Inc. has made a request for a refund on a tax payment they made on a property that does not belong to them. They noted the property was not theirs but paid it to avoid tax penalties while they waited for confirmation. Ownership of the property is being put back in the name of Trident Exploration and was never purchased by Ember Resources Inc.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-031
Refund Ember
Resources Tax
Overpayment

[C22-031] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that Ember Resources Inc. be issued a refund in the amount of \$5,016.58 for 2021 Property Tax Roll 40321015 as the compressor at 15-21-033-20-W4 was not purchased by Ember Resources from Trident Exploration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RMA 2022 Spring Convention

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) 2022 Spring Convention will take place this year in Edmonton from March 13th – 16th, 2022.

C22-032
RMA 2022 Spring Convention

[C22-032] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the Rural Municipalities of Alberta 2022 Spring Convention be approved for attendance by Council, two administration staff, and one public works staff; and that associated expenses be covered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCCAC EV Charging Station Grant

The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) has a grant opportunity. The Government of Canada, with matching funding from the Government of Alberta is providing access to grants to invest in electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Jason Carlson has identified two potential locations that would be a good fit for the grant requirements and has already submitted a non-committing Expression of Interest letter as per the first step of accessing the grant. Starland County is currently in the centre of a large void where there are no EV charging stations available which is likely discouraging drivers with electric vehicles from participating in all our County has to offer. The next stage is to get quotes and put together proposals that best fit the needs in our region.

MSL Grant for Docks at Michichi and McLaren Campgrounds

Dara Kudras has identified a possible grant from the Minister's Special License (MSL) Program that may assist the County in installing new docks at the Michichi Campground and McLaren Dam Campground. The Government of Alberta and the Minister of Environment and Parks makes the MSL program possible through auctions on donated items. Kudras has submitted separate applications for each Campground already as the deadline for application was January 31, 2022.

Enterprise Fleet Management Proposal

Judy Fazekas went over an introductory proposal from the Enterprise Fleet Management company where they claim we could reduce our total fleet costs by using them to manage our fleet. They buy and sell a very large number of fleet vehicles every year and have analytics to bring as much value to a fleet by knowing the best time to sell a vehicle. Using basic information about our fleet they are suggesting we could save \$348,762 over 10 years and have newer vehicles in our fleet that require less maintenance.

If there is interest to look into this in more detail they will come and make a presentation to council. Council expressed interest in learning more.

RCMP Reports

Staff Sgt. E. Bourque of the Drumheller RCMP has provided the October 1st to December 31st, 2021 quarterly report. He has also requested council to identify their top 3 priorities for rural policing by the RCMP and have them ready for when he next meets with council.

2022 Tax Sale

The 2022 Tax Sale currently includes one property in Rumsey. It still needs to have an official appraisal and there will be costs associated with that. The other option is to use the assessor's residential assessment value. If it doesn't sell the county would take ownership and at that time could look at cleaning up the property to help it sell.

FCM 2022 Conference

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2022 Conference and Trade Show will be in Regina this June 2-5, 2022.

C22-033
FCM 2022 Conference

[C22-033] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR REW

that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2022 Conference and Trade Show be approved for attendance by Council; and that associated expenses be covered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Committees

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

Inventures 2022

Councillor Watts brought forward the Inventures 2022 Conference which will be held from June 1 – 3rd, 2022. Registration for the event includes a year-round membership giving access to Unbound live stream and on-demand content. The event focuses on bringing different partners and ideas together to possibly spark green business opportunities. As Starland is looking to attract more business diversity this is a good networking opportunity and Councillor Watts is interested in attending.

C22-034
Inventures 2022

[C22-034] MOVED BY REEVE WANNSTROM

that the Inventures 2022 Online Event, including one year membership; be approved for attendance by Councillor Watts; and that the associated \$199 registration and membership fee be covered.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council Communications

Council Communications:

- i. Government of Alberta re: RESIDE Program
- ii. AB Municipal Affairs re: Follow up to RMA Convention Meeting
- iii. Marigold Library System re: Freedom to Read Week
- iv. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) re: Contact Newsletter – 4 Issues

C22-035
Proceed in Closed Session

[C22-035] 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 3:23 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-036
Proceed Out of Closed Session

[C22-036] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WATTS

that the meeting proceed out of Closed Session at 4:20 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C22-037
Approve 2022 COLA

[C22-037] MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LANDRY

that a cost of living allowance (COLA) wage increase of 2% be approved for January 1st, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accounts

Accounts - see prior motion.

CAMPUS ENERGY PARTNERS LP	CK# 53393	13,776.56
DIRECT ENERGY REGULATED SERVICES	CK# 53394	141.08
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICES CO	CK# 53395	413.83
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 53396	78,698.39
REW, JOHN	CK# 53397	3,261.00
SARGENT, ROBERT	CK# 53398	3,271.30
VILLAGE OF DELIA	CK# 53399	1,393.00
LAPP	CK# 53400	21,532.82
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 53401	47,769.12
A.H. GRADER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 53402	14,259.00
A&D HARPER TIRE (1979) LTD.	CK# 53403	961.80
ACCU-FLO METER SERVICE LTD.	CK# 53404	3,037.44
ACTIVE GLASS	CK# 53405	753.38
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL	CK# 53406	2,576.69
ALBERTA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL	CK# 53407	1,000.00
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 53408	1,421.23
BURT, EDWIN L.	CK# 53409	150.00
CINTAS CANADA LIMITED	CK# 53410	269.54

CLEARTECH INDUSTRIES INC.	CK# 53411	246.10
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 53412	101.23
FINKBINER, DOUGLAS A.	CK# 53413	57.00
FOUNTAIN TIRE LTD.	CK# 53414	2,037.42
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 53415	48.59
GLOVER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS LTD.	CK# 53416	419.96
GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA	CK# 53417	147.00
GREATWEST KENWORTH LTD.	CK# 53418	1,576.82
HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53419	279.20
JERRY'S LOCK & KEY SERVICE	CK# 53420	83.65
KUDRAS, DARA	CK# 53421	56.44
LAPP	CK# 53422	21,563.57
MORRIN FOODS	CK# 53423	17.64
NETAGO	CK# 53424	320.00
NEXTGEN AUTOMATION	CK# 53425	285.09
OLD MACDONALD KENNELS, ANIMAL SERVICES	CK# 53426	7,314.56
PEOPLES, CHRISTOPHER G	CK# 53427	114.00
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 53428	49.04
RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA	CK# 53429	48,407.67
RIEP, GLEN	CK# 53430	2,174.33
STANTEC CONSULTING LTD.	CK# 53431	33,271.09
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 53432	15,933.08
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA	CK# 53433	146.48
TELUS	CK# 53434	468.88
TELUS MOBILITY INC.	CK# 53435	3,615.70
THOMAS, GARETH R	CK# 53436	114.00
UTILITY SAFETY PARTNERS	CK# 53437	487.74
VIKING CIVES LTD.	CK# 53438	1,525.93
WATER PURE & SIMPLE MINILAKE DIST LTD.	CK# 53439	117.00
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 53440	391.87
WISE ABATEMENT	CK# 53441	20,496.00
WOLF, TRACY	CK# 53442	2,163.00
WOLSELEY WATERWORKS	CK# 53443	1,135.43
1325856 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53444	9.00
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 53445	7,350.00
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	CK# 53446	784.88
CARLSON, JASON J	CK# 53447	156.45
CHAMPION COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS INC.	CK# 53448	1,886.43
EAST CENTRAL GAS CO-OP LTD.	CK# 53449	864.28
FRESON BROS DRUMHELLER	CK# 53450	28.44
O/A J.C. INDUSTRIES LTD.	CK# 53451	20,790.00
MPE ENGINEERING LTD.	CK# 53452	31,477.89
RMA INSURANCE	CK# 53453	2,865.46
STERICYCLE ULC	CK# 53454	563.70
STARLAND REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY	CK# 53455	585.01
TAQA NORTH	CK# 53456	21.00
WESTVIEW CO-OPERATIVE ASSN LTD.	CK# 53457	483.54
WISE ABATEMENT	CK# 53458	1,081.50
WOLF, TRACY	CK# 53459	500.00
1998372 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53460	56,930.11
CANOE PROCUREMENT GROUP OF CANADA	CK# 53461	60,805.74
APEX UTILITIES INC.	CK# 53462	12,883.18
APEX UTILITIES INC.	CK# 53463	237.59
GHOSTPINE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53464	3,394.06
VILLAGE OF MORRIN	CK# 53465	275.15
1325856 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53466	84.00
A.P.I. ALARM INC.	CK# 53467	110.25
ACKLANDS-GRAINGER INC.	CK# 53468	1,301.88
ADAMS INDUSTRIAL	CK# 53469	192.38
AIR LIQUIDE CANADA INC.	CK# 53470	446.27
ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES	CK# 53471	60.00
AUTO VALUE PARTS - DRUMHELLER	CK# 53472	33.64
BROWNLEE LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	CK# 53473	1,557.15
DIGITEX CANADA INC.	CK# 53474	250.95
DRUMHELLER & DISTRICT SOLID WASTE MANAGE	CK# 53475	24.06
ECS SAFETY SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53476	75.08
ENMAX	CK# 53477	134.97
FORT GARRY INDUSTRIES LTD.	CK# 53478	935.01
FOUNTAIN TIRE LTD.	CK# 53479	30.17
HALLETT, RYAN	CK# 53480	517.51
HENRY KROEGER REGIONAL WATER SERVICES CO	CK# 53481	8,660.13

HI-WAY 9 EXPRESS LTD.	CK# 53482	555.79
KLEINSCHROTH, TERENA R.	CK# 53483	628.95
KRYWCUN, DEREK J.	CK# 53484	440.28
KUDRAS, DARA	CK# 53485	30.01
KUHL TUF WEAR LTD.	CK# 53486	150.00
LANDRY, MARK	CK# 53487	2,902.41
PETERSON AUTO BODY LTD.	CK# 53488	422.73
PUROLATOR INC.	CK# 53489	42.44
RICHMOND, JAMES E. & STEPHANIE A.	CK# 53490	3,335.00
RMA INSURANCE	CK# 53491	337.84
ROADATA SERVICES LTD.	CK# 53492	463.05
SEED CHECK TECHNOLOGIES INC.	CK# 53493	346.50
SYLOGIST LTD.	CK# 53494	133.88
STETTLER TELEPHONE ANSWERING SERVICE	CK# 53495	367.50
TELUS	CK# 53496	909.22
TOWN OF DRUMHELLER	CK# 53497	4,372.07
VILLAGE OF DELIA	CK# 53498	1,129.00
WANNSTROM, STEVE	CK# 53499	4,522.43
WATTS, JACKIE	CK# 53500	3,815.02
WESTERGARD MOTORS DRUMHELLER	CK# 53501	217.44
WILD ROSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE	CK# 53502	7,875.00
1325856 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53503	9.00
1998372 ALBERTA LTD.	CK# 53504	39,523.42
3D PATCH WORK LTD.	CK# 53505	6,300.00
TOTAL:		\$ 657,067.53

C22-038
Adjournment

[C22-038] MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE SARGENT

that the meeting be adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Council of Starland County is to be held on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2022, at the Starland County Administration Building, commencing at 9:00 a.m.



Reeve:
Steve Wannstrom



Chief Administrative Officer:
Shirley Bremer