



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133
Meeting Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM 06-23
10:00 am, Wednesday, April 5th, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Office situated at 4202 50th Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Reeve: Tony Van Rootselaar

Councillors: Elaine Garrow
Stan Bzowy
Nick vanRootselaar

Administration: CAO, Dan Dibbelt
Recording Secretary: Shirley Hayden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Van Rootselaar called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

CAO Dibbelt left the meeting at 10:07 a.m. and returned 10:08 a.m.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS:

- 13.H. Final Budget 2023**
- 13.I. FCM - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Call to action - Resolution and Press Release: Prioritizing Municipal Input in Future RCMP Contract Policing Decisions.**
- 13.J. Daycare Funding**
- 13.K. Smart City Alliance**
- 12.B. Central Peace Regional Emergency Management (CPREM) - Meeting Minutes.**
- 15.M. Information - Email: From Terri Shaul, Operations Director; Alberta Association of Nurses RE: National Nursing Week: May 8th - 14th, 2023.**
- 15.N. Information - Sponsorship Request - North West Regional Skills Canada Competition 2023.**
- 15.O. Information - Letter from Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta Informational Brochure.**
- 15.P. Information - Unpaid Oil and Gas Tax: Potential Impacts to Municipal Taxation and Assessment.**

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the April 5th, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda RM 06-23.

085.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting RM 06-23 with the agenda additions, be adopted with corrections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. Adoption of Minutes from the March 15th, 2023 Council Meeting RM 05-23

086.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Minutes from the March 15th Regular Council meeting RM-05-23, be adopted with corrections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

6. COUNCILLOR ABSENCES

7. PUBLIC HEARING

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

10. REPORTS

A. Public Works Report - Period of March 9th thru March 31st, 2023.

Public Works Director, Dave Johnson reviewed with Council the following items:

- Steaming Culverts
- Washing MD signs repaint the MD Signs lettering is worn.
- Gravel; Grimshaw is reclaiming the pit in Whitelaw and have started gravel crush, on April 3rd they will be hauling and stockpiling at Dunvegan.
- Brushing; Ongoing

087.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Council direct administration allocate \$20,000.00 for the purpose of enhancing the Nardam Park located in Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

088.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council direct administration to allocate \$ 6,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing items for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Cemetery.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

089.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the Public Works Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Corporate Services Director, Louise Gostick entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

8. DELEGATIONS

Edward Telford Chartered accountant with JDP Wasserman and Associates for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Mr. Telford presented the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 2022 Financial Statements for Council’s review. Mr Telford gave credit to Ms Gostick in keeping with the overall management and oversight of the MD’s finances and relayed the audit went very well overall and gave credit to Ms. Gostick and Ms Nellis for their help with the auditing process by gathering any related information that was required.

Mr Telford left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

090.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the 2022 audited financial statements for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 as presented by professional auditor Edward Telford of JDP Wasserman and Associates, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

091.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the unrestricted surplus in the amount of \$387, 889.00 be transferred to contingency reserves (Mill Rate Stabilization).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS (continued)

10.C. Finance Report - 2023 Interim Operating and Capital Budget (Separate Handout)

Director of Corporate Services, Louise Gostick presented the 2023 Operating Budget and reviewed adjustments in the budget allowing for increases in items such as fuel, utility costs and other factors in part due to inflation and carbon tax increases. The Capital Budget projects consists of; the Range Road 54 improvement project , the township road 780 rail crossing , moving of the power poles, year one of a three-year gravel crushing program and allotting for future upgrades to Nardam Park.

Ms Gostick then relayed the benefits of developing a restricted reserve fund along with a coinciding policy thereby categorizing and outlining the purpose of certain reserves and the parameters regarding the use of reserves.

13. H. Final Budget 2023

Administration presented the 2023 Final Operating and Capital Budget

092.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the 2023 Interim Operating Budget and Capital Budget be tabled until the April 19th, 2023 RM-07-23 regular meeting and directed Administration to bring back further information on the minimum tax levy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

093.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the MD's 2022 MSI funding motion be amended that the Municipal Districts *Municipal Sustainability Initiative* (MSI) funding capital be allocated to the Municipal District's gravel crushing program for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

094.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council direct administration to review the current ADM.35I policy and develop an Accumulated Surplus - Restricted Reserves Policy for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 thereby establishing standards and guidelines for the management of existing reserves and the establishment of new reserves.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director of Corporate Services Louise Gostick left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- A. Central Peace Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Regular Board Minutes March 23rd, 2023.**
- B. Central Peace Regional Emergency Management (CPREM) - Meeting Minutes November 17th, 2022.**

Council reviewed and accepted the items as information.

CAO Dibbelt left the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and re-entered at 12:03 p.m.
The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 12:47 p.m.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Peace Valley Conservation, Recreation and Tourism Society: Board Dissolution; Disbursal of remaining funds.**

At the Peace Valley Conservation, Recreation and Tourism Society meeting on March 9th, the board passed a motion to begin the process of dissolving the committee and a request for decision posed to each council on what is to be done with the remaining funds totaling \$9,738.14. First option is to return our share back to the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 which would work out to be about 1/6th of the amount, which is approximately \$1623.02 or to donate the funds to the Mighty Peace Tourism.

095.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council approve the portion of the funds belonging to the MD resulting from the dissolved Peace Valley Conservation Recreation and Tourism Society Committee in the approximate amount of 1623.02, be returned to the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 and allocated to Miscellaneous Revenue.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Sponsorship Request - The 50th Annual Wanham Plowing Match 2023

Administration received a sponsorship request on behalf of the C.O.C.O Plowing Match and Agricultural Society on behalf of the Association of Agricultural Societies with regard to the 2023 50th Wanham Plowing Match event, taking place on June 23rd to June 25th , 2023, in Wanham, AB.

096.04.05.23 Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that Council approve the sponsorship request in the amount of 250.00. to be dedicated to the C.O.C.O Plowing Match and Agricultural Society with regard to the 50th Wanham Plowing Match 2023, the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Public Works Week Proclamation ; May 21st - 27th, 2023

097.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Council declare the week of May 21- 27th, 2023 as Public Works week in the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Naming of the Meeting Room (Brownlee Building)

During the RM-05-23 regular meeting on March 15th, 2023 Council directed administration to bring the naming of the meeting room located within the newly renovated Brownlee Building back to a future meeting.

098.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council direct administration that the meeting room located in the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Brownlee Building, be named the McCarther Room. Councillor Garrow then requested a recorded vote:

Reeve Van Rootselaar - Yes

Councillor vanRootselaar - Yes

Councillor Garrow - No

Councillor Bzowy - No

Vote Tied. Motion defeated.

E. Crop Loss Compensation

At the Regular Meeting RM-05-23, on March 15th, 2023 Council directed administration to bring back further information regarding the invoice received from a landowner regarding crop loss compensation on leased land on two separate parcels located at : RL42-78-5-W6 and RL41-78-5-W6 which totals 22.5 acres of un-harvestable Canola due to water reservoir and road construction in relation to the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Range Road 54 Improvement Project.

099.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the invoice with regard to crop loss compensation on Municipal District leased land be brought back to a future meeting and directed administration to bring back additional information from email correspondence.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

100.04.05.23 Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that Council direct administration to conduct further review of regarding the impact, if any, on Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 residents regarding the implementation of standard land rental fees, road lease allowance fees and minimum tax requirements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Community Rail Advocacy Alliance (CRAA) – Membership

At the March 1st Regular Meeting RM-04-23, administration presented information on the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance (CRAA) and Rail Forward campaign. The group is made up of counties, municipalities and associations that are impacted by underutilized and undersupplied rail services, which in turn negatively affects the regions' ability to participate in local, national and international markets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

101.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that Council approve the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 enter into a membership with the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance (CRAA), including the one-time membership fee in the amount of \$2000.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Invitation to attend : Zoom meeting Thursday April 6th; Proposed expansion of Physician training in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

102.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council approve Elaine Garrow to attend the Proposed Expansion of Physician training in Grande Prairie, Alberta Zoom meeting Thursday April 6th on behalf of the Central Peace Attraction and Retention Committee (CPARC).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. FCM - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Call to action - Resolution and Press Release: Prioritizing Municipal Input in Future RCMP Contract Policing Decisions.

On March 28th, 2023 the federal government announced its decision to pass unbudgeted RCMP costs onto municipalities, without engaging in discussions with local government, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is encouraging municipalities to participate in a letter writing campaign to ensure their position in opposing the federal government's decision.

103.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow to direct administration to draft a letter to the federal government on behalf of the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 in response to the government's decision to place the financial responsibility with municipalities regarding the retroactive costs associated with the current RCMP collective bargaining agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. Daycare Funding

Administration presented information from the RM-06-20 regular meeting on April 1st, 2020 with regard to a motion of Council for the allocation of up to \$100,000.00 for the development of a daycare facility. Council reiterated that the funding approval was to be used for a daycare to be built as an addition to the new senior's lodge.

104.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the item regarding Daycare Funding be accepted as Information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

K. Smart City Alliance

105.04.05.23 Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 will not enter into in any agreements involving smart city alliance programs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. BYLAWS

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

- A. Correspondence - Email - From Donna Urlarcher; Alberta Health Services RE: MDSR No.133 AHS FOIP request - Decision notice 2023.**
- B. Information - Chris Warkentin - Warkentin Responds to another disappointing Liberal Budget.**
- C. Information - MD of Spirit River No.133 Approval Request - Atco Electric Project # 1046252.**
- D. Information - Thank you to the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 from the Village of Rycroft Municipal Library.**
- E. Information - Letter from The Hon. Minister Rebecca Schulz - Minister of Municipal Affairs RE: Joint Use and Planning Agreement (JUPAS) contract extension.**
- F. Letter from The town of Barr head to The Hon. Minister Savage - Minister of Environment and Protected areas RE: Changes to the EPR program and the Community Spaces Grant application - Barrhead Wellness connection.**
- G. Information - Peace Wapiti Public School Division 2024-2027 Capital Plan**
- H. Information - Project of the School Age Care Director's Association - "Lights on after School" campaign April 17th - 21st, 2023.**
- I. Information - Email from Mayor Alanna Hnatiw, Sturgeon RE: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Convention; Showcasing Alberta.**
- J. Information - Email - from Diana Rinne, Alberta Health Services: North Zone Communications RE: Extension of Temporary Bed Closure at Central Peace Health Complex.**
- K. Information - Email from Jessica Stevenson, Alberta Health Services, EMS Manager, Provincial Air Ambulance to the Town of Spirit River RE: Air Ambulance services to the Spirit River Airport temporarily reinstated.**
- L. Information - Email - From Crowdfunding Alberta; Community Engagement Branch News March 2023.**
- M. Information - Email: From Terri Shaul, Operations Director Alberta Association of Nurses**

RE: National Nursing Week: May 8th - 14th, 2023.

- N. Information - Sponsorship Request - North West Regional Skills Canada Competition 2023.**
- O. Information - Letter from Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta Informational Brochure.**
- P. Information - Letter from Northern Sunrise County: Potential impacts to Municipal Taxation and Assessment.**

106.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that a letter be drafted to RMA president Paul McLaughlin regarding the Potential impacts to Municipal Taxation and Assessment on municipalities in relation to Unpaid Oil and Gas Tax.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

107.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the Correspondence and Information items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. REPORTS (continued)

B. CAO Report

CAO Dan Dibbelt reviewed with Council the following items:

- 2022 audit to be presented.
- Daycare; Grande Spirit Foundation
- Job Fair in Fairview and Grande Prairie went well, positive feedback.
- Brownlee Building renovation nearing completion, Brownlee Meeting rental agreement updated.
- Supernet being installed next week.
- Airport; AHS Medevac services temporarily reinstated for the spring/summer season.
- Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention; MLA Sigurdson meeting and Airport Resolution.
- Canwest FOIP request; waiting for final reply and contracts.
- Nardam; proposed fountain and gazebo plans for the park.
- MD Land Rental Agreement, reviewing and updating template.
- Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission; plans for a proposed firehall moving forward.
- New MD Website Launch April 28th .

108.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the CAO Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

109.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council approve the updated Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Brownlee meeting room rental agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

110.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council direct administration to draft a letter to Northern Sunrise County thanking Deputy Reeve Carolyn Kolebaba for her contribution and participation during the Municipal District of Spirit No.133 meeting with MLA Sigurdsson during the 2023 RMA Spring Convention.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

111.04.05.23 Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that administration bring forward to a future meeting information on minimum land tax, MD land lease agreements and MD Road lease agreements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

112.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow the CAO report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Recording Secretary Shirley Hayden left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

17. CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)

113.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy as per *FOIP Act* requirement in accordance with *section 197 (4)(b) of The Municipal Government Act*, the Meeting enter into a closed meeting to discuss Labour, Intergovernmental Relations and Legal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting went into a closed meeting at 2:17 p.m

114. 04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the meeting come out of Closed Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting came out of closed meeting at 3:23 p.m.

115.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council approve a Cost of Living (COLA) increase for all Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 staff as presented to be retroactive to January 1st, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

116.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Council approve a per diem rate increase to include a 3% Cost of Living (COLA) increment for 2023 and annually hereinafter.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


117.04.05.23 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that administration follow up on Development Permit application 06-DP-21.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Reeve Van Rootselaar at 3:57 p.m.

These minutes approved this 19th day of April, 2023.



Reeve
Tony Van Rootselaar



CAO
Dan Dibbelt