



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133**  
**Meeting Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM 12-23**  
**10:00 am, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 50<sup>th</sup> Street in the Town of Spirit River in the Province of Alberta on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 10:00 am.

**Reeve:** Tony Van Rootselaar

**Councillors:** Elaine Garrow  
Stan Bzowy  
Nick vanRootselaar

**Administration:** Dan Dibbelt  
Dianne Nellis  
Shirley Hayden

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Reeve Van Rootselaar called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with Agricultural Fieldman, Simon Amting and Public Works Supervisor, Dave Johnson in attendance.

**2. AGENDA ADDITIONS**

**11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

**B. Agenda Items regarding Minutes, Action Items and Updates - From the RM-11-23 July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting (Councillor Garrow Itemized List) .**

**13. NEW BUISNESS**

**L. RFD - MD Office Closure August 25<sup>th</sup> , 2023.**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**A. Adoption of the August 16th, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda RM 12-23.**

**203.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting RM 12-23 be adopted with the following additions, namely:

11.B. Agenda Items regarding Minutes, Action Items and Updates - From the RM-11-23 July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting;

13. L. MD Office Closure August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**A. Adoption of Minutes from the July 19th, 2023 Council Meeting RM 11-23.**

**204.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting RM 11-23 be adopted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**6. COUNCILLOR ABSENCES**

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**8. DELEGATIONS**

**Wanham Grazing Association Board members Dan Patterson and Bob Shmyruk**

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Shmyruk entered the meeting at 10:06 a.m. to discuss use of Township Road 794 to facilitate their Crown Land grazing lease located in Birch Hills County. The Wanham Grazing Association had been requested by Council to attend a meeting to discuss dust issues on Township Road 794.

Mr. Patterson and Mr. Shmyruk left the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

**9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**10. REPORTS**

**Agricultural Fieldman Report**

Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting presented the following items:

- 998 weed inspections have been completed in total.
- The grasshopper survey is done.
- 75% single pass mowing has been completed
- Seasonal employees are completing the weed and canola surveys.

Ms Louise Gostick entered the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

**205.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Agricultural Fieldman’s Report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Amting left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

**A. Public Works Report**

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

- Ongoing General Road Maintenance.
- Graveling: multiple roads have been completed, some delays due to the weather.
- Large culvert North of Highway 49 on Range Road 51: had experienced some delays due to weather but has since been completed and staff are now installing rip rap.
- Brushing: Summer staff clean ditches when there is time.
- Signs: Replacing a few local road signs.

Mr. Johnson left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. Financial Report**

Director of Corporate Services, Louise Gostick, reviewed the Financial Report with Council.

**207.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the Financial Report be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms Gostick left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

**B. CAO Report**

CAO Dan Dibbelt reviewed with Council the following items:

- Art on display in Council meeting room.
- Voyent APP is online, and residents are signing on to the network.
- Range Road 54 Rail Crossing: August 29<sup>th</sup>, ATCO to move power pole; concrete for rail crossing is delayed and on back order; Consultant is seeking additional options to expedite the installation.
- Fish and Wildlife Rental of Brownlee Building: Laptop and Blinds have been installed, in process of ordering metal frame for the signage.
- Supernet into the Brownlee Building is on hold until underground Axia cable is replaced by Bell in the Town of Spirit River.

- August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with The Honourable Premier Danielle Smith at the AG hall in Rycroft went well. Discussion included MD resources and the lack of funds to put into attracting investments in the area.
- MD received invoices regarding Silverwood fire costs, MD is the go between and are forwarding invoices to Central Peace Fire and Rescue who are responsible for issuing eligible payments.

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Agenda Items regarding Minutes, Action Items and Updates - From the RM-11-23 July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting Part 1.**

**B. Agenda Items regarding Minutes, Action Items and Updates - From the RM-11-23 July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting Part 2.**

The list of items presented by Councillor Garrow at the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, RM-11-23, Council meeting were addressed individually by Administration in a Memo for Council's perusal.

**12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

**13. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. 2023 CN RAIL - MD Support of Rail Safety Week**

**209.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Council support national *Rail Safety Week* and declare September 18<sup>th</sup> to September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as Rail Safety Week in The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. Bylaw Development: Live Stream Bylaw: Proposal of Live Stream MD Council Meetings.**

**210.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Administration be directed to bring back further information to a future meeting on the development of a Live Stream Bylaw for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. Call Recording Software for the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133.Admin Office.**

Council discussed information presented by Administration on call recording software.

**D. Potential Meeting with the Ministers: RMA Conference November 6-9<sup>th</sup> -.**

**211.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council direct Administration to request meetings with Minister Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors and Minister McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs, during the upcoming fall RMA Conference, Nov. 6 – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. Bylaw Review: Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 03-2017**

**212.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that, upon review of the existing Bylaw 03-2017, Council Code of Conduct Bylaw, no changes or amendments to the bylaw are necessary.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**F. Cemetery Grant: Volin Cemetery Capital Grant**

**213.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Council approve the Volin Cemetery Capital Grant request in the amount of \$6,795.00 with the deficit amount of \$4,295.00 to come from reserves.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**G. Cemetery Grant: Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Cemetery Maintenance Grant.**

**214.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the grant request in the amount of \$500.00 be granted to the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Volin Cemetery and that the Cemetery be added to the list of cemeteries that the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 will budget for annually.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**H. 2023 Bursaries Program**

**215.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that a bursary of \$1,000 each be awarded to; Olivia Sekulic, Nathan Macdald, Ceanna Kosowon and Tanis Martin, to assist with their post-secondary education for the 2023-2024 school year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**I. FCSS Amended Budget - Requisition Increase.**

**216.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 approve the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) invoice with the amended 20% contribution for the 2023 budget, in the amount of \$190.26.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**J. Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Ltd. Second Quarter Expenditure Report**

The Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) Ltd. second quarterly report was reviewed by Council.

**K. Letter of Response - From the Minister of Health, Honourable Adriana LaGrange regarding The Municipal District of Spirit River NO. 133 Letter RE Access to MRI Services.**

**217.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that Council direct administration to write a letter of response to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Adriana LaGrange to seek a meeting with the Honorable Minister during the upcoming Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) fall conference November 6-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to discuss the challenges Central Peace residents face accessing diagnostic imaging (MRI) services and to discuss the availability of cross border MRI services availability.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**L. MD Office Closure August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**218.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 Administration Building and Public Works offices be closed to the Public on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for for GroupSource Benefit Presentation and the 2023 MD Staff Golf Tournament.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**14. BYLAWS**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

**A. Information - Letter from Special Areas Board to The Hon. RJ Sigurdson Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RE: AFSC: Crop Insurance low Yield Allowance.**

**B. Information - Letter of Support - From County of Stettler to The Hon. RJ Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RE: Special Areas Board request for additional support RE: AFSC**

**C. Information - AFSC Media release Crop Insurance Low Yield Allowance; Low yield allowance change encourages poor crops to be used as feed.**

**D. Information - Letter from County of Stettler No.6 The Hon. RJ Sigurdson Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation RE: Feed and Transportation Assistance Programs for Alberta Ag Disaster Areas.**

**E. Information - 2023 RCA Circular Economy Conference Program Updates and Speaker Announcement.**

**F. Information - Statement from Minister Loewen RE Tragic Death of Helicopter Pilot**

**G. Information - Thank you letter from Max Skoyen RE MD sponsorship of Wanham Plowing Event.**

- H. Information – Letter from the Art Gallery of Grande Prairie RE Travelling Exhibitions.
- I. Information - G3 Grande Opening Handout, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
- J. Invitation – Two Residents of Pleasant View Lodge Spirit River celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> Birthdays.

**219.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that Administration be directed to purchase a bouquet of flowers from a local florist in the amount of \$150.00 each and have them delivered to the two Pleasant View Lodge residents celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- K. Information - Letter – From the MD of Fairview to the Hon. Minister Jonathan Wilkinson Minister of Natural Resources RE Hydroelectricity as an alternate source of energy for Northern Alberta.

**220.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that a letter of support regarding Hydroelectricity as an alternate source of energy for Northern Alberta be written to the Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon. Minister Jonathan Wilkinson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- L. Information – Thank you from the Mozart Mission for the MD’s support.
- M. Information – Thank you to the MD for your Support on behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion, Alberta - NWT Command.
- O. Information – Thank you Letter from Eugene and Mavis Kachmar – RE: Rural Beautification Contest.
- P. Letter from The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 to the Hon. Premier Danielle Smith RE Thank you to the Premier for her visit to the Region on August 10<sup>th</sup>,2023.

**221.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Correspondence and Information items be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**16. COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

**17. CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)**

**222.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the meeting go into a closed meeting as per the Freedom and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) Employment Section 174 (d).

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Shirley Hayden left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

The meeting went into closed meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar left the meeting at 12:10 p.m. and returned at 12:14 p.m.

CAO Dan Dibbelt left the meeting at 12:11 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

Councillor Elaine Garrow left the meeting at 12:12 p.m. and returned to the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

CAO Dan Dibbelt left the meeting at 12:12 p.m. and returned at 12:13 p.m.

**223.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the meeting come out of closed session.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting came out of closed session at 12:29 p.m.

Councillor Garrow left the meeting at 12:29 p.m. with the confidential document which had been handed out at the closed meeting.

**224.08.16.23** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that a committee of Council be struck, namely Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar, Councillor Nick van Rootselaar and Councillor Stan Bzowy, to conduct the CAO's performance review.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Reeve Van Rootselaar at 12:30 p.m..

These minutes approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.



Reeve  
Tony Van Rootselaar



CAO  
Dan Dibbelt