

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council
Agenda for Regular Council Meeting RM 10-24
5:00 p.m., September 18th, 2024**

ADDENDUM

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River #133 will be 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, September 18th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

2. Agenda Additions:

Page:

14. BYLAWS

- 14.D. Proposed Bylaw 08-2024 –Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw (5 Members - Reeve elected at large, 4 councillors elected by ward.)** **1 - 4**

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

- 15.M. Letter – to the Village of Rycroft -from: Elmer and Theresa Sandul - Re: the expansion of The Spirit River Airport.** **5 - 6**
- 15.N. Letter – from VSI Services Inc – Re: Annual General Meeting (AGM) Friday, November 15th, 2024, at the Peace Valley Inn and Suites in Peace River.** **7**
- 15.O. Community Rail Advocacy Alliance (CRAA) Monthly Roundup and Executive Meeting Minutes from the September 9th, 2024 Meeting.** **8 - 11**



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133

MEETING:
MEETING DATE:
ORIGINATED BY:
TITLE:

RM-10-24
September 17th, 2024
CAO
Proposed Bylaw 08-2024
Ward Boundaries and Council
Composition Bylaw

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL

Please find attached a draft bylaw for the MD that would:

- Increase the number of council members from 4 to 5.
- Require the Reeve to be elected at large.
- Have the remaining four councillors elected to the wards already established.
- The ward boundaries will reflect those included in the September 5, 1930 Ministerial Order.
- The new bylaw will need to be advertised and is subject to petition, the fact that a prior iteration of a council composition bylaw was advertised will not be sufficient for purposes of passing one of this new bylaw should council decide to do so.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

That Council direct Administration accordingly.



CAO



**The Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133
BYLAW #-2024**

WARD BOUNDARIES AND COUNCIL COMPOSITION BYLAW

Being a bylaw of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, In the Province of Alberta, in accordance with *The Municipal Government Act Chapter M-26 Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000* and amendments thereto, to increase the number of members of Council from four (4) to five (5), with the Chief Elected Official being elected at-large and four (4) Councillors being elected in accordance with the ward boundaries as set out herein;

WHEREAS, the current electoral ward system for the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 was created as a part of the Ministerial Order dated September 5, 1930;

WHEREAS, Section 143(3) of the *Municipal Government Act* enables a Council to pass a bylaw specifying the number of councillors to serve on Council;

WHEREAS, Section 150(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* provides that the Chief Elected Official (known as the “Reeve”) of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 can be elected at-large if council passes a bylaw providing for such;

WHEREAS, Council intends to maintain the current ward boundaries for purposes of the election of the four remaining Councillors;

WHEREAS, Section 152(1) of the *Municipal Government Act* requires Council to appoint one or more Councillors as the Deputy Chief Elected Official (known as “the Deputy Reeve,”) of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133;

WHEREAS, Section 151(1) requires a bylaw under sections 143, 148, or 150 of the *Municipal Government Act* be passed no later than December 31st of the year preceding a general election when it is to take effect;

NOW THEREFORE, under the authority, and subject to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, in the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. Title

- a. This bylaw shall be known as the “Municipal Elections and Council Composition Bylaw”.

2. Purpose

- a. The purpose of this bylaw is to alter the composition of Council by providing for the Chief Elected Official to be elected at-large by a vote of the electors of the municipality, confirm the ward boundaries for the election of the remaining Councillors and to increase the number of members of council from four (4) to five (5) for the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133.

3. Definitions

- a. "Councillor" does not include the Reeve for purposes of this Bylaw, unless the context requires otherwise;
- b. "Reeve" means the Chief Elected Official under the *Municipal Government Act*;
- c. "Deputy Reeve" means the Deputy Chief Elected Official under the *Municipal Government Act*;

4. Council Composition

- a. Council shall consist of five (5) members, one (1) Councillor elected within each of the four (4) wards and one (1) Reeve elected at-large;
- b. The Deputy Reeve shall be one Councillor who is appointed by members of Council at the first organizational meeting of Council;
- c. All Councillors and the Reeve must be nominated and elected in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.
- d. The terms of office of all Councillors and the Reeve is governed by the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

5. Ward Boundaries

- a. The four (4) wards established for the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 in the Ministerial Order dated September 5, 1930 are maintained for purposes of the election of four (4) Councillors;
- b. For purposes of clarity, the ward boundaries are specifically detailed in Schedule A, attached hereto and forming part of this bylaw;
- c. Candidates for the offices of Councillor shall be nominated for a specific ward, and one Councillor shall be elected for each ward.

6. Severability

- a. Should any provision of this Bylaw be invalid then such invalid provision shall be severed, and the remaining Bylaw shall remain in effect.

7. Repeal

- a. This bylaw supersedes any prior bylaw, Ministerial Order, or Order in Council establishing the number of members of Council in the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133.

8. Effective Date

- a. This Bylaw takes effect for the general municipal election in 2025.

In accordance Section 189 of the *Municipal Government Act*, being Chapter M-26, R.S.A., 2000, this bylaw shall be effective upon Council giving third reading to and passing said bylaw.

READ a first time this ____ day of _____, 2024. On a motion of Councillor _____

AN advertisement appeared in _____ on _____, 2024 and _____, 2024

READ a second time this ____ day of _____, 2024. On a motion of Councillor _____

READ a third time this ____ day of _____, 2024. On a motion of Councillor _____

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2024

REEVE, Tony Van Rootselaar

Chief Administrative Officer, Dan Dibbett

RECEIVED
SEP 05 2024

August 28th, 2024

Village of Rycroft
4703 51 Street
Rycroft, AB T0H 3A0

Concerning: The Expansion of The Spirit River Regional Airport

To Whom it Concerns,

We, on behalf of Sandul Welding Ltd., are writing to all parties concerned about the expansion of the Spirit River Regional Airport.

As lifelong residents, it is an exciting period in the area, considering the developments by the Grande Spirit Foundation of \$24 million and the fantastic agreement between the Town and MD of Spirit River to foster growth by purchasing land for \$800 thousand to help with the growing need for housing. However, all of this is dependent on the Central Peace Regional Hospital remaining as a hospital and not a first aid station in our community.

Our family is a 5th-generation family of the Peace Country and agrees with the Spirit of The Peace July 2024 newsletter, which states the critical role of the Spirit River Regional Airport in Alberta's community infrastructure. One of the threats identified by the SWOT analysis is land use compatibility.

Our investigation of the cost of a new airport would be \$15 million plus. This does not include the purchase of the land and new structures and hangars. Considering the work involved with this it would probably take more than 5 years to replace if such a path was chosen.

We know that Alberta Health Services is astute with its budgeting and constantly works to eliminate unsustainable costs. A hospital without year-round access to air ambulance is not sustainable. The situation concerning the airport needs to be addressed immediately so we all do not lose this vital asset to our community.

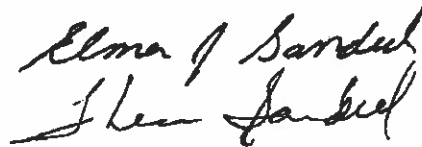
We own the property to the west of the airport which would allow the expansion of over 848 ft of length and allow you to widen the runway. We would be willing to make a cash transaction immediately so the airport could start surveys and soil studies this fall. It is far cheaper, simpler and easier to expand the airport than replace it.

Land used for railway expansions, primary road arteries, ports and airports is sold at a premium due to a lack of options and necessity. Based on recent and historical sales of similar we think the ±12 acres we own would sell for \$1.75 million. As we are lifelong residents and believe in our community we are willing to sell the entire property for \$1.2 million.

The five municipalities will all be negatively impacted if we lose the hospital: be it for health, economic opportunity, or the lives of all our loved ones in our community. Considering the operating budgets of all the organizations the amount is not unreasonable. This situation needs swift action.

We are eager to help continue the growth of our shared community.

Kind Regards,



Elmer and Theresa Sandul

Owners

Sandul Welding Ltd.

CC:/

- Alberta Airports Management Association
- Saddle Hills County
- Municipal District of Spirit River MD 133
- Town of Spirit River
- Birch Hills County
- Village of Rycroft
- Honourable, Danielle Smith Premier, President of the Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
- Honourable, Mike Ellis Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
- Honourable, Pete Guthrie Minister of Infrastructure
- Honourable, Devin Dresshen Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors
- Honourable, Todd Lowen MLA of Central Peace-Notley
- Grande Spirit Foundation Administration Office
- Alberta Health Services President & CEO Office
- STARS Grande Prairie Base
- STARS Calgary Base - Head Office

September 15, 2024

Mr. Dan Dibbelt, CAO
Municipal District of Spirit River #133
PO Box 389
Spirit River, AB T0H 3G0

Dear Dan,

This email is to inform you of the upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of V.S.I. Services (1980) Ltd. followed by the **Directors Meeting**. They will be held on **Friday November 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Peace Valley Inns – 9609 101 St.** Peace River, AB. We are once again looking to offer attending by Zoom if demand is there.

At the same time, I would like you to confirm your representative, and possibly an alternate, to attend this meeting on your behalf. Currently I have Mr. Nick van Rootselaar as your representative, with no alternate.

After receiving confirmation, I will mail your representative and yourself the required documents to allow full participation in the AGM meeting.

Sincerely,

Rik Vandekerkhove DVM

Manager

cc. Administration
Simon Amting



CRAA September Monthly Roundup

It's been a busy few weeks for our Alliance, given the work stoppage that came close to grinding our supply chains to a halt in August. Our entire Executive thanks you for your advocacy on the issue; whether it was calling elected officials, sharing information on social media and with your networks, or submitting letters to decision-makers, we heard from stakeholders both nationally and internationally that our work was helping push the issue forward and that's in credit to all of our participation.

Although the immediate threat of work stoppage is hopefully in the rearview mirror, we know that this isn't the end of advocacy on the issue. We are now turning our efforts to mobilize federal decision-makers (more on that below).

As we turn to the fall, we're anticipating it'll be a valuable time for our Alliance. With Alberta Municipalities Convention coming up next week, we're in the process of drafting key messages that align with our refreshed advocacy efforts. We're also planning a CN meeting this fall, and another all-member meeting in that same window on Monday, October 28 at 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. (invite to be sent this week).

Thank you,
Your CRAA Executive Team

Advocacy Round-Up

The reality of the labour dispute that briefly shut down rail service provided an opportunity for advocacy. CRAA sent letters to elected officials as well as CN and other stakeholders to ensure all voices were heard. Members also informed us that they had participated in advocacy efforts too, targeted at their provincially and federally elected representatives.

We also took part in media interviews (see below) and published an [op-ed in the Hill Times](#) directed at Ottawa-based decision-makers to make sure that the voice of communities was not lost throughout the dispute.

With the immediate threat past, CRAA will now look to engage with federal and provincial elected officials to push for legislation declaring rail an essential service. We recognize that if we want to prevent this type of disruption from happening in



TRENDING: Fall sitting | Top 25 Tories | Heard on the Hill | Michael Harris | Return to office | Mark Carney | Lori Turnbull

Canada needs legislation declaring rail an essential service

Work stoppages don't just spell disaster for rural economies. The impacts will snake across Canada, wreaking havoc in all supply chains.



Rail lines bring our crops, lumber, oil and gas, and critical minerals, generating income for our businesses and importing essential resources like fuel, writes Grande Prairie Mayor Jackie Layton. *Photo by Tony Hagerl*

Most recently, the President and CEO of the Canada West Foundation, Gary Mar, published an opinion editorial in the Calgary Herald about the transportation sector (see below). After noting his interest in the issue, the Executive has reached out to discuss this further with him and his team to gather more information.

News, Data, and Insights

Below is a sampling of updates related to the rail sector and its implications. Please let us know if you have any insight from your community or industry's experience with rail. This roundup includes some of the media that CRAA members participated in.

Canada's major rail carriers have recovered from labor strife, Supply Chain Dive (September 13)

- CPKC and Canadian National say planning for a strike fueled the rapid turnaround from last month's brief work stoppage.

CN says operations recovered, revises earnings guidance lower after work stoppage, Financial Post (September 11)

- CN revised its earnings guidance for 2024 lower due to several factors including the recent labour stoppage that saw both Canada's major railways grind operations to a halt.

Agriculture weighs damage of rail stoppage, Alberta Farmer Express (September 11)

- Trains on Canada's major railways weren't stopped for long, but the effects of the labour dispute will linger for months, the grain industry says.

Opinion: Rail strike: the damage we miss but others notice, The Calgary Herald (September 5)

- Gary Mar, president and CEO of the Canada West Foundation, pens an opinion editorial outlining the knock-on effects of poor rail service on Canada's economy and growth.

Focus turns to improving rail, The Western Producer (September 3)

the future, it's important that rail be identified as an essential service in the country.

We will also engage further with industry stakeholders to make sure this message is heard loud and clear and carried by a wide variety of allies.

- The grain transportation system has been urged to deal with the challenges it faces when working with grain at west coast ports.

Teamsters launch court appeal of Ottawa's move to end rail shutdown, CTV News (August 30)

- The union representing thousands of railroaders has appealed the federal government's move that ended the rail shutdown. Paul Boucher, president of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, said the actions set a "dangerous precedent" that threatens workers' constitutional right to collective bargaining.

Day 1 of rail work stoppage halted \$55M in Alberta products, CTV News (August 22)

- The work stoppage impasse left \$55 million of Alberta products at a standstill Thursday and triggered panic throughout Canada's supply chain.

Major rail stoppage 'extremely concerning': Grande Prairie mayor, CBC News (August 22)

- Jackie Clayton, the Mayor of Grande Prairie, a city exclusively serviced by CP, says this is 'extremely concerning' as rail is crucial, adding that 'all our exports go through rail.'

Opinion: Canada needs legislation declaring rail an essential service, The Hill Times (August 21)

- Submitted by the CRAA Executive, this opinion editorial emphasizes the key messages of our advocacy.



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The following outlines the meeting minutes from the CRAA executive meeting on Monday, September 9.

Topic	Discussion Highlights
Member Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning to host an all-member meeting later this fall. CSG will begin identifying the best dates factoring in fall conventions and AGMs.
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive agreed to shift focus to Opposition outreach. CSG will draft letters to be sent to MPs that represent CRAA's membership seeking meetings. • After Gary Mar drafted a timely opinion editorial for the Calgary Herald, the executive agreed to draft a letter thanking him for his support on the issue and requesting a meeting to share news about CRAA. • CSG will continue exploring media opportunities for the fall to continue engaging in rail and labour discussions.
CN Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive is committed to having an in-person CN meeting this fall. CSG will work to identify a time that works best for a meeting and facilitate outreach to CN again.
Upcoming Events + Engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSG will provide whatever remaining postcards to CRAA membership for networking at the AbMunis Fall Convention later this month. • CRAA has the opportunity to participate in the trade show portion of the upcoming RMA Fall Convention. • Mayor Pickard is presenting at the Pembina River District 3 meeting in October.