



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133
Meeting Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM.09.25
9:00 am, August 6th, 2025

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, August 6th, 2025, at 9:00 am.

Reeve: Tony Van Rootselaar
Councillors: Elaine Garrow
Stan Bzowy
Nick vanRootselaar

Administration: Dan Dibbelt
Montana Kuhar
Shirley Hayden

1. CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Van Rootselaar called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., with Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson and Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting, Liisa Jeffery, Jordan Barfield and Soames Smith in attendance. CAO Dibbelt relayed Edward Telford of JDP Wasserman would not be in attendance nor present the audit. Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar requested council motions be recorded.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS

11.C. Auditor

13.I. (Advertizing) CAO Recruitment

10.C. Reports - Motion to send follow up letter Saddle Hills County re potable waterline access for MD residents along the shared boundary.

Remove items: 8.B Delegation - JDP Wasserman: 2024 Audit + 11A. The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 2024 Financial Audit.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A. Adoption of the August 6th, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda RM.09.25.

168.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting RM 09-25 be adopted with the Agenda Additions: 11.C. Auditor 13. I. CAO Recruitment remove item 8.B. Delegation - Edward Telford of JDP Wasserman: 2024 Audit and 13A 2024 Audit.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. Adoption of Minutes from the July 2nd, 2025 Council Meeting RM.08.25

169.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the minutes from the July 2nd, 2025, meeting: RM.08.25, be adopted as presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

6. COUNCILLOR ABSENCES

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. DELEGATIONS

- A. Liisa Jefferey, Jordan Barfield and Soames Smith entered the meeting at 9:07 a.m., on behalf of the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association, to discuss future collaboration between the association and the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 and the 2025 funding request.
- B. Item Removed (Edward Telford - JDP Wasserman 2024 MD Financial Audit).

Ms. Jefferey and Mr. Barfield left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

10. REPORTS

A. Public Works Report

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

170.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the Public Works Report RM.09.25 be accepted as presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Agricultural Report

Agricultural Fieldman, Simon Amting presented a verbal Agricultural Report:

The Municipal District has experienced prolonged drought, resulting in adverse conditions for the 2025 growing season and have resulted in significant damage to crops and pasture, leading to reduced yields and substantial economic hardship for agricultural producers within the Municipality a declaration of an agricultural disaster is intended to raise awareness of the severity of the situation and may assist producers in accessing provincial or federal relief programs.

- 171.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the verbal Agricultural Fieldman's Report be accepted as presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting left the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

- 172.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 hereby declares a state of agricultural disaster, further that the Agricultural Fieldman for the Municipal District be directed to provide formal notification of this declaration to the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, further that the Agricultural Fieldman be directed to compile and provide information to affected producers regarding available support resources and programs.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CAO Report

CAO Dan Dibbelt, reviewed with Council CAO Report RM.09.25.

Montana Kuhar left the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and returned at 9:47 a.m.

Motion for follow up letter to Saddle Hills County regarding the Potable Water Access for MD Residents

- 173.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar to direct administration to send a follow up to Saddle Hills County Council, to formally renew the MD's previous request to allow the MD residents located along the shared boundary, the ability to connect to Saddle Hills County's potable waterline, further that, the letter will reiterate the MD's previous request and confirm that all associated costs of connection will be the sole responsibility of the individual MD resident.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- 174.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that the CAO Report RM.09.25 be accepted as presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Council Reports

CAO Dan Dibbelt reviewed Council Reports.

- 175.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council Report: Central Peace Regional Water Project Phases 1 and 2 Project, be accepted as presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. TABLED ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

A. The Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 2024 Financial Audit (removed)

B. Pavement leftover from Highway 2 Realignment

Administration presented information in relation to an item presented at the last meeting with regard to the old section of Highway 2 pavement, specifically, the section of pavement from the highway approach off Highway 2 North of Township Road 771, Legal Description: NW -10-77-5-W6.

- 176.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that council direct Administration to send a formal letter to Alberta Transportation on behalf of the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 declining the request to assume ownership of the old section of Highway 2 pavement, left from the Realignment Project North of the Burnt River, further that, the correspondence clearly state the Municipality's position that it assumes no current or future responsibility, liability, or maintenance obligations for the said road, as it falls under the jurisdiction within Alberta Transportation's further that AB Transportation be invited to attend a future council meeting for discussion on the issue.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Auditor

Council discussed the challenge that council and administration have encountered as a result of the 2024 municipal audit not being completed. The timely completion of the annual financial audit is a statutory requirement for the Municipality and is essential for maintaining fiscal transparency and accountability. The auditing firm currently engaged by the Municipality has failed to meet its contractual obligations to complete the 2024 financial audit in a timely manner thereby placing the Municipality at risk of non-compliance and incurring potential penalties.

- 177.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy to direct administration to pursue alternative options to have the Municipality's 2024 financial audit completed, further that, Council direct Administration to send correspondence to the Municipality's legal counsel seeking advice on the appropriate legal process to terminate the current auditor's agreement for breach of contract, and to request a legal opinion on the viability of pursuing legal action against the firm to recover any damages or costs incurred by the Municipality as a result of their failure to fulfill their agreement obligations.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

13. NEW BUSINESS

A. Grande Spirit Foundation - Annual Harvest Dine and Dance

- 178.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow the Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 purchase a corporate table in the amount of \$850.00 for the annual Friends of Grande Spirit Foundation Harvest Dine & Dance, further, tickets for the event be donated to the first eight residents of the Spirit River Pleasant View Lodge to sign up for the tickets.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. RMA DISTRICT FOUR - Zone Meeting - Motion to attend: Boat Tour and BBQ

- 179.08.06.25** Moved by Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar that item 13.C RMA DISTRICT FOUR - Zone Meeting - Friday, August 8th, 2025@ 10: 00a.m, at the Peace Valley Inn and, Emerald Room – Peace River, Motion to attend: Boat Tour and BBQ - 6 p.m. August 7th, 2025, be accepted as information.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. 2025 MD of Spirit River No.133 Bursary Program

- 180.08.06.25** Moved by Councillor Elaine Garrow that the following applicants be awarded a Municipal District of Spirit River No.133 2025 Bursary in the amount of \$1000.00:

- 1) Colton Witts
- 2) Brielle Schoorlemmer
- 3) Marcy Martin- Macdaid
- 4) Anaya Martin- Macdaid
- 5) Nathan Macdaid
- 6) Korben Knezevich

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Rail Safety Week” September 15th- 21, 2025 - MD Spirit River No.133 Resolution

181.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that the Council for the Municipal District officially declare the week of September 15 to September 21, 2025, to be recognized as Rail Safety Week within the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Veterans House Canada - Request for Sponsorship

182.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that Council accept the sponsorship request from Veterans' House Canada: Edmonton housing project as information, further that the item be tabled to a future Meeting following the 2025 Municipal Election.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Maskwa Medical Centre

183.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that Council receive the sponsorship request from Maskwa Medical Center as information, further that, the item be tabled to a future meeting following the 2025 Municipal Election.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Ken Sargent House - Delegation Follow up / Request for Sponsorship

184.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Nick vanRootselaar that council accept the Ken Sargent House sponsorship request as information, further that, the item be tabled to a future meeting following the 2025 Municipal Election.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Declaration of an Agricultural Disaster for the Municipal District (For Discussion)

Item discussed during the Agricultural Fieldman's Report.

14. BYLAWS

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

185.08.06.25 Moved by Councillor Stan Bzowy that Correspondence and Information items A. through C. be accepted presented.

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Nick vanRootselaar	IN FAVOR
Councillor Elaine Garrow	IN FAVOR
Councillor Stan Bzowy	IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

16. COUNCIL ISSUES AND CONCERNS

17. CLOSED MEETING (FORMERLY IN-CAMERA)

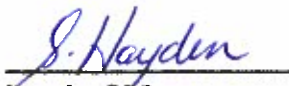
18. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Reeve Van Rootselaar at 11:01 a.m.

These minutes approved this 3rd day of September, 2025.



Reeve
Tony Van Rootselaar



Interim CAO
Shirley Hayden