



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF SPIRIT RIVER NO. 133 Council

Minutes for Regular Council Meeting RM.01.26

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133, 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, January 14th, 2026 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION NUMBER:

In attendance:

Reeve Tony Van Rootselaar
Deputy Reeve Dean Wark
Councillor Evelyn Bzowy
Councillor Shelley Rozecki
Councillor Bernie Schoorlemmer

CAO Shirley Hayden
Assistant CAO Monty Bremont
Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson
Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting
Director of Corporate Services Elena Valdes
Executive Assistant Rebecca Fitzsimmons

1. **Call to Order:** Reeve Van Rootselaar called the meeting to order at 10:02 am
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** Additions to the Agenda:
 - Requested by Agricultural Fieldman Simon Amting to add RFD ASB Capital Interim Budget
 - Requested by CAO Hayden to add Summary regarding Police Funding Model.
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Moved by Councillor Bzowy to adopt the Agenda for January 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting RM 01-26 with the following additions:
MOTION 001.01.14.26
 - 13.E RFD: ASB Capital Interim Budget
 - 13.F Summary of Police Funding Model

Carried Unanimously.
4. **Adoption of the Minutes:** Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to adopt the December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting RM.13.2025 Minutes with the following corrections:
MOTION 002.01.14.26
 - As per MGA requirements, the specific corrections need to be described in the motion to adopt the Minutes, and thus the following description of corrections made in the December 17, 2025 RM 13-25 meeting regarding the December 3, 2025 meeting RM 12-25 must be added to the December 17th, 2026 RM 13-25 Minutes:
 - Page 3: Under CPREM Report, Councillor Rozecki did not attend;

- Page 4, regarding Nuclear Energy: Councillor Bzowy did not attend;
- Motion 256.12.03.25, Page 4, regarding Christmas Lights, amend to read that item is tabled to April 2026;
- Motion 269.12.03.25 add location of decommissioned pavement (Highway 2, Burnt River Realignment);
- Motion 284.12.03.25, remove 'Carried Unanimously';
- Record Council response that Council agrees to bring forward to future meeting;
- Clerical orders: numbering of motions – two Motion #255.12.03.25; adjust all motions beginning with second #255.12.03.25 to #256.12.03.25, and carried on up to and including Motion #284.12.03.25.
- Item 13.H. Snowplowing: requested by Councillor Bzowy that the motion put forward, and subsequently withdrawn, specify that the reduced rate for snowplowing *is intended for seniors and handicapped*;
- Motion #323.12.17.25 Item 13.H. Snowplowing: requested by Councillor Rozecki that the motion to bring the snowplowing policy forward to a future meeting for consideration explicitly describe that the reduced rate for snowplowing *is intended for seniors and handicapped*;
- Item 15, Motion #328.12.17.25 Amend motion to clarify that correspondence should be sent to *FCSS Coordinator and Chairperson*.

Carried Unanimously.

10. Reports:

A. Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Dave Johnson reviewed with Council the Public Works Report RM 01.26. To ensure continuity of service for MD of Spirit River residents, Council has instructed Public Works Supervisor to facilitate the coordination of services in their absence, delegating the responsibility of fielding all communications for the Public Works department to the next appropriate MD employee.

MOTION 003.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept Public Works Supervisor Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

B. Ag Fieldman Report

Ag Fieldman Simon Amting reviewed with Council the Agricultural Fieldman Report RM 01.26.

MOTION 004.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer that Council direct Administration to write a letter to CN Rail and Alberta Transportation regarding the lack of brushing, spraying, and general vegetation maintenance along their respective corridors; further that the letter cite the *Alberta Weed Control Act* and a reminder of enforcement obligations and remediation of noxious weeds, prioritizing the following problem areas identified

within the Municipal District No.133 specifically:
The Abandoned CN Rail Line along Highway 49 is experiencing infestations of toadflax, scentless chamomile, and Canada thistle, further the active Rail Line from Spirit River to Rycroft is facing an abundance of brushing overgrowth impacting sight lines and thistle overgrowth, which places a significant impact on agricultural integrity.

Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 005.01.14.26

Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to send a letter to CN Railways regarding the maintenance issues for the portion of railway track located within the MD of Spirit River, and copy to MP Chris Warkentin, and MLA Todd Loewen.

Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 006.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Bzowy to accept the Agricultural Fieldman Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

C. Finance Report

Director of Corporate Finance Elena Valdes reviewed with Council the Finance Report RM 01-26.

MOTION 007.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the Finance Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

D. CAO Report

MOTION 008.01.14.26

CAO Shirley Hayden reviewed with Council the CAO Report RM 01.26. Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Council direct Administration to write a letter to CN Rail regarding the Township Road 780 Crossing to address the following:

1. Express Council's dissatisfaction regarding CN's failure to respond to previous requests regarding cost-sharing for a concrete crossing upgrade;
2. Formally dispute the invoice totaling approximately \$24,000 for repairs performed without municipal consultation; and
3. Advise that the Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133 is prepared to cost share equally with CN Rail to upgrade the crossing to a permanent concrete standard, up to a maximum MD contribution budget cap of \$75,000.

Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 009.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Bzowy to accept the CAO Report RM 01-26 as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

E. Council Reports

MOTION 010.01.14.26

Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to accept the ASB Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 011.01.14.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the FCSS Report as presented.
Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Rozecki left Council Chambers at 11:10 am.

Councillor Rozecki returned to Council Chambers at 11:13 am.

Deputy Reeve Wark left Council Chambers at 12:02 pm.

Deputy Reeve Wark returned to Council Chambers at 12:03 pm.

Councillor Bzowy left Council Chambers at 12:07 pm.

Councillor Bzowy returned to Council Chambers at 12:09 pm.

MOTION 012.01.14.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the CPFRC Report as presented.
Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 013.01.14.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the Central Peace Attraction and Retention Committee Report as presented.
Carried Unanimously.

11 Tabled Items and Old Business

12 Recommendations from Committees

13 New Business

A. MOTION 014.01.14.26 Moved by Councillor Rozecki to accept the account type change for information.
Carried Unanimously.

B. MOTION 015.01.14.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to host a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 23rd, 2026 beginning at 10am, for the purpose of reviewing the MD of Spirit River No. 133 2026 Proposed Capital and Operating Budgets.
Carried Unanimously.

MOTION 016.01.14.26 Moved by Councilor Bzowy that Council be authorized to attend the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) 2026 Spring Convention held from March 16 to 18, 2026, in Edmonton, Alberta; further, that registration fees to be paid from Registration Fees GL, and per diems and expenses to come from Subsistence and Mileage.
Carried Unanimously.

C. MOTION 017.01.14.26 Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to hold Regular Council meetings during the day, beginning at 10am, and hold evening meetings as needed, to accommodate Public Hearings or Special Meetings.
Carried Unanimously.

- D. MOTION 018.01.14.26** Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to respond to invitation from the RMA, accepting the opportunity to meet with them, with the preferred option being Option B. 3 hour meeting outside of regular council meeting.
- Carried Unanimously.*

Reeve Van Rootselaar recessed the Regular Council Meeting RM 01-26 at 12:59 pm, and reconvened the meeting at 1:26 pm.

- E. MOTION 019.01.14.26** Moved by Councillor Schoorlemmer to approve RM 01-26 RFD: ASB Capital Interim Budget request, Council confirms that Agricultural Fieldman may proceed to purchase a Schulte Mower and Flexarm, up to a maximum of \$95,000.
- Carried Unanimously.*

- F. MOTION 020.01.14.26** Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark that Administration reach out to our local RCMP detachment to request a delegation to provide an update to Council at a future meeting, on service calls, and other relevant statistics.
- Carried Unanimously.*

- MOTION 021.01.14.26** Moved by Reeve Van Rootselaar that Administration send the letter regarding concerns about the Renewed Police Funding Model and Municipal Sustainability, from Council to MLA for Central Peace-Notley, as written.
- Carried Unanimously.*

14 Bylaws

15 Correspondence and Information

- MOTION 022.01.14.26** Moved by Deputy Reeve Wark to accept Agenda Item 15 Correspondence and Information, Items A through I as presented.
- Carried Unanimously.*

16 Council Issues and Concerns

- 17 Closed Meeting** Deputy Reeve Wark declared a Conflict of Interest regarding Closed Session Item 17.B. and indicated that he would recuse himself during the relevant portion of the closed session.

- MOTION 023.01.14.26** Moved by Councillor Rozecki to enter into Closed Session at 2:31 pm.
- Carried Unanimously.*

MOTION 024.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Bzowy to leave Closed Session at 5:20 pm.

Carried Unanimously.

The Meeting came out of closed session at 5:20 pm.

The Regular Meeting RM 01-26 resumed at 5:20 pm.

MOTION 025.01.14.26

Moved by Councillor Bzowy that Council commit up to \$350,000 in matching funds for the development of a childcare centre in partnership with Spirit River Regional Day Care Society and regional stakeholders.

Carried Unanimously.

18. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Reeve Van Rootselaar at 5:21 p.m.

These minutes approved this 11th day of February, 2026.



Reeve
Tony Van Rootselaar



CAO
Shirley Hayden