

**Claresholm, Alberta, March 16, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Council of The Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26 was held in the Administration Building on the above date with Reeve Van Hierden, Councillors Alm, Neufeld, Hemmaway, Wakelin, Wilson and Sundquist, Municipal Administrator Vizzutti and Arlene MacOdrum as recording secretary present.

**General Foreman Cochlan entered the meeting.**

**Manager of Development and Planning Services Gibeau & Mike Burla – Planner entered the meeting.**

**Keli Sandford – Development secretary entered the meeting.**

**Rob Vogt entered the meeting.**

1. Reeve Van Hierden called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m.

2. **MINUTES:**

Councillor Sundquist advised that it does not show him entering the meeting on Page 10024.

Moved by Councillor Sundquist that the March 9, 2011 Council meeting minutes be adopted as amended.

Carried.

3. **DEVELOPMENT:**

(a) **Reservoir Land Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)**

Manager of Development and Planning Services Gibeau advised on May 12, 2010 Council instructed administration to forward a copy of the Reservoir Lands Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) report prepared by AECOM Canada to the ICSP committee for their recommendation on how Council should make use of the document. She advised that hard copies of the document were distributed to the committee members. The committee met on four separate occasions and among other things discussed the report. At the February 29, 2011 meeting the following recommendation was decided on by all the members.

‘That Council accept the report as a research document but reject the recommendation as presented; with the recommendations to be developed by Council on a case by case basis.’

Manager of Development and Planning Services Gibeau advised that she will incorporate the recommendations of the committee into the Reservoir Lands Cumulative Effects Assessment and present the document for Council’s approval.

**Keli Sandford left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.**

4. **COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

(a) **Bill 10 - Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act Update**

Councillor Wilson reported on the meeting he attended on March 12, 2011 in High River. He advised that the provincial government is struggling to convince people that the proposed Bill 10 - Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act will work.

He advised that the courts are available through the entire process however need to differentiate between plan and directive.

Mike Burla advised that the province should be hosting consultation meetings in the southern portion of the province.

Noted that copies of Bill 10 will be available for the ratepayers at the M.D.'s Annual Meeting.

Council suggested that a presentation and information concerning Bill 10 – Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act could be included at the Legacy banquet.

**Manager of Development and Planning Services Gibeau and Mike Burla left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.**

5. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:**

**Treasurer Hannas entered the meeting at 10:36 a.m.**

**(a) Cheque Register**

Treasurer Hannas presented the cheque register, cheque #13076 to #13139 in the amount of \$536,820.10 as information.

**(b) Draft 2010 Audited Financial Statements**

Treasurer Hannas reviewed the draft Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 as prepared by the accounting firm of Meyers Norris Penny.

Moved by Councillor Alm that the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010 prepared by the accounting firm of Meyers Norris Penny be accepted as presented.

Carried.

**Treasurer Hannas left the meeting at 11:24 a.m.**

6. **PUBLIC WORKS:**

**(a) Letter from Norm Canuel – re Flooding Issue**

General Foreman Cochlan advised that Norm Canuel has approached the MD with regards to flooding issues on his property, located adjacent to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, within the boundaries of the Town of Claresholm.

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti read a letter addressed to the M.D. of Willow Creek and the Town of Claresholm from Norm Canuel, advising of the flooding on his property caused by the drainage issues along eighth street. He is requesting the M.D. and Town to reconsider the diversion of the water from the west to the east side of eighth street and excavation of the ditch north of his property.

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti advised that she has discussed Mr. Canuel's concerns with Kris Holbeck, CAO of the Town of Claresholm. It was noted that the thawing and freezing created an ice jam in the ditch. Municipal Administrator Vizzutti advised that it is the Town of Claresholm's drainage system and this issue will be presented by Kris Holbeck, CAO to the Town Council for direction.

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(b) **M.D. Road Tour**

General Foreman Cochlan advised that the M.D. road tour will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., leaving from the M.D. office.

4. **COUNCIL MANAGEMENT:**

(a) **Town of Nanton – Letter of Support for Grant Applications – Tom Hornecker Rec. Centre**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented a request from the Town of Nanton for letters of support regarding grant applications for the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre roof replacement project. The project is estimated to cost 1.275 million and as a result of the construction the outdoor pool will be closed for the 2011 season. The Town has applied for an amendment to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) grant to cover 1/3 of the project costs and is currently working with MLA Berger and the provincial government to access project funding.

Council instructed Municipal Administrator Vizzutti to write letters of support, regarding the Town of Nanton's Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre roof replacement, to the Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program and Evan Berger MLA.

(c) **Broadband Funding Approved**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti read a letter from Jack Hayden, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, advising that the M.D. of Willow Creek's grant application under the Rural Connections Community Broadband Infrastructure Pilot Program has been approved in the amount of \$115,600 for the Broadband Expansion Spring Point Hill project.

(d) **Meeting with Hon. Gene Zwozdesky**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti advised that a meeting has been scheduled with Hon. Gene Zwozdesky, Minister of Alberta Health Services on March 23, 2011 at 9:30 a.m., during AAMDC Convention, to discuss ambulance service in the Claresholm area.

(e) **Policy 120-20 Mileage Reimbursement Policy**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented Policy 120-20 being the Mileage Reimbursement Policy for the M.D. of Willow Creek for Council's consideration.

Moved by Councillor Wakelin that the Mileage Reimbursement Policy be accepted as presented.

Carried.

(f) **Bill 10 – News Release**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented additional information and news release from the Government of Alberta with regards to Bill 10 – Land Stewardship Amendment Act.

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**(g) SRD – Prescribed Burns**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented a letter from Morgan Kehr, Forestry Program Manager, SRD advising of plans for prescribed burns in the Lyndon Creek and Willow Creek areas in the spring of 2011.

Council instructed Municipal Administrator Vizzutti to send a letter to Morgan Kehr, Forestry Program Manager of Sustainable Resource Development Southern Rockies area requesting that the M.D. and fire departments be notified when fires within the M.D. boundaries are lit. Municipal Administrator Vizzutti will provide fire department contact information to Morgan Kehr.

**(h) Spatial Data Warehouse Update**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti reported on the Spatial Data Warehouse she attended in Strathmore and the new central repository for data. She advised that an agreement will be signed between the province and the ortho group for the provision of information to government departments.

**(i) Toxic Roundup – Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Sundquist to amend resolution #78/11 to hold a toxic roundup in Claresholm instead of Stavely, jointly with the M.D., Town of Claresholm and Town of Stavely on June 25, 2011.

Carried.

**(j) RCMP – Detachment Performance Plan**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented a request from Sgt. Hawker of the Fort Macleod RCMP Detachment for Council's recommendations with regards to the Detachment Performance Plan for 2011/2012.

Councillor Wakelin advised that the Town of Fort Macleod have requested concentration on speeding prevention.

**(k) 2011 Municipal Sustainability Initiative Program Change**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented a letter from Hector Goudreau, Minister of Municipal Affairs, advising effective January 1, 2011, the minimum capital project threshold will be lowered from 10 to 5 per cent of annual funding to ensure the MSI program will continue to be used for substantial infrastructure needs. The minimum threshold for operating projects will remain at 10 per cent of annual operating funding.

**(l) Alberta Fire Fighters Burn Camp**

Moved by Councillor Alm to donate \$1,050.00 from discretionary spending (\$150.00 from each Division) to the Alberta Fire Fighters Burn Camp.

Carried.

**Meeting recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m.**

**Meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m.**

**(m) Request to Allow Grazing of Willow Creek Park**

Municipal Administrator Vizzutti presented a response

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from Rob Hugill, Director, South Region, Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, concerning a request by the M.D. of Willow Creek to allow grazing within the boundaries of Willow Creek Park as a range management and fire suppression initiative. Rob Hugill advised that the park is a small parcel with limited capacity and productivity and wish to maintain the park in its present state. He stated that with regard to concerns about fire, the parcel is bounded on all sides by a road, creek or developed area which provides a modest fireguard.

Council instructed Municipal Administrator Vizzutti to write to Rob Hugill stating that the M.D. Council requests the area be grazed beginning in the fall of 2011 and would be willing to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to manage the lands as a grazing disposition on behalf of Tourism, Parks and Recreation.

Moved by Councillor Sundquist that the meeting go in camera.

Carried.

Moved by Councillor Neufeld that the meeting go out of in camera.

Carried.

**Councillor Wilson left the meeting.**

4. **COUNCIL MANAGEMENT (CONT:)**

(n) **Amendment for Councillor Per Diem for Extra Meetings**

Moved by Councillor Wakelin to rescind resolution #53/11 and #77/11 and that resolution #46/10 be amended as follows:

Increase the Reeve's pay to \$2100.00/month and Councillor's pay to \$1800.00/month effective January 1, 2011 and that members of Council be paid per diem of \$100.00 per ½ day (4 hrs) or \$200.00 per full day (over 4 hrs) for attending conferences and training.

Carried.

(o) **Weed Coordinator Position**

Moved by Councillor Wakelin to instruct Municipal Administrator Vizzutti to investigate with Fieldman Ron MacKay, the existence of an agreement between the SW Ag Fieldman Partnership to contract a Weed Coordinator.

Carried.

**Councillor Wilson returned to the meeting at 2:26 p.m.**

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Councillor Sundquist that the meeting adjourn.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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Reeve

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Municipal Administrator