

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BONNYVILLE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017 COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Gene Sobolewski, Councillors: Lorna Storoschuk, Ray Prevost, Rene Van Brabant, Elisa Brosseau, Chad Colbourne and Brian McEvoy

STAFF

Mark Power, Chief Administrative Officer, Bill Rogers, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, David Beale, Community Services Director, Brad Trimble, Assistant Public Works Director and Tracy Ghostkeeper, Executive Assistant

PRESS

Josh Thomas, Bonnyville Nouvelle

GUESTS

Lorelei Gertz

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Mayor Sobolewski called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 6:01 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – November 28, 2017

- 325 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that the agenda for the November 28, 2017 Regular Council meeting be adopted with the following addition:

In Camera
a) Legal
b) Legal

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – November 14, 2017

- 326 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the minutes of the November 14, 2017 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

FINANCE

Request for Decision – Health and Wellness Spending Account

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented Policy 17-AD-07, Health & Wellness Spending Account, which would replace Policy 08-AD-055, Employee Wellness Reimbursement. The current policy reimburses employees for expenses for fitness activities up to \$300.00 for permanent staff and \$150.00 for part time staff. During Union negotiations this year, it was agreed that reimbursement amounts would increase for 2017 to \$400.00 for permanent employees and \$200.00 for part time employees; in 2018, amounts would increase to \$500.00 for



Request for Decision – Health and Wellness Spending Account

permanent employees and \$250.00 for part time employees. It was also agreed that Administration would review the current policy and make changes to include additional options, making the policy more flexible.

Request for Decision – Health and Wellness Spending Account

- 327 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council repeal Policy No. 08-AD-055 Employee Wellness Reimbursement policy and approve Policy 17-AD-071 Health and Wellness Spending Account Reimbursement policy.

CARRIED

Request for Decision – Property Tax Exemption Request – Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented an application from the Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre requesting property tax exemption for their properties located at 4709-50 Avenue and 4711-50 Avenue. Section 362 (1) (N) (iii) (B) of the Municipal Government Act: provides that property used for a charitable or benevolent purpose that is for the benefit of the general public and owned by a non-profit organization is exempt from taxation. In previous years, the decision made regarding exemption of taxes for these properties was to exempt them from property tax for a period of three years.

Request for Decision – Property Tax Exemption Request – Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre

- 328 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council exempt the properties owned by the Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre located at 4709-50 Avenue and 4711-50 Avenue from all property tax, excluding Local Improvement Tax for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 pursuant to Section 362 (1) (N) (iii) (B) of the Municipal Government Act.

CARRIED

Request for Decision – Property Tax Exemption Request – La Societe du Festival Bonnyvillois (ACFA)

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented an application from La Societe du Festival Bonnyvillois (ACFA) located at 4904-50 Avenue requesting tax exemption under section 362 (1) (N) (iii) (B) of the Municipal Government Act. As the supporting documentation states, membership may be restricted due to the voting process of new applications for membership, which do not meet the criteria outlined in section 7 of the Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation. Further, the stated objective of the organization being a place to gather for Members & Community also doesn't meet the criteria under section 362 (1)(N)(iii) (B) of the Municipal Government Act.

Mayor Sobolewski asked if this was the first time the ACFA had applied for tax exemption.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, replied that it was the first application received from them.



**Request for Decision –
Property Tax Exemption
Request – La Societe du
Festival Bonnyvillois (ACFA)**

Councillor Brosseau stated that there was a section in the MGA that spoke about the linguistic and ethno cultural association, and if they would qualify under that.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, replied that they could reapply under one of those; however, the application received was for a non-profit Organization.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that Council would have to vote on this one, but they could be encouraged to apply under one of the other available applications.

Councillor Brosseau stated that the casino has agreed to let them do a fundraiser, would that not make them charitable.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, replied that would make them not for profit.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that some organizations have partial exemptions, which is an option.

Councillor McEvoy moved that Council deny the property tax exemption request from La Societe Du Festival Bonnyvillois based on staff recommendation.

Councillor Brosseau asked if we could add to the motion a suggestion to reapply.

Councillor McEvoy stated his motion stands as is.

Mayor Sobolewski asked if Administration can let La Societe du Festival Bonnyvillois know what the other options are. Administration advised that they would.

**Request for Decision –
Property Tax Exemption
Request – La Societe du
Festival Bonnyvillois (ACFA)**

- 329 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council deny the property tax exemption request from La Societe Du Festival Bonnyvillois based on legislation.

CARRIED

**Request for Decision –
October Bank Reconciliation**

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented the October Bank Reconciliation.

**Request for Decision –
October Bank Reconciliation**

- 330 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that Council accept the October Bank Reconciliation for information.

CARRIED

**Request for Decision –
October Financial Report –
Capital**

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented the October Financial Report – Capital.



**Request for Decision –
October Financial Report –
Capital**

Councillor Van Brabant asked if the contractor is reimbursing the Town for the sidewalk at the RCMP.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that this portion is the Town's responsibility, and that the contractor replaced the portion that was "under warranty".

Mayor Sobolewski asked if there is a deficiency holdback on 51 Avenue.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that the holdback has not been identified as of yet, almost all of the work that has been done has been paid for, the rest has not been paid for because the last progress has not gone through, as it's being held back until all the issues with regard to the land owner flooding claims have been addressed to the Town's satisfaction. So the last progress draw is on hold and the penalties have been coming off in addition to the statutory 10%. They did not get substantial completion at the end of the year so the 45 day period does not kick in, and there is a significant amount of money being held in the holdback account until at least next year.

**Request for Decision –
October 2017 Financial Report
– Capital**

331 **Moved by Councillor Elisa Brosseau** that Council accept the October 2017 Financial Report - Capital for information.

CARRIED

**Request for Decision –
October 2017 Financial Report
– Operating**

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented the October 2017 Financial Report - Operating

**Request for Decision –
October 2017 Financial Report
– Operating**

332 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council accept the October 2017 Financial Report - Operating for information.

CARRIED

BUDGET

**2018 Draft II Operational
Budget**

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, presented Draft II of the proposed 2018 Operational Budget. She stated that it includes a 2% tax dollar increase. Draft II has expenditures of \$22,167,526.00, which includes reserve transfers of \$799,498.00 which equates to 3.61% of the Operating budget. Changes from Draft I were highlighted for Council and the deficit on Draft II is now \$421,526.00 after all the changes. Options were given to Council on how to balance the 2018 Operational budget. Administration is asking that Council provide direction on Draft II of the 2018 Operational Budget prior to the Budget Open House which is scheduled for December 5, 2017.



2018 Draft II Operational Budget

Mayor Sobolewski noted that the other key is that the numbers will be finalized once the Town knows its assessment amounts in February.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, stated that an Interim Budget has to be passed prior to December 31, 2017 and final numbers will be known in April.

Councillor Prevost asked if Draft I had included the RCMP evening clerk.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, stated that it was not included in Draft I, however, it is included in Draft II as an option to be removed to save funding.

Councillor Brosseau asked what the expense for the World Junior Hockey Tournament covered.

Mayor Sobolewski replied that it is the cost of the bid package.

Councillor Brosseau asked if this amount was matched by the M.D. of Bonnyville.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that the amount is matched by the M.D. of Bonnyville and any deficit or revenue at the end is split between the two.

Councillor Brosseau asked what the Contingency expenses include.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, stated that every year they keep a contingency fund for unexpected expenses that may come up and are not in the budget.

2018 Draft II Capital Budget

Councillor Colbourne stated that he would like to see sidewalks built from the new 7-11 towards the Centennial Centre. As well as the Apartment Suites Squires Court and Dave Bush Park and 41 Street up to 50th Avenue. He stated that coming from Beau Vista to the C2 they would have to walk 4 blocks out of their way if they would like to use sidewalks.

Mayor Sobolewski asked what he was prepared to cut from the budget to accomplish adding these sidewalks.

Councillor Brosseau agreed that sidewalks are needed in that area.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that Administration will have to look at costs and asked what the Capital budget is sitting at now.

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2018 Draft II Capital Budget

Mark Power, CAO, stated that \$375,114.00 from the Regional Community Development Agreement is being transferred to the Operating Budget. Also deducted from this funding is 50% of the cost of the Pool, \$30,000.00 for Canada Day, the Centennial Centre, and \$47,000.00 for the Curling Rink and Alberta Counsel, for a total of \$773,000.00. Without the M.D. of Bonnyville Regional Community Development Agreement the Town costs would be double the \$773,000.00 and this program ends in 2018.

Since Draft I of the Capital budget, the ID 349 revenue of \$4,065,683.00 has been included and the net cost /revenue from the debenture of \$5.7 Million for the Regional water line has been eliminated. What Administration was hoping to do, as the waterline will be built over two years, was to fund this project from the 2018 and 2019 Capital Budget. Other changes include the \$20,000.00 for the GIS Aerial photo, however the first quote came in at \$26,000.00, so this amount will change for the next draft of the budget. From the Strategic Planning session, the only year there was nothing budgeted for Parks was 2018, so \$40,000.00 has been added because of the discussion regarding an inclusive/accessible park. As well the Library expansion was deferred to 2019. Draft II of the Capital budget has a deficit of \$3.4 million. Options noted to fund the deficit included to debenture up to deficit amount for the waterline - \$3.464 million - or to debenture the full Town's share of the waterline \$5.7 million - which would free up over \$2.3 Million for other capital projects. He also noted that, as far as sidewalks are concerned they could be included in the \$1.3 million that is in the budget for overlays.

Mayor Sobolewski noted that the \$1.3 million is also including the back lanes/alleys that Council wanted to fix.

Mark Power, CAO, stated yes, alleys are included in that as well. He also stated that the practice of the Town has been that any new subdivisions have to have sidewalks on either side. When homeowners purchase their home the cost of the sidewalk is built into the price of the lot.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that it could be done on a local improvement, to keep things fair.

Mark Power, CAO, replied that yes it could be, however, if you do it as a local improvement, residents have the right to object. This has to have first reading of a bylaw, and then send notice to the residents. Or the alternative would be that cost could be passed on to the general tax payers.

Councillor Prevost stated that the issue on the vacant lots and non-residential lots would be the cleaning of the sidewalks.



2018 Draft II Capital Budget

Councillor McEvoy stated that the portion of road on 50 Avenue behind those lots will probably be a sound fence and you can't charge a local improvement on a sidewalk that is behind someone's house, it would also be on Alberta Transportation property, and would need their approval.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that Alberta Transportation would have to approve, and suggested that if it was properly engineered and the Town paid for it, that Transportation would probably be in favor of it.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that Council must be cognizant of existing property lines, and it will all depend on Transportation's cross section on what they will approve.

Councillor Van Brabant stated that any sidewalks on 50 Avenue by the new 7-11 would have to be in the ditches.

Councillor Brosseau agrees that it will be a big process but with the development happening in that area it will need to be addressed eventually.

Councillor McEvoy stated that without seeing the area structural plan, it's difficult to guess. The area structure plan may include some internal walk way systems.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that there are existing residential on 41 Street, and asked how Council would want to proceed with this one. He then noted that Council could have Administration come up with some costing, and it would come back to Council at that time to decide where to get the money from if they wish to proceed.

Councillor Colbourne suggested doing an assessment as there are other areas in town that do not have sidewalks, and put together a list of areas that need sidewalks.

Councillor Prevost stated he would like to get the numbers first then decide on where the money will come from. The situation warrants investigation.

Councillor Storoschuk stated that some roads are narrow and will be even narrower if sidewalks are installed.

Mayor Sobolewski suggested setting aside money for an assessment and table the issue for the 2019 budget discussion, since the assessment will not be ready in time for the 2018 budget.

Councillor Prevost asked how much an assessment would cost.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. M.' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

2018 Draft II Capital Budget

Mark Power stated that he would have that number for the December 12 Interim budget.

Mark Power, CAO, noted that on Draft II of the budget an off leash dog park has been added in 2019, however with no dollar amount, as the costs and the location are still to be determined.

Councillor Prevost wanted to confirm that the staging area did not include money for the warm up shack, as that was supposed to be the responsibility of the Snow Dusters.

Mark Power stated that was correct.

Brad Trimble, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that the engineers formulated a plan for services and the RV dumping station. However, the Town didn't act on it at the time, with the thought that prices would be lower in the winter time.

Mayor Sobolewski asked, regarding the \$3.4 million deficit, if there were any ideas on what to cut or if it is to be done by debenture.

Councillor Prevost asked if the \$40,000.00 for the Solar Power Lights on Jessie Lake for 2018 was in addition to the \$40,000.00 in the 2017 budget.

Mark Power responded that the money is going into a trail lighting reserve each year to build up enough to do the lights.

Councillor McEvoy noted that with regards to the mobile equipment, sanding and plow trucks, are staff currently looking at renting units, and asked for an update.

Brad Trimble, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that there isn't a whole lot out there right now, locally; we would have to go into a contract with a company out of the city. So it has not been pursued.

Mayor Sobolewski suggested that Council take a good hard look at the Capital budget and defer this until after the December 5th Budget Open House.

BUSINESS

Request for Decision – 2020 Alberta Summer Games

Bill Rogers, ACAO, stated that the Alberta Ministry of Culture and Tourism has extended an invitation to the Town of Bonnyville, M.D. of Bonnyville and City of Cold Lake to bid on the 2020 Alberta Summer Games held in July. The partnership presented a bid for the 2018 Summer games but was not successful. The amount would be \$400,000.00 that



**Request for Decision – 2020
Alberta Summer Games**

would be budgeted at \$133,000.00 per year for three years. Councillor Brosseau stated that this is a great thing and if the City of Cold Lake is on board then we should do it.

Councillor Prevost stated that in 2010 we hosted the Winter Games and it went extremely well and we should proceed with this one. Councillor Colbourne stated it is a great way to show off our new track at Walsh Field.

Councillor Prevost asked if the money was put aside in the operating budget for this.

Renee Stoyles, Director of Finance, stated that it is not.

Bill Rogers, ACAO, stated that there may be an opportunity to get grants as well.

Councillor McEvoy stated that the money will need to be found to fund this.

Councillor Brosseau stated that some of the money could be raised by fundraising as well.

**Request for Decision – 2020
Alberta Summer Games**

- 333 **Moved by Councillor Elisa Brosseau** that Council support a joint application with the City of Cold Lake and the M.D. of Bonnyville with a bid to host the 2020 Alberta Summer Games.

CARRIED

**Request for Decision –
Lakeland Business of the Year
Awards – Advertising in Water
Bills**

Mark Power, CAO, stated that each year we allow the Chamber of Commerce to advertise the Lakeland Business of the Year Awards with Town water bills for a small fee, with the Town advertising taking precedence. This year the Chamber of Commerce sent a request to continue doing this, however, they would like to do it free of charge. It is not a large amount of money; however, this could set precedence.

**Request for Decision –
Lakeland Business of the Year
Awards – Advertising in Water
Bills**

- 334 **Moved by Councillor Chad Colbourne** that Council respectfully refuse the request to provide the service free of charge, however, allow them to continue the inserts in June of each year (given Town inserts will take priority) and charge for the service on a "cost recovery" basis as has been past practice.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Brian McEvoy

Councillor McEvoy attended the AUMA conference in Calgary.



Councillor Lorna Storoschuk

Councillor Storoschuk attended the Historical Society meeting, brought greetings on behalf of Mayor and Council at the Metis Day Celebration, attended the Council Strategic Planning session at the Town Office, the RCMP Regimental Ball and the Festival of Peace in Cold Lake in support of the Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Center. She also attended an Alberta Bilingual Municipal Association (CONCERTO) meeting and the AUMA Conference in Calgary.

Councillor Chad Colbourne

Councillor Colbourne attended the RCMP Regimental Ball, the Council Strategic Planning session at the Town, and a special Agricultural Society meeting where it was decided to go with the World Professional Chuck Wagon Association (WCPA) as opposed to the Canadian Professional Chuck Wagon Association (CPCA) this year. However they were going to request more information from the CPCA regarding what they can bring to the table, and then have discussions with the WCPA to see what a collaborative effort might look like. He also attended a Bonnyville Chamber of Commerce meeting, the AUMA Conference in Calgary and a World Junior A Challenge Committee meeting. Councillor Colbourne also attended the Bonnyville & District Leisure Facility Corporation meeting.

Mayor Gene Sobolewski

Mayor Sobolewski made a presentation at the Bonnyville Centralized High School for a Grade 9 Science class regarding the reclamation of the land by Sobeys, where the students had very informed questions. He also attended the Metis Day Celebration and spoke with some Elders, who had very good insight to share. Mayor Sobolewski along with Mark Power, CAO, attended the ID 349 Announcement in Edmonton, which was a positive step forward for the Town. He also attended the RCMP Regimental Ball, and was also in Edmonton for part two of the Oil & Gas meeting with Minister Feehan, where it was discussed that there will be major changes to the current consultation model and that it will affect Municipalities. Some things that could be affected are Land Use Bylaws, Subdivisions, and things of that nature. Essentially the goal and major recognition for the Province is that we are on Treaty 6 and traditional lands used by both our First Nation and Metis neighbours.

Mayor Sobolewski attended the AUMA Conference in Calgary, where he noted that it was one of the better conferences for Ministerial Interaction and sessions, he also went to a Girl Guides meeting in Bonnyville where they sang Christmas Carols and he collected 3 bags of gifts for Santa's Elves. He also attended the Bonnyville & District Leisure Facility Corporation meeting where they have a new board and they discussed a new reporting structure, placed major focus on goal setting for a 3 and 5 year period, and Strategic Planning.



Councillor Elisa Brosseau

Councillor Brosseau attended a meeting with Alberta Bilingual Municipal Association (CONCERTO), the RCMP Regimental Ball, the AUMA Conference in Calgary and the Festival of Peace in support of the Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Center in Cold Lake.

Councillor Renee Van Brabant

Councillor Van Brabant attended the AUMA Conference in Calgary, and at the Policing session, he stated that a possible restructuring of the costs of policing was discussed. They were told that if this is what the people want they would look into it. He suggested getting in contact with all our neighbouring Towns between 5,000 – 10,000 populations to get the process going.

Mark Power, CAO, stated that he will contact the AUMA about their Policing Cost Taskforce to see if they will be taking the lead on this.

Councillor Ray Prevost

Councillor Prevost attended the RCMP Regimental Ball, the Chief Officers meeting at the Fire Hall, and the AUMA Conference in Calgary. He also attended the Lakeland Lodge and Housing meeting where he was re-appointed as Vice-Chair, and Phase 3 is going to tender on December 4, 2017.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND
INFORMATION**

**Letter – Alberta Energy –
Minister Margaret McCuaig-
Boyd – Methane Emission
Regulations**

Mayor Sobolewski stated that the letter shows that the door has not been closed and that the Province is listening.

Councillor Brosseau noted that this would be a great segway for our community to bring about innovation for our area. As we were discussing approaching secondary education institutions to come to our Town.

Mayor Sobolewski agreed and noted that some technology on oil and gas wells are 25 years old, and if the regulations are phased in and allow for some innovation dollars to come forward, as well, allowing that type of industry to build, would be great but this cannot be done overnight.

**Invitation to Chamber
Platinum Member Luncheon –
December 11, 2017 – Walk On**

Administration received an invitation to the Chamber Platinum Member Luncheon. Councillors Colbourne, Storoschuk, and Brosseau have all committed to attending.

**Canadian Association of
Petroleum Producers (CAPP)–
Industry Update – December
6, 2017 – Walk On**

Administration received an invitation to the CAPP Industry Update. Mayor Sobolewski and Councillors Colbourne, Storoschuk, Van Brabant and Brosseau have all committed to attending.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MP' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Volunteer Request –
Bonnyville Native Friendship
Centre’s Annual Community
Christmas Dinner – December
14, 2017 – Walk On**

Administration received a request from the Bonnyville Native Friendship Centre for Council volunteers to help serve at their Annual Community Christmas Dinner. Mayor Sobolewski, and Councillors Van Brabant, Storoschuk, Colbourne, and Brosseau have all volunteered to attend.

IN CAMERA

- 335 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council and go In Camera, pursuant to Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000.

Time: 7:54 p.m.

CARRIED

IN CAMERA

- 336 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council adjourn In Camera and return to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Time: 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

- 337 **Moved by Councillor Elisa Brosseau** that the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned.

Time: 8:26 p.m.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes read and adopted this 12 day of
December, 2017.



Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer