

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BONNYVILLE IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 COMMENCING AT 6:00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Bill Rogers – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Renee Stoyles – General Manager of Corporate Services, Brad Trimble – General Manager of Operations and Engineering and Tracy Ghostkeeper – Executive Assistant

**GUESTS**

**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Mayor Gene Sobolewski called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 6:04 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 9, 2021**

- 057 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the agenda for the March 9, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

- 058 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Regular Council meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**BYLAW**

**Bylaw No. 1510-21 – Local Improvement Tax 39<sup>th</sup> Street Project**

Bylaw No. 1510-21 authorizing the Council of the Town of Bonnyville to borrow funds from the Town and subsequently impose a local improvement tax on the properties adjacent to 39<sup>th</sup> Street was presented to Council. The local improvement is to be imposed for the road widening of 39<sup>th</sup> Street from 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the Lane.

This Bylaw was created with the provision that the construction costs would be done on a Local Improvement Tax basis and collected 80% back from the owners with 20% paid by the Town. We have recently had discussions with adjacent property owners and believe more than 50% of them are in favor.

Under the proposed bylaw, \$593,952.50 is proposed to be borrowed and \$475,162.00 is to be charged back against the property owners annually at a unit rate of \$114.66 per metre for a period of 20 years at 2.315%.

**Bylaw No. 1510-21 – Local Improvement Tax 39<sup>th</sup> Street Project**

The one property (east Side) Beau Vista Subdivision is proposed to have the Local Improvement deferred until a subdivision occurs where they will benefit from the roadway being constructed. The deferral would be for a maximum of ten (10) years.

Administration prepared this bylaw in accordance with the Municipal Government Act provisions which allows us to provide the owners with notification of the plan which they can either accept or object to. Notices (letters) were sent out to the properties who will be liable to pay the local Improvement Tax. Within 30 days of the sending of the notices; if 2/3rds, or more, of the property owners representing 1/2 of the value of the assessed land object to the plan; Council must not proceed with the Local Improvement.

If enough landowners are in favor, the Bylaw will be brought back to the first Council Meeting in April 2021 for second and third reading and the Town will proceed with the Project.

- 059 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that Council provide first reading to Bylaw No. 1510-21 for the borrowing and charging of the Local Improvement Tax for the 39th Street – Local Improvement Project.

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS**

**Long Term Funding Revision  
– NE Muni-corr**

A letter was received from Dwayne Yaremkevich, President of North East Muni-Corr requesting Council to support their long-term plan to achieve self-sustainability. Their plan proposes to:

1. Change the current agreements, (including the 5 they have with Utility Commissions), shortening their terms so that they come due every 5 years.
2. Introduce an Administration Fee into all future Agreements.
3. Increase and impose an annual fee for Utility R.O.W. Agreements
4. Introduce a Loss of Use & Adverse Effect Fee for Water Service Commission Utility R.O.W.'s.

When North East Muni-Corr was formed, all ten municipalities agreed to a funding arrangement to requisition each municipality based on a formula that took into account the portion of the old Railway R.O.W. that was within each jurisdiction. This formula (outlined on page 2 of the letter) has been used since the Muni-Corr was created. The current agreement allows for changes to the funding formula to accommodate future operational expense needs.

BR 

**Long Term Funding Revision  
– NE Muni-corr**

It appears, though; that Muni-Corr has decided that they need to develop new ways to raise funds so that they do not have to requisition municipalities in accordance with the approved funding formula. Their solution is to start charging annual fees to the Water Utility Commissions. These costs will then be passed on to utility customers through a utility bill, rather than each municipality paying in accordance with the approved formula.

Extensive discussion ensued.

060 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council support:

- 1) A review of the request for additional operating funds from Muni-Corr under the original funding formula.
- 2) Reducing the term on all renewal agreements except Waterline R.O.W. agreements;
- 3) Support an administration fee on all renewal agreements except Waterline R.O.W. agreements;
- 4) Support an increase in the annual fee for Utility R.O.W. agreements except Waterline R.O.W. agreements and
- 5) Object to, and oppose, the introduction of a Loss of Use & Adverse Effect Fee for Water Services Commissions.

**CARRIED**

**Alberta Investment Growth  
Strategy**

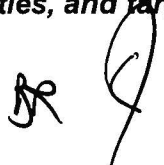
The Alberta Ministry of Jobs, Innovation and Economy has developed and released an Investment and Growth Strategy titled "Selling Alberta to the World".

The Town and MD of Bonnyville have been actively involved in developing an Economic Development Strategy for our region. In addition, the Town has previously held meetings with Industry Trade representatives to discuss the Economic Downturn affecting our region, and to discuss potential opportunities that could help the Bonnyville region in the future.

The provincial government plays an important role between investors and the Government of Canada. Higher levels of Government are often the first contact for international investors seeking information on investing in Canada and Alberta's municipalities, which compete with communities around the world as destinations for investment.

"Selling Alberta to the World" Commits to the Alberta government working with partners across governments and industries to carry out the elements of the Investment and Growth Strategy. One of the key messages of the Strategy is

***"The Alberta government will take positive steps to ensure better identification of opportunities, and targeted***



## Alberta Investment Growth Strategy

***messaging to investors. We also recognize the unique and vital roles Alberta's municipalities play in providing support and facilitation to concrete on-the-ground investment projects and operations. The investment attraction agency, together with relevant provincial government ministries, will form collaborative strategic partnerships with our cities, towns and counties."***

Given that one of Council's Strategic Priorities is promotion of economic growth in the near future, Council may wish to discuss how Bonnyville may be best positioned to partner with the Ministry with an eye toward attracting future investment projects and operations.

Councillor Brosseau suggested inviting the Minister of Jobs, Economy and Innovation, Doug Schweitzer to attend the Region to show him the area and the different areas of opportunity we have.

Councillor McEvoy stated that it may be beneficial to have talking points so that everyone is relaying the same points when speaking to a Minister or anyone else with regards to our Region.

Mayor Sobolewski stated that several years ago, we hosted a Rural Caucus and it was a great success in highlighting the Region and what we have to offer, and this may be a good opportunity to offer to host again with our Regional partners.

Administration will complete a letter of invitation to Minister Schweitzer to come and tour our Region on behalf of Council.

## Pre-Qualification of Capital Works Contractors – Walk-On

A letter was received from Stantec Consulting Ltd. regarding the submissions from construction firms interested in pre-qualifying for services as a "paving contractor", "underground contractor" or "concrete contractor" for the Town of Bonnyville's projects in 2021.

A total of twenty-seven firms submitted a package for review on March 2, 2021 as outlined in the pre-qualification requirements.

Based on results, Stantec is recommending that twenty of the twenty-seven firms be approved for pre-qualification.

- 061 **Moved by Councillor Brian McEvoy** that Council accept the firms as recommended by Stantec as approved contractors qualified to carry out capital projects in the Town of Bonnyville in 2021.

**CARRIED**



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Councillor Rene Van Brabant**

Councillor Van Brabant had nothing to report.

### **Councillor Elisa Brosseau**

Councillor Brosseau attended the Elected Officials Strategic Planning, the AUMA Collaborations and Partnerships Webinar and the Provincial Budget Webinars. She also attended the Regional Economic Development Committee meeting, the Bonnyville Municipal Library Board meeting, and the Canada Day Committee meeting.

### **Councillor Ray Prevost**

Councillor Prevost attended the NE Muni-Corr meeting.

### **Mayor Gene Sobolewski**

Mayor Sobolewski attended two meetings regarding the Golf Course, a meeting regarding an Inter Municipal Collaboration Fund, the Provincial Budget Webinars, and a meeting with Sgt. Kim Hillier regarding the RCMP Annual Performance Plan. He also attended a meeting with the Muni-Corr President, the Bonnyville Regional Water Services Commission Chair, and a meeting with lawyers regarding Muni-Corr and the Commission.

### **Chad Colbourne**

Councillor Colbourne attended the Provincial Budget Webinars, the Community Policing Committee meeting, the Regional Economic Development Committee meeting, the Canada Day Committee meeting, and a meeting at the Centennial Centre.

### **Councillor Lorna Storoschuk**

Councillor Storoschuk attended the Elected Officials Training, an FCSS (Family & Community Support Services) Board Zoom meeting, a Northern Lights Library System Zoom meeting, the Provincial Budget Webinars, and a Bonnyville Municipal Library Board meeting. She also attended a NE Muni-Corr meeting, a Townhall Webinar on Libraries, and another meeting regarding Muni-Corr.

### **Councillor Brian McEvoy**

Councillor McEvoy attended the Elected Officials Training, the Provincial Budget Webinars, the Community Policing Committee meeting and completed the Assessment Review Board Training.

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION**

### **Lakeland Centre for FASD – Accomplishments and Achievements in 2020**

A letter was received from the Lakeland Centre for FASD outlining their accomplishments and achievements in our area over the past year.

Council accepted this letter for information.



**Alberta Municipal Affairs –  
Budget 2021**

A letter was received from Alberta Municipal Affairs, Office of the Minister Deputy Government House Leader, Ric McIver, that provided details on the items in Municipal Affairs' Budget 2021 that affects municipalities the most.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Alberta Municipal Affairs –  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual Minister's Awards  
for Municipal Excellence**

A letter was received from Alberta Municipal Affairs inviting Municipalities to provide submissions for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Crowsnest Pass – Letter to  
Minister of Justice and  
Solicitor General – Presidents  
Summit on Policing**

A copy of a letter sent to the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General was received by Administration from Crowsnest Pass regarding the President's Summit on Policing.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**Justice Transformation  
Initiative (JTI) Update Bulletin**

A bulletin was received outlining upcoming changes in 2021.

Council accepted this letter for information.

**QUESTIONS**

Councillor Brosseau asked if the High School could be contacted to let them know that the Parking lot needs some cleaning done.

Councillor Prevost asked if Administration would come up with some examples to be put forward to nominate the Town for the Ministers Award for Excellence to the next meeting.

Councillor McEvoy stated that the Town has lost a long-time businessman, Sonny Naim, and asked if there was something that could be done on behalf of the Town.

Administration will look into sending condolences to the Naim family on behalf of the Town.

In addition to all of Council present, Bill Rogers, CAO, attended the In-Camera session to provide Administrative and Procedural support.

**IN CAMERA**

- 062 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council close the meeting to the public for Agenda items 9a) Legal as per Section 27, FOIP.

Time: 7:29 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'BR' and a large 'S'.

**OUT OF CAMERA**

- 063 **Moved by Councillor Lorna Storoschuk** that Council adjourn In Camera and return to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Time: 8:45 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**INTER COLLABORATION  
FUND AGREEMENT**

- 064 **Moved by Councillor Ray Prevost** that Council approve an ICF (Inter Collaboration Fund) agreement with base funding of 1.5 Million payable to the Town for the agreed amount from 2020 (The MD has already paid the C2 allotment for 2020 separately), and also approve the base funding amounts going forward of 1.5 Million/year, plus the C2 contribution amount in lieu of services as our final ongoing offer regarding compensation.

**CARRIED**

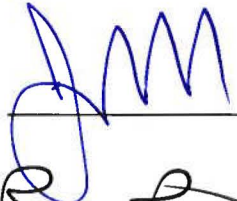
**ADJOURNMENT**


- 065 **Moved by Councillor Rene Van Brabant** that the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned.

Time: 8:50 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Minutes read and adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021.

  
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Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer