

MINUTES OF MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

Present: Mayor Gary Burgess
Councillors: Cheryl Phillips
Gordon Nicholson
Carol Descoteaux
Lyle Sipe

CAO: Greg Gayton
Elise Mumert – Reporter for West County News

1. Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. Minutes of the March 23, 2015 regular Council meeting

MOVED by Councillor Phillips that the minutes of the March 23, 2015 regular Council meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED 04/15/49**

There was some discussion about the Hythe Pioneer Home construction on the building west of the Village office. Mayor Burgess was concerned about what was happening to the roof on the structure.

Council dealt with a few organizational details pertaining to the Volunteer Appreciation Supper on April 15, 2015.

3. Business arising from the Minutes:

4. Representation:

- a) Kenny Huey – Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Kenny Huey joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Items discussed with Mr. Huey included repairs to Well House #2, installing some new lights at the Public Works Shop, adding a push lawn mower to the Village's mowing equipment and orange flashing lights on the municipal vehicles.

Mr. Huey presented Council with some estimates on upgrading the exterior of Well House #2. Craig Robertson was interested in doing the work.

The replacement of some lights in the Public Works Shop would greatly increase the visibility when working on the roads. The cost quote from Northgate was \$1085.00.

Mr. Huey noted that the throttle attachment on the old case tractor was not in working order, it may a very labor intensive project to repair and replace the throttle linkage and it may cost up to \$1000.00. The question arose as to how much money Council wanted to invest in that tractor. Council discussed the amount of money that was in the municipal reserve for the tractor and mowing equipment. It was decided to go and look at some equipment at Fosters and Cassidys to see what was available. Councillor Sipe will do some preliminary research and get some estimates before we make a research tour.

Council adjourned the meeting briefly to look at the new strobe flashing lights that are placed on public vehicles as compared to the old revolving lights. Public Works Supervisor was requesting permission to purchase two strobe lights at a cost of about \$110.00 each.

Kenny Huey left the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

- b) Monica Shaw – FCSS Report

Ms. Shaw discussed some details for the Community Pancake Supper on April 15,

2015. They will do some set up in the Legion tomorrow afternoon. Monica is looking after the certificates for the Leaders of Tomorrow award winners. Councillor Sipe will be the emcee for the event again this year.

It was noted that South Peace Regional Community Learning is facilitating a parenting and literary program during the play castle program.

The Beaverlodge Victims Services has an event planned for April 23, 2015 in Hythe at the Community Centre called "Shaping Our Future Together".

Monica Shaw left the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Council then met with Sgt. Carolyn Respet of the Beaverlodge RCMP Detachment who joined the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Sgt. Respet shared with Council the quarterly report for the period covering January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015. Calls for service in 2015 were 61 as compared to 41 calls for service in the first quarter of 2014. There were 14 property crimes reported in the first part of 2015 as compared to 9 property crimes in the first quarter of 2014. Four vehicle thefts in the first quarter of 2015 as compared to none in 2014.

Mayor Burgess inquired about the tickets on the highway. Sgt. Respet noted that highway patrol had handed out 160 tickets on highway 43 between the BC border and Wembley.

Sgt. Respet indicated that she would be available to help Hythe Village Council serve supper at the Volunteer Appreciation supper on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 and be happy to help make eggs and pancakes.

Carolyn Respet left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

c) Loretta Lieverse – MNP

Council met with Loretta Lieverse and Chelsey Nestibo from MNP regarding the 2014 yearend financial statement. Loretta Lieverse noted that the Village had finished with the surplus.

There was some discussion regarding the Figure Skating Club and the trust agreement for money that was being held with the Village. It was noted that Council may want to provide direction on whether or not the interest being made on the trust fund should be given back to the Village or should stay with the trust fund. A copy of the agreement will be on the agenda for the next regular Council meeting.

Ms. Lieverse then reviewed other details pertaining to the Villages consolidated statements and financial position. It was noted that the agreement with Warmax Enterprises added to the debt position of the Village. A new change that was introduced in the 2014 statement as MNP concluded that the Village's ongoing application to provide a tax exemption to Warmax was similar to having a debt obligation towards them. Therefore the agreement regarding the sewer main construction that Warmax had paid for was treated as a debt obligation.

It was noted that the Villages expenditures and revenues were consolidated with the Hythe Library's revenues and expenditures as this was required under the public sector accounting guidelines.

There was discussion about areas where there was variance between the budgeted amount and the actual amounts.

Ms. Lieverse noted that the Village seemed to be in a very sound financial position. Some debentures that have been owing for a number of years are nearing the end of their existence.

Council thanked Ms. Lieverse for her presentation.

Loretta Lieverse and Chelsey Nestibo left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The statements will now be forwarded to Municipal Affairs along with the financial information return.

d) Budget Update – CAO

CAO provided Council with a budget update. Some preliminary numbers showed that because the MSI operating grant had come in substantially higher than was originally budgeted that the Village should be able to provide a tax increase that will be in the 0 – 1% range for 2015. It was noted that a substantial amount of taxes had been lost because of the provincial decision to stop paying taxes on the senior apartments at Cozy Corner, Hyalta and Happy Valley. Information was distributed regarding the Village's mill rates as compared to other Villages of comparable size and assessment base. Some other budget information was distributed to Council for their review and will come back to the April 27, 2015 regular Council meeting for their approval.

5. Meeting Attended:

Councillors and staff reviewed the meeting that they had attended between March 23, 2015 and April 15, 2015.

6. Correspondence:

a) Alberta Seniors – Alberta Housing Act – received for information

b) City of Grande Prairie – Amalgamation

Some discussion on the letter received from the City of Grande Prairie regarding the amalgamation. Council was disappointed in the matter in which the City had put forward the amalgamation position.

c) Horse Lake First Nations – Careers Day event

Council received an invitation to attend the Career Day event at Horse Lake on June 10, 2015. Horse Lake is expecting approximately 70 displays and presentations. They are expecting 500 students and Band members to visit during the day. Councillor Descoteaux indicated that she may be able to attend.

d) Alberta Municipal Affairs – ACP grant approval

It was noted that we have been approved for two grants under the Alberta Community Partnership Program. The Village of Hythe had worked in conjunction with the Towns of Wembley and Beaverlodge on these grant applications.

e) Peace Library System – survey

Peace Library System requested Council to complete a survey on Library service. Council did not feel comfortable completing this survey and felt it would be better to refer the matter to the Library for their response.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to refer the Peace Library System survey to the Hythe Library for their response. **CARRIED 04/15/50**

7. Other Business & Information:

a) Town of Wembley – Intermunicipal Collaboration Component under Community Partnership Program

b) Alberta Fire Chiefs Association – Volunteer Firefighters Awareness Week

c) Alberta Transportation – Transportation Routing & Vehicle information system

d) 2015 Education Property Tax Requisition

e) Safety Codes Council – 2013 Audit of the Fire Discipline

f) Alberta Recreation & Parks Association – ARPA's Excellence Series

g) Alberta Transportation – Update

h) Cheque Summary – cheques # 20150137 – 20150224

i) Press Release

Items 7 a) to 7 i) were received for information.

8. Other matters (members' business):

Some Councillor were concerned about the number of vehicle's accumulating on the lot by the Fire Hall. Council was aware that the Fire Department was collecting some

vehicles for extraction practice, but the number of vehicle's has now grown to four. CAO will look into this.

Councillor Sipe advised that there is a change in the ownership of the farm land north of the Village. The Village may have to renegotiate a new contract for use of the Village land north of 107th street.

Councillor Sipe requested that staff look at the turn out at Foremost Industries on the service road. Staff should bring back a report as to whether that area needs some improvements. It seems some of the vehicles have to drive into the ditch while making the turn.

Councillor Sipe asked about the situation with the Teare Creek property which the Village had inherited for property taxes. It was noted that there was still a large amount of equipment and building on the site and the previous owner should be given a deadline for removal. Staff will bring a memo back to the regular Council meeting on April 27, 2015.

Councillor Phillips had a concern about a property for unsightly premises. This will be passed along to the County Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

CAO noted that Don and June Pearson had requested permission to remove two large northwest poplars that are on the front boulevard of their property. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson will replace the trees that were cut down with new trees and will pay for the removal of trees at their own cost.

MOVED by Councillor Phillips to allow Don and June Pearson to remove two northwest poplars that are on the boulevard in front of their property. **CARRIED 04/15/51**

Travis Peterson had asked for permission to use the Village's gravel truck, and in exchange for use of the truck he would do water sampling for one day at no cost to the Village. Council discussed the precedent this type of arrangement would make. The consensus was to proceed with the arrangement with Mr. Peterson, but also have the CAO bring back a policy to the regular Council meeting on April 27, 2015.

There was some discussion about the Public Works staff Friday lunches. Council provided the CAO with some direction on the matter.

Councillor Descoteaux requested that a letter be sent to the Hythe Community Centre regarding the temporary use of space for the bench that is being donated by the Beaverlodge Victim's Services on April 23, 2015. CAO will draft a letter for the Chairman of the Community Centre Board.

Council then dealt with Public Works funding request.

MOVED by Councillor Nicholson to purchase a push mower and bagger at a cost not exceeding \$400.00. **CARRIED 04/15/52**

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to upgrade the lighting in the Public Works Shop as per the quote from Northgate at a price of \$1085.00 **CARRIED 04/15/53**

MOVED by Councillor Descoteaux to authorize \$220.00 for two strobe beacon vehicle lights. **CARRIED 04/15/54**

There was a little more discussion on the tractor purchase.

Council authorized staff to go ahead with the Well House #2 upgrading.

There was some discussion about a derelict house on 103rd street. Staff will look into that and see what can be done with that property. It may belong to Mr. Hawksworth.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Councilor Sipe that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED 04/15/55**

Time of adjournment was 8:25 p.m.