

## MARCH 13, 2017

Present: Mayor Gary Burgess  
Councilors: Gordon Nicholson  
Nadine Adolf  
Carol Descoteaux

CAO: Greg Gayton  
Stuart Fry – Peace Officer Supervisor, Regional Enforcement Services, County of Grande Prairie.  
Kim Donecz – Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Regional Enforcement Services, County of Grande Prairie.

1. Mayor Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Minutes of the February 27, 2017 regular Council meeting.

**MOVED** by Councillor Nicholson that the minutes of the February 27, 2017 regular Council meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED 03/17/32**

3. Business arising from the Minutes:

4. Representation:

a) County Enforcement Services – 5:30 p.m.

Kim Donecz and Stuart Fry met with Council regarding a enforcement issue pertaining to Wilmer Sawatzky Rottweiler. The County Officers commented that they understand there is a lot of concern in the community about the dog in question. County staff have put a lot of time and effort in to working on this issue, trying to reach a solution that will recognize the concerns of the community.

However, they noted that Animal Control Bylaw #526 needs some changes to help them to do this. It was pointed out that when the dog was apprehended in December of 2016 the Bylaw did not give explicit permission to the animal control officers to seize the dog. That is why the dog was not seized immediately.

There were no complaints in the County's records about the dog, prior to the December 21, 2016 attack. They also advised that the Village had issued an Order under section 545 of the Municipal Government Act, requiring Mr. Sawatzky to comply with the Animal Control Bylaw. However he did meet all the conditions by the March 6, 2017 deadline and consequently there was no legal reason to withhold possession of the dog from Mr. Sawatzky. This is the reason why the dog was returned to him.

It was noted that the resolution Council passed at the February 27, 2017 regular Council meeting asking that the dog be removed from the Village was difficult to deal with because at that time the order was still in effect and they were in the process in working through the section 545 order.

Some discussion followed regarding the concerns about construction of the cage for the Rottweiler. Mayor Burgess felt that the construction was not strong enough and resilient enough to hold a Rottweiler. He felt what was built would not contain the animal. County Enforcement noted that the cage met the requirements of Bylaw #526. They advised if Council wants more detailed standards on a cage required for animals they would need to do an amendment to Bylaw #526 to meet that. In order for Bylaw #526 to be used by their lawyer who prosecutes there tickets, it should probably be revised into a new bylaw rather than doing

amendments.

County staff noted that they were following through on a requirement for Mr. Sawatzky to appear in court on April 11, 2017 regarding future custody of the dog. However the April 11, 2017 hearing will probably just be a preliminary matter and a full trial would likely be scheduled for a later date.

There was some discussion about the sale of the dog tag to Mr. Sawatzky, it was noted that the Village had required in the Section 545 order that Mr. Sawatzky complied with the Animal Control Bylaw and this included getting the appropriate vicious dog tag. So it would have been inconsistent with that order for the Village to refuse to sell him a tag.

County staff advised that they would be happy to consult with Councillors if there are any further concerns or issues regarding this matter.

Kim Donecz and Stuart Fry left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

5. Meetings Attended: Council reviewed the meeting that they had attended from February 27, 2017 to March 13, 2017.

Councillor Descoteaux reported that she had attended a Library meeting. Duarte Valerio's firm is doing the accounting for the Library now.

Mayor Burgess noted that he and the CAO had attended a law seminar in Grande Prairie on March 3, 2017.

6. Correspondence

a) Town of Sexsmith – Chautauqua day parade

Town of Sexsmith is holding a Chautauqua day event on June 3, 2017. Council discussed the matter and it did not seem that anyone would be able to attend, take part in the parade and other activities. Staff will write the Town of Sexsmith back regarding this.

b) Grand Spirit Foundation – 2017 Requisition – received for information.

7. Other Business & Information:

a) Atco Gas – franchise agreement

CAO noted that he met with Atco Gas for some preliminary discussion on the new Natural Gas Franchise Agreement. Our existing agreement expires on December 31, 2017. The two main areas of concern is the term of the agreement and the percentage of the franchise fee. Council felt a five year term would be appropriate length. CAO will do some more research on the gas franchise fee and see what the other communities are paying for franchise.

b) Chlorine Analyses – CL 17

CAO noted he and Travis Peterson had travelled to Bluesky to look at a Chlorine Analyzer. Purchase of a Chlorine Analyzer would alleviate the requirement to do daily checks in the distribution system which is very problematic and time consuming for the water operator. We would need to buy two Chlorine Analyzers at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00 each.

c) RMRF – March 3<sup>rd</sup> legal seminar

CAO reviewed the agenda for the event, it was noted that there are a number of agreements with the County that have to be reviewed and ratified within a two year span. These agreements cover all aspects of municipal operation. It was noted that there are some arrangements with the County of Grande Prairie that have been traditional there are no written agreements available regarding them.

d) Bylaw #532 – Animal Control bylaw amendment

This will be tabled, rather than doing an amending bylaw, the existing Bylaw #526 will be rewritten to incorporate any changes, we will create an entirely new Animal Control Bylaw.

The Mayor suggested that if any Councillors wanted to suggest changes and contribute their thoughts to a new Animal Control Bylaw, they should work through the CAO to do that.

e) Cheque summary – cheques # 20170036 – 20170206 – received for information.

8. Other matters (members' business):

CAO noted that we had finally got a response back from the adjuster regarding the 2007 Toyota Tundra, which had been involved in an accident on December 21, 2016. The truck is being written off, presently Public Works is down to one truck for both operators and staff have been using their personal trucks for some duties.

Council discussed some options for the truck replacement process. Councillor Nicholson suggested that there is a truck rental company just across from the north side Safeway in Grande Prairie. Quite often a rental unit can be obtained for a reasonable price.

Council will have the Public Works Supervisor spec out a replacement truck, they felt that this truck should have four wheel drive.

Councillor Descoteaux advised that she would be gone after March 29, 2017 possible for an extended period of time.

Mayor Burgess inquired about the Public Works Supervisor's plans for selling a parts washer and a commercial vehicle jack. CAO will advise where that process is at.

**MOVED** by Councillor Nicholson to go into camera.

**CARRIED 03/17/33**

While in Camera Council discussed a lease agreement for the old fire hall and a personnel matter.

9. In Camera

a) Lease agreement – old fire hall

b) Personnel matters (no attachment)

**MOVED** by Councillor Adolf to go back into open session.

**CARRIED 03/17/34**

10. Adjournment

**MOVED** by Councillor Nicholson that the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

**03/17/35**

Time of adjournment was 8:16 p.m.