

MINUTES

Council Meeting

Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124

January 22, 2020

MD Administration Building, Slave Lake, AB

MEMBERS PRESENT

Murray Kerik - Reeve
Sandra Melzer - Division 1
Brian Rosche - Division 2
Brad Pearson - Division 2
Becky Peiffer - Division 1
Darcie Acton - Division 2

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Esau - Division 1

IN ATTENDANCE

Allan Winarski - Chief Administrative Officer, MD LSR
Trisha Green - Recording Secretary, MD LSR
Alanis Marleau - HR Communications Coordinator, MD LSR
Joe McWilliams - Lakeside Leader
S/Sgt. John Spaans - RCMP, Slave Lake Detachment
Sgt. Don Racette - RCMP, Slave Lake Detachment
Jule Asterisk - Keepers of the Athabasca
JD Dennis - SHARA & Smith 4H

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Kerik called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION 024-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to adopt the Agenda with the following additions:

- 9.1 In-Camera – Councillor Rosche – Sewer Systems
- 9.2 In-Camera – Councillor Pearson – Section 29

CARRIED (6-0)

OATH OF OFFICE

OFFICIAL OATH OF DARCIE ACTON

Darcie Acton took her place as an elected official of the Municipal District following the administration of the Official Oath of Office.

DELEGATIONS

S/SGT. JOHN SPAANS – CRIME MAPPING

S.Sgt. John Spaans provided to Council for consideration the implementation of Crime Mapping Data. K-Division Crime Mapping is currently available to Town of Slave Lake residents that shows where (to the closest intersection) the offences are taking place in their neighbourhood. The data displayed is only of the following crimes committed over the past 14 days. These would include mischief, break and enter, theft from a motor vehicle and theft over \$5000. S.Sgt. John Spaans clarified that there are the positives of community members with active eyes if crime is happening in their neighbourhoods and potential negatives such as those from realty companies trying to sell properties in troubled areas. There is no maintenance and no cost as the RCMP funds the crime mapping tool.

MOTION 025-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to have Administration establish the links to the RCMP Crime Mapping Tool from the Municipal District's website so citizens can observe reported criminal activity throughout the municipality

CARRIED (6-0)

KEEPERS OF THE ATHABASCA

Jule Asterisk presented the Keepers of the Athabasca PowerPoint presentation and informed Council of the available Indigenous Workshops for anyone to attend. The workshops commence on the first Tuesday of every month at the Slave Lake Native

Friendship Centre. Posters are placed around the Town of Slave Lake and area to bring awareness to these workshops.

Where's My Power: Jule Asterisk advised Council that they can provide this workshop on-site that would enable an evaluation of energy efficiency. This walk-through can spot areas on how to be more energy-efficient offering zero or minimal cost upgrades up to the more costly upgrade suggestions.

Truth & Reconciliation booklet with Calls to Action handed out to those in attendance as well as various workshop pamphlets.

MOTION 026-20

Moved by Councillor Rosche to accept *Keepers of the Athabasca* delegation as information.

CARRIED (6-0)

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES**

MOTION 027-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to adopt the *January 08, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes* as amended.

CARRIED (6-0)

ADMINISTRATION

CAO REPORT

Council was informed of upper management staffing shortages. The new organization chart was presented. Changes included revamped duties for positions in customer service, rural services, planning and development and their lines of reporting.

Vacancies involve Information Systems, Rural Services, Finance, and will include Human Resources and Communications. Alanis Marleau will be leaving on maternity leave in July and will need to start looking at recruiting for the HR/Communications Coordinator position. Wanda Sinclair is retiring from Finance at the end of the month.

The Municipal District Administration is moving toward implementing Lean Management and Project Management practices to improve organizational performance. Evidence of this movement is Yokoten. That is the name of the board in the office meaning "The place where things happen, gathering of information". It is the start of a place to see the whole operations of the Municipal District at once by Council and staff.

Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) met with Administration representatives about its service delivery. They were advised that improvements should be made for mass evacuations and emergencies that involve multiple municipalities and regions. Provincial leadership and resources are paramount.

The CAO attended the Regional Protective Services Group Meeting. For January, there has more emergency activity in any similar period. An emergency exercise to take place if no major spring emergencies are taking place.

Concerning Alberta's Strategic Tourism Plan: The CAO completed a detailed survey as weather and road conditions kept him from the Edmonton engagement session. His comments centred on obtaining better market information: Better demographics and better details about visitors would help. This would allow our region to perform market segmentation to arrive at our target visitor. Tourism statistics should differentiate between business/company and actual tourists coming to communities/regions. Improved linkage with Travel Alberta is required. Instead of over-marketing the Canadian Rockies, Edmonton, and Calgary, effort should be directed to other key areas of Alberta, of which Lesser Slave River is one.

A draft contract has been provided to the publisher of the Lakeside Leader based on agreed-upon terms. A distribution strategy for the newspaper is concerned key to its future sustainability and presence in the region's communities.

Bridge and Bridge Culverts: A draft letter to the Minister of Transportation was provided in the CAO's handout. 10-year bridge plan prepared in CAO report showing all MD bridges. BF 85344 is not on this 10-year plan. Of all the bridge and bridge culverts, only one of them has been updated and completed. Historically 75% STIP funding is

available if granted. Only so much money is available, and the Municipal District is competing for resources within our Alberta Transportation regions and then regions across the Province so there is no guarantee on funding.

Land Use Bylaw RFP is out with selection to happen in February.

A meeting with ExploreNet did not evolve an anticipated rollout of satellite 5G broadband. Instead, it was a meet and greet so that ExploreNet could garner support for upcoming federal grants concerning rural internet service provision.

Arrangements have been made to proceed with February 25th for Opportunity/TOSL/MD Opportunities meeting.

A digital kiosk that would be self-engaging, outside and vandal resistant, is being researched for the VIC by MD Administration. Councillor Rosche presented concerns with vandalism and was concerned where the funding would come from for the kiosk.

11:31 a.m. Councillor Peiffer exited the Chambers

Councillor Pearson questioned the intent of the building if this kiosk is there to replace it. CAO explained that the intention is to provide better information to visitors and not be limited to opening hours. The building was supposed to be a full-scale tourism facility showcasing the region. It was intended to be open (without the offices and an upstairs). But, fears of operation costs, resulted in a change of scope and the development of offices in part of the building. It was thought that economic development entities like Community Futures, Big Lake Tourism and the Chamber, with common interests, could have a place to work together. History reveals this not to have been the case. The MLA is the only tenant currently and the VIC set for overflow for additional meetings at the VIC. In the summer there are greeting services provided by summer students.

11:33 a.m. Councillor Peiffer entered the Chambers

The Administration is working to collect monthly insights regarding the MD's social media.

The CAO has been involved in determining the status of a massive assessment appeal of oil and gas facilities held by CNRL. Approximately 1900 facilities are of concern to CNRL. Facilities in Fairview, Wheatland, and Lesser Slave River under the Provincial Assessor are being targeted so a case can be made for a 50% assessment reduction across the board. Lesser Slave River needs to think strategically about the future of hydrocarbon revenues on our communities.

Actively engaged in year-end for both the MD and LSLRWMSC

Brushing contract was awarded – approximate value of 40K. Major transportation tenders are being prepared for confirmed planning of 2020 funds.

The Utilities Department has been working on closing off the Smith Lift Station Project, Alberta Environment year-ends, solutions for the E-One Pump life cycle/repairs, finalizing the installation of new water meters, and better long-term planning.

Rural Services: They are involved with the AG Conference and community halls, and freezing conditions at the Smith Arena. Facility users are going around our facility operators and using our facilities in Smith. Monies are not being collected for such usage. Efforts to remedy are underway.

Next meeting, we will have a Stantec representative showing the ways forward for the community, specifically the Smith Community Arena and the Canyon Creek Community Arena.

JD Dennis who is involved with SHARA, was permitted to speak and made the following points: He has never seen any theft from the arena. He is not sure if the caretaker is doing the steps, but when Danielle was there, she was making sure that it was taken care of to prevent freezing. She would come in and make sure the door would be open

in the furnace room to let the warm air flow properly. No one is to blame here, but perhaps the caretaker is not doing enough facility checks. He felt the letter that was sent by the Municipal District ruffled quite a few feathers in the community. The Smith 4H Club and Becky (Councillor) and her family are good at cleaning up after the use. He suggested that the front end can be locked if the doors were flipped to limit access to the front area.

MOTION 028-20

Moved by Councillor Peiffer to accept the *CAO Report* as information.

CARRIED (6-0)

RECESS

12:14 p.m.

RECONVENE

1:11 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

On November 20, 2019 Councillors were appointed to provide support in the interim for representation on the late Councillor Commins' Boards and Committees.

At the 2019 Organizational meeting, Councillor Acton was appointed as a public member to the Slave Lake Regional Library Board and the Lesser Slave Lake Housing Authority. There continues to be a vacancy for a public member on the Agricultural Act Appeal Panel. These vacancies are being advertised, and when Administration receives adequate applications, they will be brought to Council for appointment.

AHS has developed Advisory Councils (12) throughout Alberta to provide insights and input on health service delivery, priorities and programs to the Board of Directors and AHS leadership. Councillor Brian Rosche has been a member on this Council for two (2) three (3) year terms. The term of appointment shall be for a maximum of six (6) years. A Councillor can submit an Expression of Interest or they can advocate for others in the region to submit an Expression of Interest.

MOTION 029-20

Moved by Councillor Acton to appoint Councillor Rosche to the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Waste Management Services Commission until the next Organizational meeting.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 030-20

Moved by Councillor Melzer to appoint Councillor Acton to the Slave Lake Airport Commission until the next Organizational meeting.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 031-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to appoint Councillor Acton to the Municipal Planning Commission until the next Organizational meeting.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 032-20

Moved by Councillor Peiffer to appoint Councillor Acton to the Slave Lake Chamber of Commerce until the next Organizational meeting.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 033-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to appoint Councillor Acton to the Tri-Council Health Committee until the next Organizational meeting.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 034-20

Move by Councillor Rosche to encourage Councillor Acton to submit an expression of interest to join the AHS Regional Advisory Committee

CARRIED (6-0)

With Councillor Acton now an Council member on the above-appointed boards, she will no longer be a public member to the Slave Lake Regional Library Board and the Lesser

Slave Lake Housing Authority. If you know of any candidates that could fill these public positions, let them know these vacancies exist.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM POLICY L-5.3

Alanis Marleau provided to Council an updated recognition policy for consideration. Policy K.23 currently in place has not been revised since 2007 and has been updated to reflect a more meaningful and regular recognition to employees and elected officials. The purpose of this new policy is to establish guidelines and support the consistent administration of recognition of employees through service milestones, resignations, retirements, and staff accomplishments as well as elected official service.

MOTION 035-20

Moved by Councillor Melzer to approve *Recognition Program Policy L-5.3*.

CARRIED (6-0)

FINANCE

BUDGET MEETING DATES

Administration and Council scheduled a date and time to continue with the 2020 budget deliberations.

MOTION 036-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to conduct the 2020 Budget Deliberations on February 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Slave Lake Administration Building Council Chambers.

CARRIED (6-0)

CHEQUE REGISTERS

Council requested background on the following payments:

053557 Canadian Fence Expense
053595 Select Equipment Rentals
053620 Scona Electric
053614 Kolenc & Associates
053613 Smith Line Repair

MOTION 037-20

Moved by Councillor Peiffer to accept the *Cheque Registers* as information.

CARRIED (6-0)

BOARD REPORTS

Agricultural Service Board (ASB) – Presented by Councillor Melzer

- Three members are at the provincial conference, left yesterday returning Friday.
- A letter was drawn up from ASB regarding fiscal responsibilities at the conference in Banff.
- Another letter to VSI to approve the condition of bees of the ½ hour vet consultation fee if they are authorised to work with bees.

Community Futures – Lesser Slave Lake Region – Presented by Councillor Pearson

- There wasn't quorum to have the meeting but went over some things to share.
- There are eight loans out for 400K.
- Year-end is April 30th.
- New office bills are substantially cheaper and a bit more foot traffic at this location.

Regional Library Board – Presented by Councillor Peiffer

- Nothing to report – the meeting was cancelled.

Pembina Zone – Presented by Councillors Pearson, Melzer, Peiffer

- Organization meeting, new President was elected,
- A councillor from Athabasca County is the Vice President again.
- Provincially, \$173M in oil and gas taxes are not being paid to municipalities is not being paid.
- An RCMP speaker presented statistics and noted that crime is down.
- Ensure you report your crimes, and the policing resources will be put to where it's required.

- Councillor Melzer noted that Councillor Esau was able to discuss the Gentle Ben funding with MLA Shane Getson. A letter with stats and details provided by Peggy Laing and Ruth Reay regarding the funding was delivered.
- Police funding – Our tax contribution is around 115-116K. Highlight it on the tax bills to remind the taxpayers what we are contributing to now.
- Regarding the 35% reimbursement to shallow gas, for 2020, it remains the reduction but no reimbursement.
- Council will be pulling together thoughts and evidence-based research on the issues of our Municipality to present to MLA Pat Rhen and MLA Glenn van Dijken when there is the opportunity to meet with them.

Water North Council – Presented by Reeve Kerik

- Telephoned into a conference call 40+ people on it making it impossible to hear and ended up having to terminate the call.
- Nothing to report.

Tri-Council Health Meeting Presented by Councillor Rosche

- Fourteen days for appointments at the Slave Lake Clinic.
- Three nurse practitioners are working and one is off on sick leave.
- Nurse practitioner's salaries have been frozen since 2015 and senior nurses can have higher wages than them.
- Seven doctors on site, one is coming at the end of January, and another being recruited for a total of 9. A General Practitioner started recently, and another is in an assessment period in Ft. McMurray.
- Seven thousand (7,000) patients are registered. 140 new patients monthly noting that 2019 visits are below those in 2012. 184 no shows out of 2843 appointments in the past month.
- The Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) is accepting nomination awards for EMS providers and physicians. Council discussed the nomination of Roland Mandau for the EMS Healthcare Heroes worker nomination before the February 28th deadline.

MOTION 038-20

Moved by Councillor Pearson to endorse Roland Mandau for Healthcare Heroes RhPAP nomination.

CARRIED (6-0)

MOTION 039-20

Moved by Councillor Melzer to accept the *Board Reports* as information.

CARRIED (6-0)

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 040-20

Moved by Councillor Rosche to move to closed session at 2:22 p.m. with Allan Winarski in attendance.

CARRIED (6-0)

OPEN SESSION

MOTION 041-20

Motion by Councillor Pearson to return to an open meeting at 3:05 p.m.

CARRIED (6-0)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 042-20

Moved by Councillor Rosche to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

CARRIED (6-0)


Chief Administrative Officer


Reeve