



Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Summer Villages Office Council Chambers
605 – 2nd Avenue, Ma-Me-O Beach, Alberta

MINUTES

Present:

Don Fleming, Mayor
John Slater, Deputy Mayor
Peter Langelle, Councillor

Sylvia Roy, CAO

Mayor Fleming called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Res. #15-08

Moved by Councillor Langelle to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Minutes of January 11, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

Res. #15-09

Moved by Deputy Mayor Slater to adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 11, 2015 as presented.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND VISITORS

1. Member of Parliament Mr. Blaine Calkins, 10:00 am

At 10:02 am Council welcomed Mr. Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament, who indicated that he always appreciates the opportunity to visit municipal Councils. Mr. Calkins provided an update from Parliament; the highlights are as follows:

Mr. Calkins stated that they are working on a federal level on our economic interests particularly since the oil prices have affected this. Since the end of the economic downturn our economy has created over one million net new jobs; this is the best job creation record among the G7 countries.

Alberta will receive \$5.4 billion in federal transfers this year – that is an increase of \$3.2 billion or 145% since this government has taken office. It is important to note that nearly \$4 billion is through the health transfer; that is an increase of 2.3 billion or 142% since 2006. Additionally, \$1.5 billion is through the Canada Social transfer – an increase of 155% with this government. Mr. Calkins was happy to report that the government is still on track to balance the budget.

The economy remains the top priority and will continue to implement important measures to safeguard our recovery. The focus is on connecting Canadians with available jobs; programs like the Canada Job Grant will help 130,000 Canadians each year access the training needed to gain meaningful employment once fully implemented. The federal government is supporting Canada's entrepreneurs by providing an additional \$40 to the Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program to help entrepreneurs across Canada create new companies.

Budget 2014 also saw \$40 million invested for up to 3,000 internships in high demand fields, and \$15 million for up to 1,000 internships in small and medium sized businesses. The federal government is also strengthening Canada's labour market by launching an enhanced Job Matching Services and modernized Job Bank. They are helping small businesses by introducing the Small Business Job Credit, which will allow small business payroll taxes by 15% for the next two years, and have also eliminated over 800 thousand payroll deduction remittances to Canada Revenue Agency made every year by over 50,000 small businesses.

The federal government is also investing in Canada's extensive trail system through a \$10 million investment to the National Trails Coalition.

For families and communities, Mr. Calkins stated that the federal government has cut taxes over 160 times since 2006 and have reduced the overall tax burden to its lowest level in 50 years. The new Family Tax Package will provide benefits to every Canadian family with children under the age of 18 in Alberta.

They have created two new positions on the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench to ensure that justice is served in the community, and are pressing forward with the new anti-terrorism legislation.

They are improving the access to broadband in rural and northern communities by providing \$305 million to extend and enhance access to the high speed broadband networks for up to an additional 280,000 households.

The government is supporting seniors by providing an additional \$5 million to the New Horizons for Seniors program.

Mr. Calkins indicated that they are providing \$390 million to Parks Canada to make improvements to highways, bridges and dams located in national and historic parks across Canada. As well, they are investing an additional \$15 million to extend the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program for conservation projects in Alberta and across Canada.

Mr. Calkins updated Council and Administration on the Building Canada fund, which is funded 1/3 by the federal government, 1/3 by the province and 1/3 by the municipality.

Res. #15-10

Moved by Councillor Langelle to go In Camera at 10:31 am.

CARRIED

Res. #15-11

Moved by Councillor Langelle to come out of In Camera at 10:36 am.

CARRIED

Ma-Me-O Beach Council updated Mr. Calkins on the progress made on the regional and local wastewater collection systems.

Mr. Calkins departed from Council Chambers at 10:42 am.

2. S/Sgt Neill Pearson and Insp. Fran Bethell, Wetaskiwin RCMP, 10:30 am

At 10:42 am Council welcomed Insp. Fran Bethell, who is the new detachment commander in Wetaskiwin and S/Sgt Neill Pearson, who oversees and supervises the operations of the detachment and also organizes the enhanced RCMP agreements for Wetaskiwin, Breton and Thorsby.

Councillor Langelle highlighted some of the challenges with respect to policing in the Summer Village, including the dissolution of the Pigeon Lake Protective Services. The key concerns are vandalism and break-ins. Council indicated that they believe that the number of incidents are decreasing due to the presence of the RCMP although the problems do still exist.

Frustration with the judicial system was noted and Insp. Bethell noted that the RCMP cannot control what happens to offenders at that stage. Insp. Bethell did, however, suggest a community meeting with the RCMP if information sharing is helpful, as well as the role that the Victim Services Program plays and the coordination of safety plans.

Mayor Fleming encouraged the continuing RCMP patrols with Thorsby, Breton and Wetaskiwin. S/Sgt Pearson indicated that the patrols are at random times, day and night, for the full year. There is lots of

interest in these enhanced RCMP shifts so coverage is not an issue. Patrols will be increased in the summer, and the RCMP will still be patrolling the area as part of their provincial mandate.

The RCMP explained what happens when residents call 780-312-RCMP (7267). When the call is made, it goes to the Red Deer operational centre. If the call is of a high-risk nature, the RCMP are immediately dispatched. If the call is related to theft, or mischief, it is given a lower priority. A call to this phone number will generate a file number. A call placed to the detachment's administration number will go to voicemail and will get picked up during the next business hours. A call placed to 9-1-1 also goes to the Red Deer operational centre; the caller will be asked if they require fire, police or ambulance and if the caller responds that they need the police, the call gets transferred to the Wetaskiwin operations centre.

It was noted that calls from the north part of Pigeon Lake go to Edmonton operations centre, while calls from the south part of the lake go to Red Deer.

Insp. Bethell indicated that people don't always understand that the job of the operations centre is to collect as much information as possible, to try and determine the risk level and urgency of the call and ensure the proper prioritization of resources. If someone is smashing down a residence door, or driving impaired, these will be given a higher level of priority.

The RCMP indicated that they would be interested in coming to the Annual Information Meeting in July to speak to residents. Mayor Fleming indicated that public relations was previously a big function of the RCMP and that he'd like this level of service to continue.

S/Sgt. Pearson indicated that they hope to perform boat patrols on Pigeon Lake in 2015. Unfortunately, there are only so many properly trained operators for the boat, but they may use an enhanced shift to do this. If there's a complaint about a boat, they can have a conversation with the owner.

Discussion occurred regarding the speeding motorists on highway 13A. Insp. Bethell will ask members to continue to perform radar on this road. An electronic speed sign was discussed; Insp. Bethell indicated that while the sign won't help with the percentage of people that don't care if they're speeding, but would help the mindful people.

Council thanked Insp. Bethell and S/Sgt. Pearson and they departed at 11:25 pm.

D. BYLAWS AND POLICIES

None.

E. REPORTS FROM STAFF/RESOLUTIONS

1. Follow Up Sheet

The follow up sheet was reviewed and revised.

F. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Regional Wastewater Committee

Deputy Mayor Slater advised that construction continues on the regional line, and it should be commissioned by early March. The lift stations are in, and the forcemain is almost complete.

2. Regional Wastewater Extension Agreement

An extension agreement has been received by the County of Wetaskiwin which only changes the term of the agreement by extending it to December 31, 2016.

Res. #15-12

Moved by Deputy Mayor Slater that the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach enter into the wastewater services extension agreement with the Northeast Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission and the County of Wetaskiwin No.10.

CARRIED

3. South Side Wastewater Committee

The south side wastewater committee participated in a communications workshop. The importance of consistent, informed messages was stressed. The next south side committee meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2015 at which Councillor Langelle will try to attend in place of Deputy Mayor Slater, who will be away.

4. Itaska Beach Letter – In Lake Technical Funding

Council reviewed a letter from the Summer Village of Itaska Beach to all Pigeon Lake Municipalities, advising that Itaska Beach Council has budgeted for \$150/property for 2015 to use towards initiatives put forward by the in-lake technical committee of APLM. Itaska Beach Council further encouraged all other municipalities on Pigeon Lake to budget funds in 2015 to be available for initiatives by the in-lake technical committee.

Council determined that there is not enough information regarding the requested funding and therefore Council is not prepared to make a decision.

5. Association of Summer Villages of Alberta

A letter from the ASVA was reviewed which informed Councils of the initiatives undertaken/ underway by the ASVA on behalf of Alberta Summer Villages.

6. Damaged Boat Hoist

Administration advised that a Ma-Me-O Beach resident lodged a complaint with respect to damage incurred to their boat hoist. Some of the difficulty is that people are buying larger boat hoists and they get buried in the sand in the lake; it is also becoming more difficult to access the lake with these larger hoists. Councillor Langelle advised that there is always the potential for damage to occur to the boat hoists.

The boat hoist policy makes it clear to residents that the Summer Village is not liable.

Administration will ask public works personnel to examine the boat hoist and see if it can be fixed.

7. Joint Services Committee

Minutes of the December 18, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Included in the meeting minutes were recommendations for Summer Village Councils to consider adopting the Grandview fertilizer bylaw and the Pigeon Lake Protective Services model, which are on this agenda.

8. Protective Services Proposed Model

Council reviewed a protective services proposed model which includes the reinstatement of the Pigeon Lake Protective Services, which would employ Community Peace Officers and that they would perform bylaw enforcement. Council decided that they were pleased with the current model of enhanced policing with the RCMP but would support the hiring of a bylaw enforcement officer, whether it's complaint-based or a full time person.

9. Grandview Fertilizer Bylaw

Council directed Administration to bring a fertilizer bylaw to the next Council Meeting for adoption.

Put in next agenda for adoption.

10. Letter to MLA/ Honorable Minister McQueen

Administration will draft a letter to the Honorable Minister McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and our MLA, to provide her with an update on the local/ regional wastewater collection line and apprise her of some of the challenges and opportunities of the construction of such a line.

11. Potential History Book Researcher

Administration has become aware of a potential researcher/compiler for a Ma-Me-O Beach history book. Administration will invite her to the next Council meeting for a discussion with Council.

12. Community Builder Plaque

The community builder plaque information and nomination form will again form a part of the mailout to residents which will take place this spring.

13. Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce

Res. #15-13

Moved by Councillor Langelle that the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach take out a membership to the Pigeon Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce.

CARRIED

14. Fish Netting Response

Council had requested Administration to contact Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, to determine if fish netting (commercial fishing) was still taking place on Pigeon Lake. The following is taken from their written response to Administration:

Thank you for enquiring with regard to the status of commercial fishing on Pigeon Lake. The Government of Alberta closed all commercial fisheries across the entire province as of August 1, 2014. This decision was made only after significant deliberations on the many issues related to conservation and management of our fisheries. A science-based assessment of commercial fisheries was also considered and identified major issues with the continuance of commercial fishing with respect to the long-term sustainability of the finite fisheries resources in our province, and conflicts amongst stakeholders in allocation of fish at these commercially fished waterbodies. The intent of this closure is to ensure our provinces fisheries are managed sustainably and to maximize the benefits they provide to all Albertans. This closure also serves to help ensure Alberta continues honouring Treaty rights to Aboriginal fishers and takes into account our growing recreational fishing sector.

Department staff are continuing to monitor oxygen and temperature conditions through the open water season to determine in-lake conditions that result in summer-kill. Lake Whitefish are sensitive to low oxygen and high water temperatures. What we have learned about Pigeon Lake is that it rarely thermally stratifies (water layers acting as barriers to mixing due to temperature differences between layers) which means that there are few thermal refugias in the lake for species like Lake Whitefish to escape warmer water temperatures. In terms of oxygen, there are a number of factors which can lead to reduced oxygen levels in the lake during the summer months. Warmer temperatures reduce the waters capacity to hold oxygen compared to cooler temperatures, while periods with low wind will reduce the capacity of oxygen to diffuse across the lakes surface. In addition, the die off of algae during the summer-fall months results in an increased biological demand for oxygen in the water, further reducing the level in the lake. As such, Lake Whitefish summer kills that occur on Pigeon Lake are not directly linked to the numbers of fish in the Lake, but to the water quality conditions present throughout the summer months.

The commercial fishery on Pigeon Lake did not result in fewer or more summer-kills occurring nor would it have had an effect on numbers of fish that died in a summer kill event. Reduction of density of fish in Pigeon Lake will not serve to improving water quality, in fact if predatory

fish numbers were drastically reduced we would likely see an increase in algal bloom magnitude as there would be more minnows and fewer zooplanktons to consume algae.

I hope this answers your question and provides some information that you can share with your Council.

Council directed Administration to put an excerpt in the mailout to residents as well as post the letter on the website.

G. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Cheque Listing

Res. #15-14

Moved by Councillor Langelle to approve the cheque listing as information.

CARRIED

2. 2015 Budget

A draft 2015 financial plan and budget was reviewed.

H. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. AUMA Board News
2. Alberta Energy Regulator Directive 79/ Abandoned Wells Setbacks

Res. #15-15

Moved by Mayor Fleming to accept the above two items as information.

CARRIED

I. ADJOURNMENT

Res. #15-16

Moved by Mayor Fleming to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 pm.

CARRIED



Don Fleming, Mayor
Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach

Sylvia Roy, CAO
Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach