



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 24, 2020
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Administration Update on COVID 19 Pandemic

Administration advised Council that at this time County operations continue to have been affected very minimally by the COVID-19 pandemic. Precautionary measures continue to keep County staff as safe as possible. The County Service Centre and Public Works office remains closed to the public. Staff continue to remain in the office and can be contacted by phone at the County office at 780-663-3730, or by email at administration@beaver.ab.ca.

Council Update on COVID 19 Pandemic

Council provided an update on the following Committees and how they have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Beaver Municipal Services
- Beaver Emergency Services Commission
- Tofield and Area has a new Physician
- Beaver Foundation
- Beaver Ambulance Society

Battle River School Division – School Closures

Council will forward a letter to the Minister of Education advocating the Minister to intervene regarding Battle River School Divisions' decision to close Holden School and reconfigure Ryley School to kindergarten to grade nine and sending high school students to other schools in the region.

Alberta Education Tax Deferral

Earlier in the year, the Province had announced an increase to the 2020 Education Requisition. The Alberta Government recently announced that it is freezing Education Property Tax in responses to the COVID 19 crisis, at 2019 levels. The government expects municipalities to set education property tax rates on non-residential taxes as they normally would, but defer collection for six months.

Council asked for information how this will affect County taxpayers.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs also suggested municipalities defer collection of municipal taxes on non-residential properties. Details of the tax deferral program may not be known in time for Council discussion at the March 26 Special Council meeting.

Lamont Beaver Inter-Municipal Collaborative Framework

Council approved the Lamont/Beaver Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework dated March 2020.

Ryley Beaver Inter-Municipal Collaborative Framework

Council approved the Cemetery Support agreement with the Village of Ryley and the Ryley/Beaver Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework dated March 2020.

Dust Control Policy and Fee for Services Bylaw – Bylaw 20-1084

Council approved the *Amended Dust Control Policy* with amendments. The proposed *Amended Dust Control Policy* reflected the changes passed at the February 5, 2020, Regular Council meeting, to the Dust Control program as follow:

- *Ratepayer pays 100% of product cost and County covers the remainder in 2020;*
- *Ratepayer pays for 100% of product cost as well as truck and grader time in 2021;*
- *Ratepayer pays full cost recovery amount in 2022*

Council amended Section 4 of the policy with the removal of years 2021 and 2022. The effect of the changes by Council at the meeting is that residents will pay 100% of the cost of the dust control product in 2020.

Council amended the Fee for Services Bylaw – Bylaw 20-1084 to reflect the same amendments that were made to the *Dust Control Policy* with the removal of the years 2021 and 2022. The Bylaw did not pass final reading as the vote for third reading was not unanimous by all of Council.

Gravel Overexpenditure

Due to shrinkage (weight due to moisture), sinking of gravel piles and conversion from area (m³) to weight (tonnes) and other variables at numerous gravel pits and stock piles operated by Beaver County, from 2016 to 2019, there is a gravel overexpenditure of \$347,629.

Council passed a motion approving the gravel overexpenditure of \$347,629.

2019 Year End Surplus

Beaver County's 2019 financial yearend closed with an \$856,693 surplus. The *Operating and Capital Reserves Policy* indicates that a surplus is to be transferred to reserve. Administration recommended to Council that the surplus be directed instead to the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts.

Council passed a motion directing the 2019 yearend surplus to the Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The next Special Council Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2020, commencing at 2:00 pm. Please note this meeting will be conducted via Teleconference. The Public may attend Council Chambers to listen to Council proceedings. Social distancing measures will be implemented and seating limited.

The next Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020, commencing at 8:30 am at the Ryley Community Hall.

For more information, contact Beaver County toll free at 1-866-663-1333 or 780-663-3730.

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