



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 7, 2021
via WEBCONFERENCE - ZOOM**

2020 Yearend Surplus

Council reviewed a report on the 2020 Yearend Surplus. Beaver County's 2020 financial yearend will close with a surplus of \$827,690.

The BESC surplus will be used to reduce the 2021 grant. The balance of the surplus will be transferred to reserve according to Policy.

2021 Budget

Council reviewed the draft 2021 Municipal Budget.

Bylaw 21-1104 – Extension to Reduction of Tax Penalties

Council passed three readings of Bylaw 21-1104 – Extension to Reduction of Tax Penalties

In 2020, Council approved a temporary reduction in the penalty rates for unpaid taxes. The reduction was 50% for each of the penalty dates (November 1 and January 16).

The usual penalty rates are 12% on November 1 on current taxes outstanding, and a further 6% penalty on January 16 on all arrears.

Bylaw 21-1104 extends the 2020 reduction to 6% on November 1, 2021 on current taxes outstanding, and a further 3% penalty on January 16, 2022 on all arrears. The Bylaw is effective for one year only (2021 tax year).

Bylaw 21-1105 – Revised Road Closure Bylaw

Council passed three readings to Bylaw 21-1105 – Revised Road Closure Bylaw.

In 2018, the County received an application to close a portion of Twp Rd 480, located south of the Parrish & Heimbecker (P & H) lands on SE 3-48-13-W4. Second and third reading was passed on August 15, 2018 and no objections arose from the public hearing. The land was sold at market value and the purchaser was responsible for all costs associated with the survey, transfer and consolidation of the road into the adjacent land.

The purchaser recently submitted the documents to Land Titles to register the road closure, but the application was rejected because a subsequent purchase of land for the upgraded road altered the description of the road to be closed.

The Land Titles Office requires an amendment to Bylaw 18-1055 so that the description of the land appears identical to the certificate of title. Revised Bylaw 21-1105 includes the required legal land description as per Land Titles.

Business Incentive Grant Policy

Council passed a motion to approve an amendment to the Business Incentive Grant.

The Business Incentive Grant Policy provides for a 3-year grant to permanent new or expanding commercial or industrial development. The grant amounts are:

Year 1 – 75% of the current year’s municipal tax

Year 2 – 50% of the current year’s municipal tax

Year 3 – 25% of the current year’s municipal tax

Council recently approved a new assessment classification for small business. These businesses could qualify for the Business Incentive Grant if they meet the criteria of the Policy.

The amendment to the Business Incentive Grant Policy includes the new assessment classifications.

2021 Municipal Election

Council passed a motion regarding the 2021 municipal election:

1. That Council not provide for a by-election in the event of the death of a candidate during the 2021 municipal election.
2. That Council not provide for rotational ballots for the 2021 municipal election.
3. That Beaver County provide for voting by special ballot during the 2021 municipal election, that applications for special ballots be made in writing, via fax, or in person, and that applications for special ballots be accepted and received by the Returning Officer until 4:30 pm, Friday, October 15, 2021.
4. That Council not provide for elector assistance at home during the 2021 municipal election.

Ryley Shared Services Agreement

Council reviewed a report regarding the Beaver/Ryley shared services agreements and concerns that were raised by the Village of Ryley.

The shared services agreements provide the framework for the cost-sharing of emergency management services, recreation, and library services throughout the Beaver Region.

The following issues were raised in the Village of Ryley Councils RFD:

1. Handshake Agreement Regarding Change in BESC SSA Formula
2. Breach of the Recreation Shared Services Agreement
3. Holding Shared Services Agreements for “Ransom”
4. County’s “Noose-Tightening” Policy

Council directed Administration to forward a letter to the Village of Ryley, and respond to the misunderstandings that were noted by the Village of Ryley.

Closed Session - Division 2, Section 16 of Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Disclosure Harmful to Business Interests of a Third Party – Request from Bratrud Vac Services

Council passed a motion that Bratrud Vacuum Services be paid \$10,000 for 2020 due to COVID and that contract rate for 2021 be increased to \$3000 per week per campground, to close main public washrooms and to remain responsible for the sanitization of the portable washrooms supplied by D&D Septic for the 2021 camping season

Future Dates

The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021, commencing at 8:30 am, to be conducted via Zoom.

Live Streaming of the meeting is available on the day of the meeting via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJelqBlzpUup4GDeMECLHcQ>

Please note that Council will be meeting via electronic means until the COVID-19 physical distancing requirement has been lifted.

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

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