



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2021**

Bylaw 21-1110 – Surface Drainage Bylaw

The August 18, 2021 public hearing was scheduled to allow input from the public in a virtual format. No one registered to participate in the hearing.

A written comment had been received and was accepted into the public hearing. The comment was a request for Council to consider the Federal Government's *Interim Code of Practice: Beaver Dam Removal* in the Surface Drainage Bylaw.

Council will consider this comment as well as other input at an in-person public hearing scheduled for 9 am, Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at the Ryley Community Centre.

Bylaw 21-1103 – Beaver Emergency Services Commission

When the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) was formed in 2011, the County passed a bylaw to authorize the Commission to provide fire protection and emergency management services within the County.

BESC requested that the County amend the bylaw to more formally recognize its authority to recover response fees, allow BESC to appoint fire guardians, and enact a provision to enable the collection of outstanding fees via the municipality's tax roll.

BESC has a system in place to collect response fees and recover bad debt. Council passed an amended bylaw that addressed formal recognition for recovering response fees and appoint fire guardians, but did not include the collection of outstanding fees via the tax roll.

Rural Subdivision Fire Protection Alternatives

Administration reported on a meeting held with representatives from the Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission and the Beaver Emergency Services Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss options for fire protection in the County's subdivisions (west end of the County).

The options presented were:

- a) Construction of self-contained non-potable water reservoirs in each subdivision;
- b) Placement of additional high-capacity tankers in strategic locations in the County near, or at, truck fills;
- c) Construction of an additional truck fill at or near the Regional Water Commission's "high point" located west of Whispering Hills Estates.

The meeting also included a discussion about enhanced fire protection in the balance of the County. One option presented was the construction of non-potable reservoirs or truck fills for use by BESC or jointly by BESC and landowners.

Council directed administration to include the costs of a feasibility study to identify fire protection alternatives in the rural subdivisions, in the 2022 budget, and explore a partnership with Strathcona County.

Water Management Policies

During its term, Council has approved several changes to the County's water management policies (Overland Drainage Policy, Pest Control Policy, Beaver Control Incentive Program Policy, and a fee for service for beaver dam removal).

Before considering further changes in response to recent public feedback, Council directed administration to prepare a Public Participation Plan for review by the newly-elected Council. The Plan will outline how the issue will be communicated to the public, how input will be sought, and the timeline for participation.

Council also directed administration to expand the scope of the Public Participation Plan to include road maintenance and the levels of service provided by the County.

Dust Control on Range Road 202

Strathcona County has approached the County to share the cost of oiling Range Road 202, south of Secondary Highway 630. Range Road 202 is a boundary road and serves residents of both municipalities.

The County's share of the cost of oiling would be approximately \$27,500.

Council discussed its 5-year road plan (which does not include Range Road 202) and the high level of maintenance that oiled roads require. The County receives very few complaints regarding the dust on Range Road 202 and only one resident participates in the calcium chloride program.

The County's shoulder pull program has begun and calcium chloride applications are part of that project. Council directed administration to offer a calcium chloride application to Strathcona County (at 100% of the product cost) to address their residents' immediate needs, and then discuss options for long-term dust control with Strathcona County in the future.

Council also agreed to offer calcium chloride to Beaver County residents on Range Road 202 in line with the County's annual dust control program (i.e. cost-shared).

Contracted Services

Council discussed with administration, the Purchasing Policy and the manner in which contractors and consultants are awarded projects. Council requested that administration include information about tendering and purchasing opportunities in the newly-elected Council orientation.

Council also requested that an update be provided at the next Council meeting regarding the Corporate Review, including the cost of the project.

Holden Drainage Channel Concerns

Following a Closed Session, Council passed a motion acknowledging the decision of the County's insurance adjuster and that the matter be considered closed.

The next Regular Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021, commencing at 8:30 am.

The meeting will begin at the Ryley Community Centre, where a public meeting will be held regarding the proposed Surface Drainage Bylaw. The balance of the Council meeting will be held in Council Chambers at the County Service Centre.

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