



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2021  
via WEBCONFERENCE - ZOOM**

**Amendment to Payment of Accounts Policy**

Council passed a motion to approve the amended *Payment of Accounts Policy* and *Administrative Procedure*.

The *Payment of Accounts Policy* has been in effect for 8 months and after review by administration to assess whether Policy goals were accomplished and/or whether there were negative or unintended consequences with Policy implementation; changes were recommended to Council.

The *Payment of Accounts Policy* was amended to address the following:

1. Promote a valued relationship with vendors and contractors who do business with the County, most of which are local businesses and/or employ County residents.
2. Reduce red tape – streamline the process for payment of invoices.
3. Balance standard business practices and legislative requirements with a desire to improve cash flow for vendors and contractors.
4. Treat vendors and contractors consistently and fairly.

**Viking Health Foundation – Request for Annual Grant**

In 2013, Council adopted a policy to provide annual financial support to the Tofield and Viking Health Foundations. Council established the amount to be budgeted each year at \$20,000 to be split on a per capita basis for each of the County areas served by the respective foundations. This equates to 64.335% Tofield - 35.665% Viking, or \$12,867 Tofield - \$7,133 Viking.

Council passed a motion approving the 2020 allotment of \$7,133 of Health Foundation grant to the Viking Health Foundation.

**North Saskatchewan River – Canadian Heritage River System Letter of Support**

Smoky Lake County is spearheading an initiative to complete the designation of the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage River System.

Council passed a motion to provide a letter of support to Smoky Lake County to complete the designation of the North Saskatchewan River under the Canadian Heritage River System.

**Letter from Ratepayer Regarding Secondary Highway 870**

Council reviewed correspondence from Mr. Armitage regarding the paving of Secondary Highway 870.

Council passed a motion directing administration to advise Mr. Armitage that Council is lobbying the provincial Government for the paving of Secondary Highway 870 and further that administration follow up with Alberta Transportation regarding paving projects in the area.

#### **Response Regarding Secondary Highway 626**

In October 2020, Council forwarded a letter to MLA Jackie Lovely regarding the paving of Secondary Highway 626, between the Town of Tofield and Central Beaver County north of Rley. MLA Lovely forwarded the letter to the Minister of Transportation, Honourable Ric McIver. Council reviewed the response received from Honourable Ric McIver advising that he recognizes that paving the remaining portion of Secondary Highway 626 is important, however there are approximately 4,000 km of gravel highways in Alberta, as well as other Provincial road projects etc. With limited funding and based on traffic volumes the paving of the remaining portion of Secondary Highway 626 is not on the current three-year Provincial Construction Program.

#### **MNP LLP – 2020 Financial Audit Plan**

Benji Waser and Tanner Bowers, MNP LLP, attended the meeting and reviewed the 2020 Financial Audit Plan.

#### **Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission – Increase to Urban Monthly Fixed Charge**

Council reviewed a notice from the Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission advising that urban monthly fixed charge will increase from \$28.40 to \$40.80 effective February 1, 2021. As well the urban commodity flow rate will increase from \$3.695 to \$3.7555 per cubic meter.

#### **Rural Municipalities of Alberta – Members Survey**

Council completed a Rural Municipalities of Alberta Members Survey on Board Governance.

#### **Closed Session**

#### **Division 2, Section 16 of Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Disclosure Harmful to Business Interests of Third Party – Universal Broadband Fund**

Council passed a motion to advise the Federal Government that Beaver County prefers not to apply for the current UBF fund application dates in 2021, and does not select either of the two submitted proposals, as they prefer to let private applications be submitted for Beaver County; as well Beaver County has provided letters of supports for two private applicants

Council directed Administration that a letter be sent to MP Kurek asking if there will be future intake dates to the UBF, as County Council does not wish to compete with private applications in the 2021 UBF application process.

#### **Division 2, Section 17 of Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Disclosure Harmful to Personal Privacy (Personnel) - Viking/Beaver Family Community Support Services Public At Large Member Appointment**

Council passed a motion appointing Debbie Oracheski, as the Viking/Beaver County Public-at-Large Member, representing the Kinsella area, with the term expiring October 31, 2021.

The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 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.***

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