



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2021  
via WEBCONFERENCE - ZOOM**

**2021 Capital Purchases**

Council passed a motion approving the early purchase of the following 2021 capital items:

1. Thumb for Track Hoe
2. 2 Pickup Trucks
3. Rubber tire Backhoe
4. Exhaust Fan for Welding Bay in Shop

**Provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) Application and Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC) Application**

The Alberta Government introduced in 2018, the PERC for uncollected education property taxes on oil and gas properties. A year later, the Alberta Government also introduced the DIRC for uncollected DIP requisition taxes for the cost of preparing the assessment. These two (2) programs assist municipalities to manage undue hardship experienced as a result of uncollectable education property taxes and uncollectable DIP requisition taxes related to oil and gas properties.

These programs provide municipalities with a credit, equal to the Provincial education requisition and the Provincial DIP requisition associated with taxable properties that are delinquent in payment of education and DIP requisition taxes. No credit is given for uncollectible municipal or seniors' foundation taxes.

Council passed a motion that the 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 property taxes in arrears in the amount of \$518,054.97 be cancelled for all properties as registered to accounts on Attachment B, and an application be made for these properties to the Provincial Education Refund Credit and the Designated Industrial Requisition Credit for the Uncollected Education Property Taxes of \$45,818.40 and the Uncollected Designated Industrial Requisition Taxes of \$990.94 on Oil and Gas Properties program for the amount of \$46,809.34 combined.

**Campground Financials & Survey**

At the November 5, 2020, Regular Council meeting, Council passed a motion directing Administration to develop a Public Engagement Strategy for campgrounds to consist of a public survey.

The survey was posted to the end of December 31, 2020; a total of 331 responses were received.

Council reviewed the survey responses and the Campground financial reports.

Council passed a motion that Council accept the survey and financial report for information and further that operations of the Campgrounds continue as per status quo for 2021.

### **2021 Battle River School Division School Elections**

Battle River School Division (BRSD) has requested that Beaver County conduct the school board election throughout the County, including within the towns and villages. The towns and villages have agreed to partner with the County to conduct the election within their jurisdictions.

If the County conducts the school board election for BRSD, the vote will be held in conjunction with the voting stations already designated for the municipal election. If no municipal election is required in a division, a voting station will still be established for the school election.

Based on an estimate of election costs at this time, BRSD's share will be \$1000 per voting station (total of \$8000). If a municipal Councillor is acclaimed, the fee will be \$1000 or the actual cost, whichever is greater.

Council passed a motion authorizing administration to execute an agreement between Beaver County and the Battle River School Division for election services for the 2021 school board election.

### **Bylaw 21-1100 – Election Nomination Deposit**

Bylaw 685 was passed in 1992 to provide for an election nomination deposit. The Bylaw also provided for the methods by which nomination deposits would be accepted (cash, certified cheque, cash order, money order), and the conditions under which deposits would be returned to candidates.

The Local Authorities Election Act legislates the methods by which nomination deposits are accepted (cash, certified cheque, money order) and the conditions under which deposits are returned to candidates. Recently, the Minister of Municipal Affairs amended the Act to expand payment options (debit or credit card) for the 2021 election. Administration recommended that Bylaw 685 be repealed entirely and replaced with a Bylaw 21-1100 that deals only with the amount of the nomination deposit

Council passed three readings of Bylaw 21-1100.

### **Funding Request from Bathgate Water Cooperative**

Council approved the disbursement of \$50,000 from the Clean Harbors' grant (in reserve) to the Friends of Ryley School Society for a playground at Ryley School. The grant is a collaborative funding project between Clean Harbors, Beaver County and the Bathgate Coop.

### **Action Item List Clean Up**

There are a number of items on the Action List that have been substantially completed, are stale dated, or have become redundant by subsequent Council decisions.

Council passed a motion to delete the items from the Updated Action Item List as recommended by administration.

### **Future Water Supply**

Council discussed the recent decision of the Provincial government to revoke a coal policy from 1976 that blocked development on some parts of the eastern slopes of the Rockies and tightly restricted it elsewhere and the impacts on future water supplies. Council specifically discussed the impact this may

have on the regional waster supply, which is supplied by Epcor and is sourced from the North Saskatchewan River.

### **Closed Session**

#### **Division 2, Section 21 of Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Disclosure Harmful to Intergovernmental Relations – Beaver Emergency Services Commission – Shared Services Agreement**

Council passed a motion that the Beaver Emergency Services Commission Shared Services Agreement include a provision that a member municipality be charged a late payment or vendor charges for lack of payment of their annual grant if they have not invoked a dispute resolution process.

The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 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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[www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)