



**COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 3, 2021  
via WEBCONFERENCE - ZOOM**

**Bylaw 21-1101 – Assessment Classifications**

Council passed all 3 readings of Bylaw 21-1101 that introduced a small business assessment classification.

With respect to the small business classification, the Municipal Government Act provides some eligibility criteria, although municipalities have been given the flexibility to determine whether vacant land will be included in the small business classification, the number of employees across Canada that will constitute a small business (any number fewer than 50), and the tax rate to be set for the small business class (up to 25% less than other non-residential property).

Administration recommended the following eligibility criteria:

1. Small business must be in possession of a valid development (business) permit,
2. Small business must employ fewer than 50 full-time employees across Canada, with full-time status defined as a minimum of 35 hours per week,
3. Employee count will be determined as of December 31 of the year prior to the year of taxation,
4. A property which carries out more than one business on the property will be considered one business for the purposes of determining the number of full-time employees and the value of the assessment.
5. Vacant land will not be eligible.
6. Business owners must make application for the classification by December 31 of the year prior to the year of taxation. Post-marked applications will not be accepted. Due to the delay in preparing this bylaw, applications for the 2021 tax year will be accepted on or before March 31, 2021 (post-marked applications will not be accepted).

Based on the above criteria, a preliminary review of the County's assessment base suggests that \$26 million of assessment may be subject to the small business mill rate. Council will determine the mill rate at a later date, but if the maximum reduction (25%) is approved, the loss in taxes could be \$120,000. A better estimate will be available once all the eligible application forms are processed.

**Email Regarding Range Road 202**

Council reviewed an email from a resident on Range Road 202 between Township 502 and 504, requesting that Council consider paving the two mile stretch of road between Township Road 504 and 510. Or that Council consider allowing the ratepayers the option to continue to pay for dust control at a 50/50 cost share (or even a different cost share split) with the County.

### **Dust Control Policy**

Council approved the amended Dust Control Policy, specifically guideline #4 regarding Short-Term Applications.

The amendment removes the bullet in guideline #4 Short-Term Applications:

- *2020 - Ratepayer pays 100% of product cost and County covers the remainder.*

Council passed a motion that administration bring back the Fee for Services Bylaw to the February 17, 2021 meeting for review in regards to the Dust Control Fees.

### **Secondary Highway 870**

Council passed a motion that Council support Reeve Kallal in forwarding letters in regards to paving Secondary Highway 870 to affected stakeholders and canvassing political partners.

### **Letter from M.D. of Bonnyville re: Federation of Municipalities**

Council reviewed a letter from the M.D. of Bonnyville regarding the need for stronger a Western Canadian Municipal Advocate.

Council passed a motion to respond to the M.D. of Bonnyville's letter, providing answers to their questions, as presented.

### **Response from Minister McIver regarding Highway 14 Twinning Request**

Council reviewed a letter from the Minister of Transportation, Ric McIver, advising that he had received the County's letter of December 8, 2020, requesting the twinning of Highway 14.

Minister McIver advised that while Highway 14 is an important link in the provincial highway network and that traffic has increased in the recent years, the traffic volumes are not at the numbers to warrant twinning.

Council passed a motion directing administration to invite Mr. Mike Damberger, Regional Director, Alberta Transportation, to a future Council meeting.

### **Whistle Cessation**

Councillor Bruce advised that Omar Alghabra is the new Federal Minister of Transportation.

Council passed a motion to invite the Federal Minister of Transportation to a future Council meeting to discuss the County's Whistle Cessation applications.

### **Wild Oats and Notes**

Council reviewed a letter from the Wild Oats and Notes Society and received the letter as information.

The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 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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