



**COUNCIL MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS
REGULAR MEETING
April 6, 2022**

Alberta Community Partnership Grant Assessment (ACP)

Beaver County employed a municipal intern – finance stream – from May 2021 to April 2022 through the Municipal Internship Program offered by Municipal Affairs. An opportunity was available to extend the time to a second year until April 2023. The intern and the County mutually agreed to extend the time frame. Having a finance intern has proven beneficial to both the County and to the intern.

Municipal Affairs, through the ACP Grant Program, will assist the County with the cost of hosting an intern in the amount of \$20,000. A conditional grant agreement is required to define roles, responsibilities, and reporting.

Council passed a motion approving the execution of the Alberta Community Partnership Conditional Grant Agreement for the municipal intern 2022/2023 program.

Budget 2022 – Mill Rate Options

Council reviewed a sampling of properties in various assessment classifications and the impact on property taxes for the following options:

Option 1: 0% municipal mill rate increase

Option 2: 2.773% municipal mill rate increase

Option 3: 3.5% municipal mill rate increase

Option 4: 1 mill increase on farmland only

Option 5: 2.773% municipal mill rate increase, plus 1 mill increase on farmland

Council passed a motion directing administration to prepare a mill rate bylaw for the 2022 tax year with a 2.773 % increase to the general municipal mill rate. To review the impact on a sampling of rural properties for each of these options, go to www.beaver.ab.ca.

Bylaw 22-1121 – Extension to Temporary Reduction in Tax Penalty Rates

In 2020 and 2021, Council approved temporary reductions in the penalty rates for unpaid taxes by way of bylaw. The reductions were 50% for each of the penalty dates (6% on November 1 and an additional 3% on January 16).

Council passed three readings of Bylaw 22-1121 extending the reduction for the 2022 tax year for one year only.

2022 Cement Contract

Council passed a motion to accept the bid received from Lafarge Canada Inc. in the amount of \$388,416.00 (plus GST) for the supply and application of portland cement in the base stabilization process of the County's 2022 chip-sealed roads.

2022 Chip Seal Contract

Council passed a motion to accept the bid received from Ant Construction Ltd in the amount of \$790,960.00 (plus GST) for the supply and application of 2022 Graded Aggregate Seal Coat (Chip Seal).

RFP For Engineering Services

Council had directed administration to post a Request for Proposal for engineering services. Six bid packages were received.

Council passed a motion to accept the bid received from WSP Canada Inc for the County's engineering services and enter into a three-year letter of understanding with an option to renew for two additional years.

Administration would like to begin work immediately with WSP to assist with development of the County's 5-year road plan and the Road Construction Priorities Policy. A road study in some key areas would provide background and rationale for the plan and policy and cost estimates are needed for development of the budget and 5-Year Financial Plan.

Council passed a motion to authorize WSP Canada Inc to conduct a road study in key areas of the County, including cost estimates, with the intent to plan for the repair/reconstruction of the County's challenging roads.

Low Boy Trailer

Council approved the purchase of one new 2023 Deloupe 55t hydraulic tilt axle trailer from Hayworth Equipment Sales Inc. for a cost of \$147,500 plus GST.

2022 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Salary Grid Review

The last COLA provided to staff was in 2020 in the amount of 1%. Administration conducted a survey of the COLAs approved by the County's urban and rural neighbours as well as the Beaver Emergency Services Commission, Beaver Foundation, and Claystone Waste. The span of time used was the last 4 years (the term of the previous Council). The survey indicates that the County has not kept pace with the increases given in the other municipalities/organizations and COLA is warranted.

The Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) reviewed the survey results in Closed Session and recommended that Council consider a cost-of-living adjustment in 2022.

Council passed a motion to consider a cost-of-living adjustment in the 2022 budget deliberations.

A non-union salary survey was conducted by an independent consultant in 2015 (effective January 1, 2016). A subsequent salary grid review began as an internal review in 2019 but required a thorough comparison of position responsibilities to ensure fairness and equity. In light of the fiscal environment at that time, Council deferred further work on the review to the Fall of 2020. The review was never completed.

A salary grid review is overdue. The Corporate Governance Review noted this situation and recommended that to maintain employee morale, competitiveness, and meet the current economic standards, a salary grid review be conducted. The Governance and Priorities Committee recommended that an independent review of both non-union positions and Council remuneration be conducted in 2022.

Following a Closed Session, Council passed a motion authorizing administration to conduct an independent review of the union and non-union salary grids and Council remuneration in 2022, taking into consideration regional and neighbouring municipalities.

Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer

Council passed a motion appointing Kayleena Spiess as its Chief Administrative Officer to carry out the powers, duties, and functions of the position of Chief Administrative Officer, effective April 19, 2022. Council also passed a motion to enter into an employment agreement with Kayleena Spiess as the County's Chief Administrative Officer, effective April 19, 2022.

Representative to Veterans Memorial Highway Association

The Veterans Memorial Highway Association was organized in 1999 as a lobby group of participating municipalities for the use, safety, and improvement of Highway 36 as the major north/south corridor in Eastern Alberta from the American border to Fort McMurray.

The mandate of the Association is to promote the use, improvement, and safety of Highway 36 as a north/south corridor for economic development, tourism, and trade from the U.S. border to Fort McMurray.

Beaver County did not appoint a representative to the Veterans Memorial Highway Association at the October 2021 Organizational meeting as the Association appeared to be inactive at the time.

Carol Thomson, Economic Development Officer, Paintearth County, advised that the Association was inactive in 2020/21 due to COVID and also had experienced some challenges with Board turnover. The Association is now meeting on a regular basis and the next regular meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2022. Elroy Yakemchuk of Two Hills County is the Chairman of the Association.

Council passed a motion appointing Cr. Pederson as Beaver County's representative to the Veterans Memorial Highway Association.

Holden Charter School

Council passed a motion to provide financial support to the Holden Rural Academy Society in the amount of \$30,000 from the Claystone Waste Good Neighbour Grant.

Campground Tender

At the March 17, 2022, Regular Council Meeting, Council passed motion #22-115 which authorized administration to enter into a contract with H.Y. Cleaning Services to operate/host Camp Lake and Black Nugget Lake Campgrounds for the 2022 - 2024 camping seasons. H.Y. Cleaning Services notified the County that they would no longer be able to fulfill the contract.

Council passed a motion to rescind motion #22-115 and subsequently passed motions authorizing administration to negotiate contracts for the operation/hosting of Camp Lake campground for the 2022-2024 seasons with Torpy Services, and for the operation/hosting of Nugget Lake campground for the 2022-2024 seasons with Vincent and Colleen Jensen.

Alberta Provincial Police Service

Council passed a motion authorizing the Reeve to respond to the Vegreville News Advertiser's inquiry and indicate that Council takes no position regarding the proposed Alberta Provincial Policing service at this time.

Interim CAO Contract

Council passed a motion to provide notice to Rick McDonald that his contract as the Interim CAO will be concluded effective April 27, 2022.

The next Regular Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday,
April 20, 2022, commencing at 9:30 am.

The next Regular Governance & Priorities Committee meeting has been scheduled for
Wednesday, April 27, 2022, commencing at 1:00 pm

For more information, contact Beaver County toll free at 1-866-663-1333 or 780-663-3730.
Did you know...our website is a useful way to get the information you need.
www.beaver.ab.ca
