



**COUNCIL MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 17, 2022**

Public Hearing – Bylaw 21-1114 – Road Closure Bylaw – Township Road 502

Council conducted a public hearing to hear arguments for or against the proposed temporary closure and lease of all that portion of East-West Government Road Allowance adjacent to the north boundary of the N.E. ¼ Section 12 Township 50 Range 18 West of the Fourth Meridian.

Administration provided an overview of the Bylaw 21-1114 – Road Closure Bylaw – Township Road 502 as follows:

At the November 17, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council passed first reading of Bylaw 21-1114 to close Township Road 502, west of Range Road 180. The road allowance currently dead ends at the applicant's driveway and is the sole access to their property. The applicants would like to close this road allowance as there is no through access for the general public and the closure would help to prevent the public from trespassing onto their private property.

During the initial referral process, Alberta Transportation identified a concern regarding the existing north Township Road 502 access off of Highway 14. This access was inspected by Alberta Transportation and they deemed it unsafe, and if no lands to the north currently need this access, then the department will remove it.

Administration has been in contact with the landowner to the north, and they have confirmed that they use the existing highway access for farm operations. Due to the waterway going through their property, the south half of their land is not accessible from the north and they use the highway access to gain access to their cattle. Moreover, if Township Road 502 is closed they would require an additional access point off Range Road 180 due to both the existing waterway and fence line going through their property.

Alberta Transportation has agreed to keep the existing Township Road 502 access off Highway 14 open, but only if the road closure is changed to a temporary closure and leased from the County. This would allow the applicant to put up a gate or signs stating 'no trespassing' but leave the option to have the road allowance remain a public access in future if needed. In turn, if the proposal is a temporary closure for lease, Alberta Transportation may erect a 'dead end' or 'no access' sign.

The applicant has agreed to change their road closure request from a road closure consolidation to a temporary road closure and has agreed to pay for the construction of an approach for the north landowners for an additional access point off RR 180. The landowner to the north has approved of these changes and no longer has concerns. Administration amended road closure Bylaw 21-1114 to reflect these changes.

After the Public Hearing was closed, and Council passed motions to amend the bylaw to a temporary road closure for the purpose of leasing.

The road closure Bylaw 21-1114 will now be referred to Alberta Transportation for approval prior to 2nd and 3rd readings.

Bylaw 22-1120 – Surface Drainage Bylaw

At the September 1, 2021, Special Council meeting. County Council approved Surface Drainage Bylaw 21-1110 to enable the County to investigate drainage-related complaints wherever the County has jurisdiction over drainage and waterbodies. This applies primarily to the registered subdivisions in Divisions 1 and 2.

The Bylaw provides for the following:

- a) prohibits the alteration of the surface elevation or grade of any property (public or private) if such work creates a nuisance or danger, adversely affects the stability of a slope, alters an on-site storm water management system, or alters the elevation of an adjacent property.
- b) restricts naturally occurring drainage features or easements from being filled, drained, or redirected.
- c) provides the authority for a Designated Officer to inspect a property, although inspection activities are subject to the Municipal Government Act, which requires proper notice and consent of the landowner.
- d) includes enforcement provisions, such as tickets and fines, or the issuance of a Stop Order to require that the landowner return the property to its proper drainage pattern.

The County's Community Peace Officer reviewed the Bylaw with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). AEP provided the following comments:

1. The definition of "Lot" (Section 2(h)) includes "a quarter section", which is under AEP's jurisdiction. AEP is concerned that there may be confusion related to enforcement action under Section 25, which refers to a "Lot".
2. Section 5 restricts anyone from filling, draining, redirecting, or otherwise altering any surface drainage feature, watercourse, or wetland area without written authorization from the CAO and AEP. AEP is concerned that there may be confusion that the CAO has authority to permit alterations on land which is under AEP's jurisdiction.

Council acknowledged these concerns and passed three readings of Bylaw 22-1120 (repealing the previous bylaw) to clarify the jurisdictional issues

Bylaw 22-1119 Procedural Bylaw

At the March 2, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Council passed first reading of Bylaw 22-1119, Procedural Bylaw.

Bylaw 22-1119 includes amendments as follows:

1. Introduction of Consent Agendas for disposition of agenda items which do not require Council discussion or debate. Consent Agendas will enable the efficient handling of routine items and provide Council will additional time to discuss priority items.
2. A rescinding motion will require a Notice of Motion before being considered by Council.
3. Change to the Council meeting commencement time to 9:30 am.
4. Limit the distribution of Council agenda packages to electronic means. Paper copies will no longer be provided. Provide for the distribution of background information for Closed Session discussions in advance of the meeting when additional time is required for Council to review the information.
5. Provide for discussion and debate on a bylaw after first reading (instead of after second reading).
6. Provide for background information related to Closed Session Agenda items to be distributed separately and in a secure manner with the Agenda.

Council considered and approved the following additional amendments

1. Clarify that tabling motions are not debatable.
2. Clarify the contact information required when a person submits correspondence to Council.

Council passed second and third reading of Bylaw 22-1119, as amended.

Community Supports Requests

Council passed a motion that Council approve the following Community Support Grants:

1. Community Support operating grant of \$2500 to Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
2. Community Support capital grant of \$2500 to Friends of Saint John the Baptist Church Society.
3. Community Support capital grant of \$2500 to Holden Agricultural Society.
4. Community Support operating grant of \$2500 to the Holden Junior Cattlemen Society.
5. Community Support capital grant of \$2500 to the Tofield 1988 Curling Club.
6. Community Support operating grant of \$2500 to the Tofield Golden Club.
7. Community Support capital grant of \$2500 to the Viking Community Wellness Society.

Camp Lake and Black Nugget Lake Campgrounds

Operator/hosts are needed for the operation and maintenance of Camp Lake & Black Nugget Lake campgrounds. The County received five tenders, the tenders were ranked and H.Y. Cleaning Services received the highest score.

Following a recorded vote, Council passed a motion that Council authorize administration to enter into a contract with H.Y. Cleaning Services as operators/hosts for both campgrounds for 2022 - 2024 camping seasons.

Rural Emergency Medical Services Challenges

At the March 14, 2022, Mayors/Reeves Liaison Committee Meeting, Stettler County Reeve Larry Clarke tabled the issue of rural emergency medical services challenges. The discussion by the Committee members brought to light the many challenges that municipalities are facing with respect to the provision of emergency medical services from contract extensions, aging ambulances, and lack of ambulance availability.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta President, Paul McLauchlin, advised that a Committee had been formed by the RMA and tasked with providing advice to the Minister of Health on solutions to challenges facing Alberta's emergency medical services system. The Committee is to provide recommendations to the Minister by May 2022. President McLauchlin requested that rural municipalities forward their concerns in writing to the RMA as soon as possible so that they may be considered by the Committee.

Council passed a motion authorizing the Reeve to forward a letter to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta regarding the following rural emergency medical services challenges:

1. Ambulance availability within the region due to the Provincial dispatch service methodology;
2. Delays in acquiring new ambulances;
3. Provincial contract extensions with little increase in financial compensation;
4. Impact on fire protection services.

Lamont County – Challenge to Match Support for Ukraine Humanitarian Aid

During the March 8, 2022 Lamont County Council meeting, Lamont County approved a donation of \$5000 to the Canada Ukraine Foundation in support of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and challenged municipalities within and surrounding Lamont County to donate in a similar fashion.

Council passed a motion to match the challenge issued by Lamont County and donate \$5000 to the Canada Ukraine Foundation and present the cheque personally to the County of Lamont.

The next Regular Council Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday,
April 6, 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.

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