

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
BEAVER COUNTY SEED CLEANING CO-OP
Held at 7 p.m. on
Thursday, February 1, 2024
at the Holden Complex
COFFEE & DONUTS WILL BE PROVIDED

Serving all the farms, ranches,
acreages and towns in
Beaver County

Bruce, Holden,
Kinsella
Ryley, Tofield, Viking

The Beaver County Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, Volume 17, Issue 04



Cargill closing Viking facility as of Jan. 31

Patricia Harcourt

After serving the community for many years, Cargill Ltd. is closing its doors for good as of Jan. 31. The closure of the crop input facility and grain elevator will result in the loss of four jobs for the community, as well as business from area producers.

"Four positions were impacted by the closure," stated Bridget Christensen, Cargill spokesperson. "Employees were given two months working notice, offered severance and encouraged to reapply to open positions within Cargill."

She added: "Impacted employees also have been provided access to career transition services."

The reason for the closure is unclear; however, Christensen said it

occurred following a review process. "We continually evaluate our assets to ensure they are safe and provide the best efficiency and value," explained Christensen. "As part of that review process, the decision was made to close Cargill's facility."

Once the doors close at the end of the month, the next step has yet to be determined. "The future of the facility has yet to be determined," she said.

It was the second to operate as a Cargill elevator in Viking over the years, with the first facility sold 14 years ago.

In 2010, the smaller of the company's two grain elevators was sold to Providence Grain Solutions. Providence bought Cargill's Viking 'B' concrete elevator, which was located on CN track off Highway 14.



Cargill kept its "Viking West elevator" located half a mile north at the junction of Highways 14 and 36. Christensen said Cargill acquired the current facility, now slated for closure, from Agricore United (now part of Viterra) "sometime in the 2000s."

The closure of this second facility will end Cargill's involvement in the grain industry in Viking and area.

"Farmers that typically delivered to Viking will now have the choice to deliver to Camrose or Vermilion," Christensen said.

County looks to upcoming conventions to garner support

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County is once again looking to future meetings to garner support for projects and gain learning opportunities.

Discussion at the Jan. 17 council meeting centred on possible opportunities to meet officials and provincial ministers at upcoming events.

Most importantly would be the Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) spring convention to be held March 18-20 in Edmonton.

Councillors agreed meeting with Minister of Municipal Affairs Ric McIver was opportune for the county.

Council discussed the need to bring a list of topics, including the issue of the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) as sug-

gested by Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) and Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2).

Williams noted that "some municipalities are not happy with" the program, but Beaver isn't in that position.

"ABmunis helped the government "design and finalize the creation of Alberta's newest municipal infrastructure program," according to its website but is not positive about the change in programs from MSI.

LGFF replaces the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) for capital funding to help municipalities with maintaining, improving or developing infrastructure in provincial municipalities.

Beaver County has a more positive attitude towards the new program.

"We probably came out with a win with LGFF," said Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3)."

After receiving LGFF funds from the province prior to 2024, the county saved part of it for future needs, he said: "We couldn't get all we wanted but we're okay with it... We came out ahead from where we expected."

Other issues that council could talk about while meeting with ministers at the convention was funding for libraries, the need for an assessment model review, long term grant funding, water management as it relates to agriculture, and water supply as it relates to the county's economic development needs.

"That's plenty for a 15-minute window," said Reeve Smook, referring to the length of time the meet-

ing would be with the minister.

CAO Kayleena Spiess suggested the meeting with McIver start on a positive note using the county's successes as an opener. "Ministers like that," she said.

And Williams suggested also discussing the LGFF on a positive note. "We should tell them it's okay for Beaver County," he said.

Reeve Smook agreed, stating the change to LGFF "could have been worse, it's a good thing to open with."

Other conventions discussed as opportune times for meeting officials included the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies (ASSST) in Edmonton Feb. 1-3, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in Calgary June 6-9.



SEEKING CONTRACTORS

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- RFP2024-01INFR – Black Nugget Lake (BNL) & Camp Lake (CL) Campground Operation and Maintenance
 - Closes Feb 5, 2024 – Beaver County is looking for campground hosts who will both operate and maintain BNL and CL campgrounds.
- RFQ2024-02INFR – Landflood & Beaver Control Services
 - Closes Feb 5, 2024 – Beaver County is looking to obtain contracted services for Landflood and Beaver control.
- RFQ2024-03INFR – Dust Control Suppressant & Winter Sand Mixing
 - Closes Jan 29, 2024 – Beaver County is seeking suppliers who can provide dust control suppressant and winter sand mixing services.

Please find complete information for all requests on our website > Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes



CALLING ALL SKILLED TRADES!

Beaver County invites your organization to join our Approved Contractor List! Your organization can apply for pre-approval by completing the form found on our website under Business > Requests for Proposals & Quotes (or scan the QR code above) and sending it to infrastructure@beaver.ab.ca to be considered for future work.



Council Meeting Highlights - January 17, 2024

Policy & Bylaw Changes

Council rescinded the relevant existing policies, and approved new policies as follows: Policy #CORP-019 – Payment of Accounts, Policy #CORP-006 – Cash Control, Policy #CORP-022 – Purchasing, Policy #PD-008 – Verification of Compliance, Policy #CMM-003 – Proclamations, Policy #GOV-001 – Acknowledgement of Treaty Six, Policy #HR-009 – Employee Total Compensation.

Council passed all three readings of Bylaw #23-1147 – Revolving Line of Credit, as well as all three readings of Bylaw #23-1145 – Fees, Rates & Charges.

Tofield & Area Health Foundation

Council approved a grant of \$13,200 to the Tofield and Area Health Foundation.

The March 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting was moved to March 27, 2024, to allow Council and Administration to attend the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Spring Convention.

Administration and Councillor Activity Reports

Council received the activity reports provided by Administration. Each Councillor also gave their own report of meetings and events attended in the past month, including: Veterans Highway Association, Joint Council Meeting, Beaver Emergency Services Commission, Beaver Foundation, Tofield Inter-Municipal Collaboration, Holden Seed Cleaning Plant, Beaver Emergency Medical Services, NSWA (North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance), Tofield Winterfest, Minister Ric McIver and Town of Tofield meeting, Minister Rick Wilson - Open House, Meals on Wheels, Beaver County Victim Services, Beaver Regional Partnership Meeting.

For more information on items discussed at the Council Meeting, please review the Agenda Package for this meeting on the County website. New and/or amended Policies and Bylaws are uploaded to the website after they have been signed.



Claystone

Waste Ltd

Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:

50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0
 Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;
 Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays
NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;
 Administration building
 Mon to Fri 8:00am – 4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 – 1:00pm
 Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

Lindbrook Transfer Station:

51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704
 Tues 10:30am – 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am – 6:30pm;
 Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

Tofield Transfer Station:

51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731
 Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

Viking Transfer Station:

12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956
 Tues 10:30am – 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

Kinsella Transfer Station:

46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802
 Wed 11:00am – 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am – 5:00pm

Please note: All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.



Holden Steak Nite



Saturday, January 27, 2024 @

5PM to 7:30PM

Featuring:

Chicken Wings and Ribs (only) with Buffet
 \$30 per plate

For more information

Please contact Lucy Upham: 780-781-6014



*** We apologize for the menu change***

Due to unforeseen circumstances we moved the Ribs and Wings Nite ahead one month.

Next Steak Nite: Saturday, Feb 24, 2024,





IMPORTANT DATES

January 18th:

- 3 PM: Agricultural Service Board Meeting

February 7th:

- 9:30 AM: Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

February 21st:

- 9:30 AM: Regular Council Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Book Club - February 6th

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month.
Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!



Darts Night - Wednesday evenings at the Ryley Legion

7:30 PM- 10:00 PM
Legion membership not required, and all skills levels welcome! Darts available to lend if needed.

Food for Thought - Give a Can Today - Food Drive

Tofield-Ryley Food Bank desperately needs cans of fruit.
Call 780-662-3511 and leave a message if you wish to donate - a volunteer will return your call.

Caregivers Drop-In Group - January 30, 10 AM - Noon. Viking Seniors Centre. For more info contact Viking/Beaver FCSS at 780-336-4024

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.
<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3/>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to our events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, scroll down to the calendar, click to view all events, then hit the **Submit an event button!**



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We're looking for some dynamic, motivated team members to join our team! What's your superpower?!

- **Administrative Assistant - Floater**
- **Assistant Agricultural Fieldman - Agricultural Services**
- **Project Coordinator - ERP Finance**
- **Seasonal Crew Member - Agricultural Services**

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers

SCAN ME!



IS IT TIME TO UPGRADE YOUR SKILLS?

GET STARTED WITH CALP



CALL
780 663 3732

EMAIL
CALP@BEAVER.AB.CA

CALP ALSO OFFERS

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PATHWAYS TO EARNING YOUR GED

Community Adult Learning Program

APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0004
Applicant MAGA Energy Ltd.
Landowner BCR Farms Ltd.
Location Plan 212 2928; Block 1; Lot 3 located in NE-15-51-19-W4
Development Discretionary Use – Natural Resource Extraction Uses and General Industrial Uses – Type II – Four (4) Natural Gas Generators combined capacity of 990 kW (sea cans - each being 1.5m x 2.4m) and One (1) Data Processing Facility (sea can - 2.4m x 12.4m) – added to existing wellsite with well and compressor

APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0005
Applicant Fluent Solar
Landowner Gordon Aitken and Darlene Svendsen
Location Plan 782 2988; Block 4; Lot 2 located in NE-27-50-20-W4
Development Discretionary Use – Solar Collector, Roof Mount (336.29 ft² in area to be mounted on existing garage)

APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0003
Applicant Brent Picard (Ammomento)
Landowner Hubert and Julie Giese
Location Plan 752 0508; Block ; Lot 7 located in NW-32-50-20-W4
Development Discretionary Use – General Commercial Use – 12' x 36' pole shed within a 23m x 22m outdoor handgun/pistol shooting range with 10m in height berm and minimum 8' in height perimeter fence

APPEAL DEADLINE FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-24-D0006
Applicant Brian Hrabec
Landowner Hrabec Farms Ltd.
Location NW-18-50-15-W4
Development Discretionary Use – Second or Additional Dwellings (3,594 sq.ft. two-story house with attached garage)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found our our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**



Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.

2023 IN REVIEW

Find it on our website, under the Government menu. Printed copies are now available in the office!



Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Beaver Council grants Tofield Health Foundation \$13,200 in support for 2024

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council approved a grant of \$13,290 to the Tofield and Area Health Services Foundation at council's regular January 17 meeting.

Council had awarded a grant to the Viking Health Foundation of \$6,800 in December. The amounts are based on population figures for each service area. Tofield service area has 66% of the county's population and gets the larger share of the funding due to this factor. Viking service area has 34% of the population, based on 2023 census figures.

The funds stem from a \$20,000 amount set aside for helping the two foundations representing hospitals on either end of the county - Tofield in the west and Viking in the east.

Both foundations must provide a copy of financial statements and projects to be used by the county grant money.

Tofield's foundation provided a list of projects that have been accomplished since their report last year, including the purchase of a Smart Drive power assist for increased mobility for \$8,000; a large top load washer for long term care for \$3,500; a medication cart with locked meds

New policy gives county admin. purchasing authority up to \$75,000

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council passed a new policy at the Jan. 17 regular meeting that gives administration purchasing authority for any items with a cost of up to \$75,000.

Anything over \$75,000 must be brought to council for approval.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kayleena Spiess told council she had the authority to approve a \$50,000 purchase, for example, but offered to consult with council on larger purchases such as these.

In that way, she could keep council "in the loop" on purchases made by administration, she said.

"Over \$75,000 it comes to council for approval," she said. The new policy is designed to increase efficiency and streamline the process, she added.

"The main purpose of this policy is to allow administration to purchase assets in a fair, ethical, and legal manner and provide competitive pricing for the county," stated Ryan Arndt, general manager of corporate services.

"Administration aims to find the best value for Beaver County while

drawer and internet capacity for \$8,500; a transfer cart used in conjunction with the medication cart for \$4,700; a bath chair used with a lift to assist long term care residents for \$2,500 and Phase 2 of the transformation project in long term care for \$29,971.

"Many of the items we've purchased over the past few years are featured in the Health Foundation calendar we created for 2024," stated foundation Chair Brenda Chehade, in her letter to council.

"In addition, our Health Foundation partnered with the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and the Community Attraction and Retention Committee to host a High School Skills Day at the Ryley Community Centre, giving students a taste of what to expect if they pursue a career in health care," she said.

"Our board also participated in a Strategic Planning Day to help determine the future direction of our Foundation," Chehade added.

The foundation's stated mission was "to preserve and enhance the role of the Tofield Health Centre and associated providers of health care services to Tofield, Ryley, Holden, Beaver County and surrounding communities."

STARS presents to County



A presentation was recently made from STARS to Beaver County. Glenda Farnden, STARS Senior Municipal Liaison, presented a picture of their new Airbus H145 helicopter to Reeve Kevin Smook, in recognition of the County's ongoing support of the vital services provided by STARS.

PHOTO SUPPLIED

You are invited to attend the 12th Red Serge Ball Saturday, March 16 at the Killam Community Hall

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Special performance by the
RCMP Regimental Band & Dancers

Live and Silent Auctions
followed by a dance featuring

The River Jacks

Tickets \$50

Table of 8 - \$400

Grab your tickets by
scanning this code



For more info,

email: flagstaffvsu@gmail.com

*Only 250 tickets available

**Proceeds for Flagstaff Victim Services,
and Parents for Fun in Flagstaff Society**

Poster designed by The Community Press