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# The Beaver County Chronicle

A Free Weekly Publication Serving All of Beaver County

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Volume 17, Issue 11

## Beaver County pivots on stormwater culverts issue with Viking

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council pivoted on its position regarding stormwater culverts as it pertains to the Town of Viking.

County council rescinded a motion (#23-133) at its February meeting that paves the way for a compromise regarding stormwater culverts adjacent to the town, which affect its drainwater issues.

The county also agreed to write the town about this decision, and give notice the county intends to replace the existing culverts at Range Road 130 which lie adjacent to the town with three 900-mm culverts, subject to a liability waiver from the Town of Viking.

Dan Blackie, general manager of infrastructure, gave a two-year history of developments regarding this issue at the Feb. 21 meeting of county council.

"For over two years, Beaver County and the Town of Viking have been discussing the issue of replacement of the culverts in Range Roads 125 and 130 to support the town's stormwater management plan," he said.

"The culverts at Range Road 130 contain water control gates to facilitate the Viking Golf and Country Club's license to divert water for the golf course," he said. "The necessity and cost to replace these gates have been the main source of contention."

A motion was passed in May of last year which stated the cost to replace culverts and both locations would be shared, without water control gates. This is

the motion to be rescinded now.

"The Town of Viking was not in favour and requested that the county share the cost of the gates," he explained.

The county was not in favour of cost sharing the gates due to the water diversion license being under the golf club's name. This would mean "the group holds the legal responsibility for diverting and controlling the water," said Blackie.

The other concern was that there was no mention of water control gates in the town's stormwater management plan. "Instead, it supports the systematical flow of water through the town, which is counter intuitive to withholding water," he said.

This issue went to a joint Beaver/Viking joint council meeting last September but there was no agreement reached, he said, noting: "It appeared that there was confusion regarding the town's request and cost of the project."

But the town had since clarified its request, he said, asking "that the county share the purchase and installation of two 900 mm culverts with gates at Range Road 130."

Administration recommended, "In the spirit of moving forward," that the county contribute to the cost of the culvert and installation at RR130 "since they are within the county's jurisdiction," at an estimated cost of \$18,230.

And, that the town contributes to the cost and installation of two water control gates at RR 130, "since the diversion license belongs to the Golf and

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Country Club and the golf course is within the town limits," at an estimated cost of \$15,000.

Notice to rescind Motion #23-133 was made at the county council meeting, with the actual rescinding to take place at a meeting in March.

After a subsequent explanation from CAO Kayleena Spiess, Reeve Kevin Smook asked that, in essence, this meant that: "...the county pays for the culverts and the town pays for the gates?" He was replied to in the affirmative.

Division 5 Councillor Dale Pederson served notice that he intends to rescind the Motion #23-133 at a later meeting. The May meeting of county council has been put forward from May 15 to May 22 instead.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) made the motion calling for the reeve to forward a letter to the Town of Viking regarding "what the county intends to do on RR 130," regarding culvert replacement.

Hrabec also suggested it would be a courtesy to tell the town that the county's original motion was being rescinded. This motion had originally created some controversy between the two jurisdictions.

Hrabec felt it would also be in the best interests to state that the county is saving the town \$10,000 "by also doing (the culvert installation) at the 125 (RR)."

However, the motion that was passed was kept to the original recommendations by administration.

County council was to review the letter that was being sent to the Town of Viking before it was sent to the town. The review could include discussion on these extra suggestions made by Hrabec or others.

## Local victim services board could become advisory to new society

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County has agreed to support the local victim services board if it turns into an advisory group for the organization that will take it over.

For decades, Beaver County Victim Services has held the mandate of helping people in emergencies, and had offices in both the Viking and Tofield RCMP detachments. The local board and its volunteers dealt with many types of situations including accidents, police incidents, and other traumatic situations that weren't restricted to a legal aspect.

However, the province has taken over the mandate for Victim Services, which will result in a larger jurisdiction called the Eastern Alberta Victim Servicing Society being responsible for victim services.

The Alberta Public Safety and Emergency Services has asked, likely as a failsafe for the transition, if the current Victim Services Board in Beaver County would become an advisory body for the new board and provide office space for its management team.

The centralization of this body has been a source of

great concern over the past two years for Beaver County Victim Services.

Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) reported to council on Feb. 21 that he recently met with Mike Ellis, minister of public safety and emergency services and Trent Forsberg, the government department's director of victim services.

"I told them about the great board we have out here," he said, referring to the Beaver County Victim Services Board. He also expressed his concern that local persons "won't have a voice" on how this new organization unfolds and operates.

Smook said Forsberg indicated there might be a potential for the local victim services board to become an advisory body to provide this local input.

The county will sign a joint letter - if there is agreement with the other towns and villages in Beaver County - and agree with the concept of an advisory group from the county making itself available to the new victim services board.

Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) who repre-

sents the county on the victim services board, said, that "as a qualified active board...it would be good to continue on and provide advice" for the new board coming on stream.

And Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) said the local victim services board provided more than legal services for victims.

"There are incidents not crime-related," he said, referring to an accident over Christmas, in which Beaver County Victim Services "did a fantastic job."

While the local Victim Services organization covered different kinds of incidents involving victims, the newly redesigned organization will deal only with crime and legal issues.

In 2022, Alberta Municipalities passed a motion calling for a halt to the rollout of the new victim services model, asking for a "new engagement process that fully involves municipalities." The motion was made by the Town of Canmore and seconded by the Town of Tofield.

The redesign involves the creation of four zones across the province which ends locally run boards.

# You are invited

Beaver County is inviting interested residents to view, comment, and discuss the proposed updates to the Equity Industrial Park Area Structure Plan with County Council, Planners, and Consultants.



**OPEN HOUSE**

 March 27, 2024  
4 PM to 7 PM

 Ryley Legion  
5121-50 Street, Ryley

**What is an Area Structure Plan?**  
*This plan is our blueprint for guiding development in a smart and sustainable way. It covers everything from environmental protection, how land will be used, to the design of roads and infrastructure, ensuring growth happens smoothly and thoughtfully.*

# Claystone Waste Ltd

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The PAC serves as a crucial link between Claystone Waste's Board of Directors and the community. Its core mission is to provide valuable insights on community concerns or interests related to our regional waste facilities and services. The committee comprises of six (6) public members, each serving a 3-year term, appointed directly by the Board, and representatives selected by municipal shareholders via Council.

**To Apply:** Send your cover letter and resume to [info@claystonewaste.com](mailto:info@claystonewaste.com) by March 31, 2024. The Board will be making committee appointments at their April meeting.

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**Tofield Transfer Station:**  
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## JOIN US FOR A HIPPITY HOPPITY EASTER PARTY

**MARCH 30, 2024**  
**10AM TO 1PM**  
**SPILSTEAD HALL**  
**20502 TOWNSHIP ROAD 502**

Bring the family for a few hours of Easter fun including egg painting, crafts, art, a visit from some cute bunnies, the Easter Bunny, and an easter egg hunt!

Snacks and refreshments will be available.

## OPEN TENDERS / RFQ'S

Beaver County is currently accepting submissions for the following:

- RFQ2024-08INFR 2024 Portland Cement Supply and Apply.
  - Closes 10 AM (Local Time), March 21, 2024.
- TEN2024-09INFR 2024 Graded Aggregate Seal Coat
  - Closes 10 AM (Local Time), March 21, 2024.

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



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

- **Grader Operator (Fulltime - Permanent)**
- **Seasonal Crew Member - Ag Services**
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- **Seasonal Serviceman/Equipment Operator**
- **Seasonal Truck Drivers (6-8 months)**

For full information on these opportunities visit our website ([www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)). The Careers page can be found under the Government menu.



**IMPORTANT DATES****March 27th:**

- 9:30 AM: Regular Council Meeting
- 4 - 7 PM: Open House - Equity Industrial Park ASP

**March 29 & April 1:**

- Office Closed for Easter

**DEVELOPMENT PERMITS**

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board/Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

**APPEAL DEADLINE March 20, 2024**

Appeal Body SDAB  
Application No. 020020-24-D0010  
Applicant Five Star Permits  
Landowner Bruce Sports and Stampede Association  
Location Plan 5553AO; Block ; Lot B located in SW-30-48-14-W4  
Development Discretionary Use – Signs (13.25 sq.ft. to replace existing ATB sign affixed to building)

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 on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

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

**ARE YOU A LOCAL CATERER?**

We're on the lookout for a reliable caterer to provide light lunch and dessert for a group of 6 at the County office on a monthly basis, typically every 3rd Wednesday. If you pride yourself on delicious, quality fare and dependable service, we'd love to hear from you!

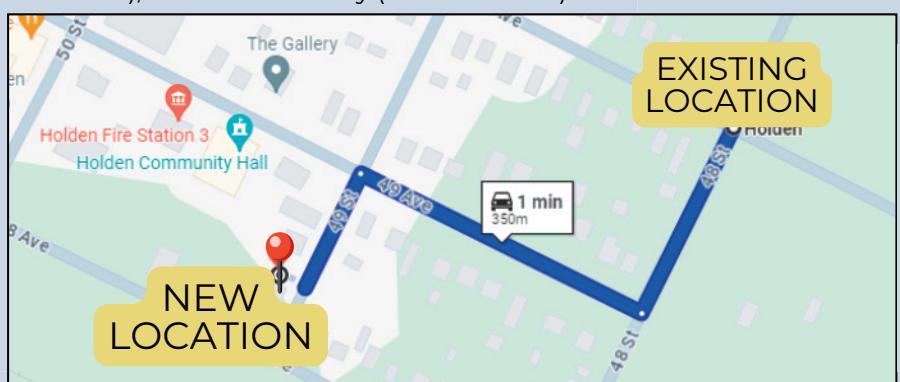
Interested parties, please reach out to Delayna Koch for more details at dkoch@beaver.ab.ca or 780-663-3730

**HOLDEN BIN RELOCATION**

Please be informed that the location of the four designated rural garbage bins will change **during the week of March 11th**.

The bins will move from the corner of 48 Street and 50 Ave, to behind the Beaver County grader shed, at **4904 48 Ave**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Village of Holden (780-688-3928), or Beaver County (780-663-3730).

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EVENTS!**

**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.

# County asking for compensation re: failing oil and gas companies

Patricia Harcourt

The downturn in the provincial oil and gas industry has resulted in falling revenues for Beaver County over the past several years.

Over several years, the county has applied for a provincial Education Requisition Credit (PERC) and a Designated Industrial Requisition Credit (DIRC). They are to compensate for taxes the county has been unable to collect on behalf of the province involving two companies.

The credits are to cover \$10,416 in uncollected education property taxes and \$385 in uncollected designated industrial requisition taxes.

"The provincial program provides municipalities with a credit equal to the unpaid provincial education requisition taxes and the provincial DIP requisition taxes," explained Ryan Arndt, general manager of corporate services, at the Feb. 21 meeting of county council.

He added, however, that "no credit is given for uncollectable municipal or

seniors' foundation taxes." As a result, these are still owed if a company defaults on tax payments even though the county could not collect the taxes on them.

The gas industry plummeted in Alberta around 2016, which deeply affected Beaver County.

The county has had to make adjustments to its annual budget practices to compensate for the resulting loss of tax revenue as local companies struggled and some closed their doors.

"Some are finding it difficult to pay the property taxes and the tax recovery procedure provided in the Municipal Government Act has not resulted in full recovery," stated Arndt.

PERC and DIRC were established by the province in 2018, and extended the program after the 2021 tax year with a funding cap of \$30 million. Also available is \$15 million for 2022 and 2023 tax years.

Originally, the stipulation to receive this funding was that municipalities had to cancel the tax levy for the delinquent company. But Arndt states this is

no longer required. All that is needed now is four council to motion its acceptance of the allocation to PERC and DIRC in order to be eligible for the program.

"Sequoia Resources Corporation and AlphaBow Energy Ltd. acquired many assets from other gas companies in Beaver County late 2016," stated Ryan's report.

"In early 2018, the county received notification that Sequoia filed for bankruptcy and we were subsequently notified the company is in receivership and is insolvent.

"In previous years, council approved

the cancellation of taxes for 2016-2020 as per the PERC and DIRC program," he said.

"Currently, their 2023 property taxes remain unpaid and it is deemed unlikely that the taxes will ever be collected," stated Arndt, adding: "These outstanding taxes meet the criteria for a PERC and DIRC application."

A motion by Division 2 Councillor Lionel Williams for council to approve the application on all of Sequoia and AlphaBow's properties for an education credit of \$10,416.04 and \$385.23 for DIP requisition credit for 2023 was passed by council.

## We're still here for you!

### Beaver County Victim Services 24/7



**780-662-2258 (Office)**  
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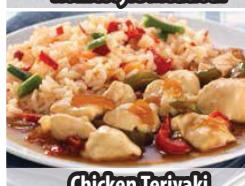
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