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The Beaver County

Chronicle

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Ryalta Industries Ltd.



Hubert & Margaret Graham
Parts, Sales & Service
Bus: 780-663-3759
Res: 780-662-2384
Fax: 780-663-3799
ryalta@digitalweb.net
5108 - 50th St. Ryley, AB., T0B 4A0



Winds of change signalled as council amends bylaws and policies

Patricia Harcourt

Council signalled some winds of change with the passing of amended bylaws and policies.

First reading to a bylaw setting agricultural fees, rates and charges for services by Beaver County was passed at council’s March 27 meeting.

Agricultural Fieldman Jonathan Culbert explained that the need to update the agricultural service fees was expressed in January at the Agriculture Service Board meeting.

“The fees were originally established to allow the county to provide agricultural services at a cost recovery rate,” he said. “However, due to the increase in the cost of providing these services in recent years, the county is no longer able to adequately recuperate the costs...based on the current established fees.”

The new bylaw would include a base mobilization fee to custom spraying. Culbert said most small custom spraying projects are an hour or less to complete and, with a discount provided if there is no weed notice, many jobs have “negligible charges” with a recovery to the county of only \$10.

ASB recommended a base mobilization fee of \$100 but Culbert said council may wish to lower it “to incentivize landowners to use the program.”

The charge for partial spray crew applications has been increased from one-third to one-half, and rentals for backpack and portable sprayers have also been increased.

Removed from the bylaw were references to gopher poison, or strychnine, which the county no longer sells; and charges for private beaver dam removal, which the county no longer performs.

Council passed only first reading in order to give the public a chance to review and comment on the proposed changes to the bylaw before finalizing it.

Council also passed motions to delete the old Public Participation Policy #CCL-007 and replace it with new Policy #CCM—004.

“As part of the ongoing policy review project, the participation policy has been revised to conform with the new policy template,” stated Communications Officer Tracey Popick.

“This policy also includes amendments that integrate public participation strategies recommended by the International Association of Public Participation,” she said, in her report.

Council also approved an amended Recruitment and Selection Policy #HR-05.

Margaret Jones, manager of legislative services, said the newly amended bylaw has two goals that align with the county’s corporate business plan: to launch a workforce development strategy, and promote a positive workplace environment.

Jones said the old bylaw makes it mandatory to advertise publicly for all positions, “even if there are qualified internal candidates.”

With the policy change, “each employee who is interested in advancement will have the opportunity to discuss a Performance Development Plan with their supervisor,” states Jones. “This plan can outline the employee’s career goals, and the training required to achieve those goals.”

Those county employees who have completed needed training will be given preference over external candidates, she said. Administration can also waive the external recruitment process if a qualified employee applies for the position.

And if an employee is currently undergoing succession planning there will be no need to compete

for the position either externally or internally within the county ranks.

Union employees under a collective agreement, however, must all be given an opportunity to apply for a vacant union position, and all such vacant positions must be posted.

County Council also rescinded the old Change of Address Policy #ADM-027, and adopted the Change of Address Policy #CORP-007.

This means that ratepayers will no longer have to put an address change in writing. Instead, a person can phone changes in their address which may be necessary in certain circumstances. Examples given were when driving some distance to the office or in the event of a death in the family.

Reeve Kevin. Smook (Division 1) expressed concern that a phone call would be difficult to verify; but Ryan Arndt, general manager of corporate services, replied that people already do this kind of change via email, which “you can’t truly verify,” either.

You’re invited to attend an Open House for the Atlas Carbon Storage Hub.

Questions, Please contact:

Janine King
Community Relations Advisor
Janine.King@shell.com
587 879 1633

The Atlas Carbon Storage Hub from Shell and ATCO intends to store CO₂ emissions generated in Alberta’s industrial heartland region deep below areas of east central Alberta. If built, the storage hub would store CO₂ emissions captured by Shell’s proposed Polaris carbon capture project and serve as an open-access hub to store CO₂ from other third-party industrial sources.

Upcoming open house events

Please join us for dinner and a presentation as we provide an update on upcoming activities in the area. You will have the opportunity to meet the team, ask us questions, and provide us with feedback as we continue to develop the project.

Viking

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
The Viking Community Hall - 5021
54 Ave, Viking, AB

Vegreville

Wednesday, April 24, 2024
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
The Social Centre - 4802 47A Street,
Vegreville, AB

Round Hill

Thursday, April 25, 2024
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Round Hill & District Community
Centre - 9 Township Road 484,
Round Hill, AB

At all locations, a presentation will begin at 5:00 pm, followed by Q&A and time to speak one-on-one with the project team. Dinner will be provided.

ATLAS
CARBON STORAGE HUB

POWERING CCS



Volunteer Appreciation

We are grateful to have so many wonderful volunteers who support our communities with their time and dedication.

As a small gesture of thanks, several partners have come together to celebrate these wonderful individuals by hosting two free events. Please join us at one of the following:

Tofield Appreciation BBQ
April 16, 2024
Tofield Community Hall
5:30pm to 7:00pm

Beaver County Appreciation Pancake Supper
April 30, 2024
Spilstead Hall
5:30pm to 7:00pm

Brought to you in partnership by:





DUST CONTROL

Just a reminder: the deadline to submit your application for the spring suppressant is **April 15!**

All the info you need, including the letter and application form, can be found on our website under **Services > County Roads** or contact our Infrastructure team at 825-385-0052 to get signed up and ensure your roads remain dust-free this season.





CAMPGROUND BOOKINGS!

Attention outdoor enthusiasts! Planning your next camping adventure? Reservations are now open for Camp Lake and Black Nugget!

Access the online booking tool on our website under the **Explore menu**.



SCAN ME 



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

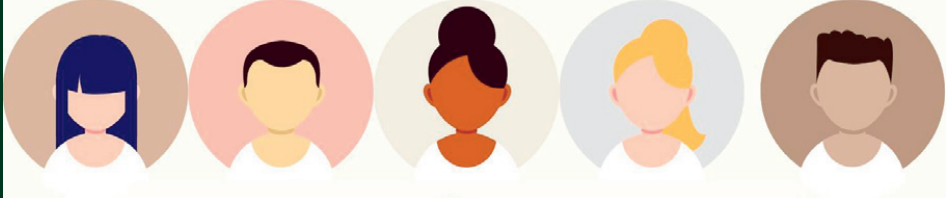
Lindbrook Transfer Station:
51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704
Tues 10:30am – 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am – 6:30pm;
Sat 10:30am – 5:30pm

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.





BEAVER COUNTY

Community Adult Learning Program

We are looking for New Board Members

The Beaver County Community Adult Learning Program (CALP) is seeking two public members to join our board.

The Beaver County CALP Council sets direction in accordance with Government guidelines to support identified adult learning and family literacy needs for our Beaver County residents. Potential candidates have a vested interest in adult and family literacy and are familiar with learning needs in Beaver County.

The Beaver County CALP Council meets a minimum of four times a year. Board members are reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the execution of CALP duties and for mileage at the rate set annually by the County.

Interested individuals are asked to apply via email outlining their volunteer experience and why they are interested in serving on the Beaver County Community Adult Learning Council. Letters of application may be submitted to Dawn Chrystian, CALP Chair by email at DChrystian@vbfcss.ca

Beaver County | 5120 - 50th Street, Box 140, Ryley AB, T0B 4A0 | 780-663-3730 | beaver.ab.ca

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	April 10, 2024
Appeal Body	LPRT
Application No.	020020-24-D0011
Applicant	MAGA Energy Ltd.
Landowner	Edward Koop
Location	NW-11-51-19-W4
Development	Discretionary Use - Natural Resource Extraction Uses and General Industrial Uses – Type II – Four (4) Natural Gas Generators combined capacity of 990kW (sea cans – each being 1.5m x 2.4m) and Two (2) Data Processing Facilities (sea cans – each being 6.1m x 2.4m) – added to existing wellsite with well and compressor.
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 10, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0012
Applicant	Matthew Thiessen
Landowner	Samuel and Sandra Thiessen
Location	NW-22-50-19-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Second or Additional Dwellings (Second Home – 980sq.ft.)
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 10, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0013
Applicant	Alan Cahoon
Landowner	Alan and Erin Cahoon
Location	Plan 1325099; Block 1; Lot 6A located in SW-36-51-20-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Solar Collectors, Ground Mount (1,000 sq.ft. in area) – residential use
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 10, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0014
Applicant	Fluent Solar LLC
Landowner	Lance and Rachel Englot
Location	Plan 1121776; Block 1; Lot 1 located in SW-15-50-19-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Solar Collectors, Structure Mount (420.36 sq.ft. in area on primary home) – residential use
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 17, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0019
Applicant	EVOLV/solar (EVOLV renewables inc.)
Landowner	Sijmen and Hendrijke Bosma
Location	Plan 0829039; Block 1; Lot 1 located in NW-20-50-18-W4
Development	Discretionary Use - Solar Collectors, Structure Mount (714 sq.ft. to be affixed to roof of house) - residential use
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 17, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0020
Applicant	Fluent Solar LLC
Landowner	Malcolm and Wendy Griffiths
Location	Plan 1422327; Block 1; Lot 1 located in SW-29-50-18-W4
Development	Discretionary Use - Solar Collectors, Structure Mount (483.41 sq.ft. to be affixed to roof of house) - residential use
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 17, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0021
Applicant	Daniel Krause
Landowner	Brian and Daniel Krause
Location	Plan 1922620; Block 1; Lot 2 located in NE-17-50-20-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Accessory Storage Buildings (200 sq.ft. storage shed)
APPEAL DEADLINE	April 17, 2024
Appeal Body	SDAB
Application No.	020020-24-D0022
Applicant	Matthew Thiessen
Landowner	Samuel and Sandra Thiessen
Location	NW-22-50-19-W4
Development	Discretionary Use – Buildings and Uses Accessory to Discretionary Uses (576 sq.ft. Detached Garage for Second Home)

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.



BEAVER COUNTY

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 17**
- 9:30 AM - Regular Council Meeting
- May 1**
- 9:30 AM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



Book Club
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.

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 the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS - MAR 27

- Highlights from the March 27, Regular Council meeting include:
- Spring Community Support Request Recipients
 - Change to Subdivision and Development Authorities
 - Tofield Western Days Funding
- The full highlights can be found on our website on the **Homepage** under **Recent News**.



Viking Single Session Walk-In Addiction & Mental Health Support



- Feeling overwhelmed? Need someone to talk to? We're here to help!
- Who: Anyone in need of support
 - Where: Viking/Beaver FCSS (4924 53 Ave., Viking)
 - When: Every Thursday, 10 a.m. - noon, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
 - What: Confidential counselling sessions - No appointment needed!

For 24/7 support:
Mental Health Helpline: 1-877-303-2642
Addiction Helpline: 1-866-332-2322
HealthLink: 811



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.



County becomes Golden Gate Chute sponsor for Tofield Western Days

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council agreed to grant the Tofield Agricultural Society sponsorship funding of \$5,000 for this year’s Tofield Western Days. This will make the county a Gold Chute Gate sponsor for the celebrations to be held Aug. 8-11.

Aimee Boese, manager for external relations and special projects, said the grants provide a unique opportunity to support local events that strengthen communities in the county.

“These events attract residents and visitors to the various communities,” she said, “showcasing the unique lifestyle enhancements that are offered within the Beaver County region.”

The funding for this event was dealt with separately as a sponsorship request.

Earlier, council had processed its annual spring intake of community support requests, but the agricultural society had missed the February deadline.

Tofield Western Days has combined several previously separate events under one umbrella over several days in August.

This is the 41st anniversary of the Sodbuster Rodeo, and the 52nd year of the Tofield Agricultural Society, as well as the 12th anniversary of the Tofield Bull Bash.

These events all happen “in a matter of three action packed days within the Town of Tofield,” said Boese. The Town of Tofield helps with the operational needs of the events, but has also contributed \$5,000 to be a gold chute gate sponsor.

As chute gates are high profile with all the rough stock at both the rodeo and bull bash passing through them, Boese said the profile of the county and its contribution would be highlighted throughout the weekend.

Boese said that, should the Tofield events have met the deadline, the bull bash and rodeo could each have applied for \$2,500 separately, which also amounts to \$5,000 in total.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) said he would support the \$5,000 for Western Days, which now incorporates the bull bash and rodeo under one umbrella. But he also pointed out that the county had just refused other organizations requesting the same amount under the community supports funding program.

For the spring intake under that program, the county had just established a limit of \$2,500.

Hrabec also wanted the policy on these grants to be reviewed for future decisions.

A motion by Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) for the county to make the \$5,000 contribution to Tofield Western Days was passed.

Beaver County rejects Ducks Unlimited water storage project - could damage road infrastructure

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County rejected a recent water storage project proposed by Ducks Unlimited Canada based on the potential of undesirable runoff entering county right of ways.

County Council agreed with a recommendation by the local Agriculture Service Board, which asked the county to reject the project along Range Road 174 between Twp. Rd. 504 and Twp. Rd. 510.

The reason given was that “the county’s road maintenance policy... does not permit the storage of water along county roadways.”

Ducks Unlimited made the proposal to administration last August, and spoke to county council in October.

Council was asked to consider allowing a flow-control device be installed on a property owned by DUC “to withhold water on the landscape and reduce the drainage into neighbouring properties,” stated Agriculture Fieldman Jonathan Culbert in his report. “In turn this project would increase the available habitat for waterfowl and other species.”

This would result in “an increase of water volume along the roadside,” he stated, which contravened the county’s Road Maintenance Policy. “The county does not permit the storage of water along its road right-of-ways in order to preserve the integrity of its road structure.”

Because the proposal contravened the policy, any such request would have to go before county council for approval - and county council was not prepared to give it.

At the January ASB meeting, any possible agriculture benefits of the project, and to watersheds, was offset for members by the potential for negative impacts on road infrastructure.

Concerning environmental implications, Culbert stated that “the province is currently in a Stage 4 drought and this may become more severe as we enter the spring and summer months.”

He added: “Withholding water on the landscape may reduce the effects of drought for neighbouring ecosystems and agriculture producers.”

But that wasn’t enough for council. “Maybe Ducks Unlimited should come out and speak to council,” said Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3), adding he was “disappointed” to have no further information from the organization.

“They should be looking to partner with us,” he said.

While Hrabec said his ratepayers took issue with Ducks Unlimited’s lifetime caveats, such as 99-year leases on reserves, Williams felt the DUC contract was “the nastiest” he has ever seen and asked if they were indicative of the organization’s other contracts, “or just a one-off.”

“I’m really on board with this recommendation (by Ag Services Board) in this case with this contract,” he

said, before making the motion to accept the ASB and administration recommendation that would essentially deny the proposal.

The motion was passed 5-0 in a recorded vote requested by Hrabec.



Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) requires a contract part time bookkeeper to work at our Viking office. The position is currently for 16 hours per week. Hours may increase in the future. The hourly rate will be commensurate with related experience.

BESC is a regional services commission that manages the administration of 6 volunteer fire departments within the Beaver County region. We are also responsible for Emergency Management within the region.

Bookkeeping responsibilities include:

- Recording journal entries, completing bank reconciliations and maintaining accounts payable, receivable and capital asset details.
- Preparing month end financial reporting for the board of directors
- Following up with delinquent accounts
- Preparing invoices
- Preparing cheques and posting EFT payments
- Preparing and filing GST and WCB returns and remittances

Position requirements

- Working knowledge of basic accounting principles and processes
- A minimum of 3 years bookkeeping experience
- Proficiency with SAGE 50 and Microsoft Office Suite, specifically Excel
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- High attention to detail and strong organization skills

A certificate or diploma in business administration or accounting is considered an asset.

To apply, send an email to info@besc.ca, detailing how you meet the position requirements by **no later than April 22, 2024**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

For further information contact Sheila Lusk at 780-336-3041.