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Chronicle

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New community standards bylaw passes 4-1

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council passed a new community standards bylaw by giving second and third readings following a public hearing three weeks ago.

The bylaw passed with one councillor disagreeing and the rest of council supporting it.

Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) opposed the passing of both motions saying the bylaw fails to supply enough detail and clarification about unsightly properties and objected to a one-line lighting regulation that he considered inadequate.

The proposed bylaw had been discussed and reviewed by the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) three times before being recommended for approval by council.

The bylaw was also brought to the attention of county residents through three public engagement sessions before being brought to council for approval after a public hearing was held.

The county’s previous bylaws referring to noise and unsightly premises would be repealed once this newer bylaw is passed. The new bylaw incorporates the older bylaws making them redundant.

Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) requested a recorded vote for the two readings.

Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) made the motion for second reading, after which Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3) spoke about his concerns.

Hrabec referred to the bill as creating “dispute weaponization.” He said there was “so much left out of the bylaw,” which he found to be “over reach-

ing” in ways that made it difficult for him “to decide which parts to support.”

He gave an example of a section that prohibits shining a light on someone else’s property, and noted this issue “is resolved in one sentence...”

“On paper it looks simple but it’s just not that simple,” he said. This lack of clarity could cause “unintentional consequences (and) fuel neighbour disputes,” he said.

Hrabec also said he “doesn’t know of any way to control ‘unsightlies,’” referring to unsightly properties. “We never did before so how will a new bylaw do it?”

And, “how do we pick the ones to prosecute by division,” he asked, predicting: “We’ll see an increase in confrontation...with unintended consequences.”

But other councillors believed their new consolidated bylaw was a good move.

“I think we have done an excellent job of putting this bylaw together,” responded Williams. Williams said he talked with bylaw officers in other jurisdictions who said they were “impressed” with the county’s new community standards bylaw, and it may be copied by some of them.

The county has been dealing with “bylaws (that are) all over the place making it difficult to manage,” he said, which is the reason for the current consolidated bylaw.

The county has the responsibility for these bylaws, and the hamlets and subdivisions have to be “treated differently” from the farmland and rural areas.

“If it costs us some money to manage this pro-

gram and hold people accountable, that is our job,” said Williams, while trying to “work with people and educate them...If it costs money that’s what it entails.”

The county’s report to council states: “The 2025 budget includes adequate funding for enforcement of the bylaw.” No specific amount was given.

Councillor Barry Bruce (Division 4) added his support to Williams’ statements.

He said the bylaw could not contain all the different scenarios Hrabec would like, stating: “There are so many different types of personalities and properties...”

“There are some who won’t like it,” he said, “but at least we will have a bylaw to allow officials to act.”

Bruce said residents should be able to live in a clean, safe and attractive environment, asking: “Do I want to live beside a hoarder?”

He supported the bylaw, he said, and “not the ones offended by tidiness and safety.”

Reeve Smook said that “subtle changes” had been made to the then proposed community standards bylaw following the community engagement sessions and public hearing.

“Nobody spoke out against the bylaw,” he said,, noting that there would have been “a larger number of people at these events if there had been more people upset over the bylaw.

“I think this bylaw, while not perfect, is a good one,” he said.

Both second and third readings were passed 4-1, with the votes recorded following a request by the reeve.

Council replaces workplace violence and harassment prevention policy

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County has a new policy for workplace violence and harassment prevention.

The new Policy #HR-033 with its accompanying administrative procedure was introduced by Health and Safety Officer Carla Martin at the regular council meeting of May 21.

The new policy contains changes made to the province’s Occupational health and Safety Code last December. The changes were made to Part 27 - Violence and Harassment in the Code.

The updates combines the violence and harassment prevention plans into a single plan. In addi-

tion to violence and harassment, the policy will add investigation of complaints.

Also, the prevention plan won’t be reviewed automatically, but only if “an accident indicates a review is necessary,” stated Martin, in her report.

Training will be required “not only initially but also after any revisions are made,” states the new policy. There have also been “minor changes to phrases and wording,” to the policy.

Martin stated that the new policy has been updated to reflect the changes in the provincial OH&S Code.

And Policy #HR-032 Workplace Discrimination

and Harassment Prevention has been incorporated into the policy, “resulting in a consolidated Policy and Administrative Procedure,” she said.

“I think we’ve done an extremely good job,” commented Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3). “It’s a big undertaking...”

“It’s been rolled out very well,” he concluded. The motion to accept the new policy was made by Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) and successfully passed.

The second motion by Hrabec to rescind the previous policy #032 Workplace Discrimination and Harassment Prevention and accompanying administrative procedure was also passed.



BEAVER COUNTY TAX NOTICES

Beaver County, under Section 311 of the Municipal Government Act, chapter M-26.1, and this publication, advise that the property assessment notices of the municipality have been sent. All assessed persons are deemed to have received their Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notice as a result of this publication.

As per chapter M-26.1, Section 336 of the Municipal Government Act, I do hereby certify that the Combined Property Assessment and Tax Notices for Beaver County were sent on May 16, 2025.

Kaylena Spess
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTENTION BEAVER COUNTY RESIDENTS

If your MAILING address has changed and you have not notified Beaver County, you may not receive your Tax Notice, however, you are still responsible for payment of your property taxes. It is your responsibility to advise Beaver County of your new mailing address. The County is NOT responsible for any returned tax notices due to incorrect postal addresses.

Please email any new addresses to accounts@beaver.ab.ca.

NEED HELP? FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. LIVE ANSWER 24/7

Albertans can access community services via phone, text or chat anytime 24/7. Connect with 211 to find information about services such as disability supports, employment, health supports, housing and volunteering. These services are free, confidential, and available in over 170 languages over the phone.

- Dial 2-1-1
- Text INFO to 211
- Visit ab.211.ca and click "Live Chat"

Claystone Waste presents

The 2025 Giant Pumpkin Growing Contest

For residents of Tofield, Viking, Ryley, Holden, and Beaver County

Info at claystonewaste.com/pumpkin

Want to join in the fun?
Ask for a pumpkin seed pack and brochure from the Scale House Attendant when you pick up some Claystone Compost from the Ryley Transfer Station!

Completed entry forms must be submitted by **May 30**.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 4

- 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting

June 18

- 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Regular Council 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!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM
Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 8 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!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

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

- **Heavy Equipment Operator III - Grader Operator**

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

SCAN ME!

CAR SHOW & SHINE

Free Entry

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025
AT 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM
HOLDEN ON MAIN STREET

No Fees, just bring your Car!!!

Same time as Holden Farmers Day with a day Full of Family Activities, Food, Music and More!



CAMPGROUND BOOKINGS!



Attention outdoor enthusiasts! Planning your next camping adventure? Why not try out Camp Lake or Black Nugget!

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

Both campgrounds officially opened on **May 15th**



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 relevant appeal body - Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (SDAB) or Land and Property Rights Tribunal (LPRT).

APPEAL DEADLINE JUNE 18, 2025

Appeal Body SDAB
Application No. 020020-25-D0021
Applicant Randy Simpson
Landowner David and Patricia Hygaard
Location Block 3, Plan 2198RS in SW-35-52-19-W4
Development Discretionary Use (Variance) - 1,308 ft2 Shop with 2.98m Variance from Minimum South Side Yard Setback (Accessory Storage 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.



BEAVER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD - CALL FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE (PAL) MEMBERS

Beaver County Council is seeking two (2) Public at Large positions to serve on the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) for a three-year term starting November 2025.

The ASB meets approximately 4-6 times per year and helps shape local policies and programs that support sustainable agriculture.

Applicants must:

- Reside in Beaver County
- Be familiar with agriculture practices and trends (e.g. value - added agriculture)
- Be willing to contribute to policy discussions in line with the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Orientation will be provided for applicants to discuss position responsibilities, and the role of the ASB within Alberta.

To apply or learn more, contact Jonny Culbert at 825-385-0064 or jculbert@beaver.ab.ca

To fill out the online form, scan the QR code.

Deadline to apply: 12:00 PM (noon), June 13, 2025



CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS COMING, PLEASE REMEMBER...

Construction workers have families, friends, and lives. Please respect the posted speed limits in construction zones to ensure they can return home safely.



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.

2025 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

****ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE AND WEATHER DEPENDENT****

	START DATE	EST. END DATE	AS OF MAY 28
Culvert Maintenance	April 1	Nov 1	
Patching oil roads	May 1	Sep 29	
Hard-Surface Locations Constructed in the following phases: Phase 1 (P1): Cement, Phase 2 (P2): Chip Seal 1st Lift, Phase 3 (P3): Chip Seal 2nd lift, Phase 4 (P4): Final sweep of Chips.			
Kingsway Estates - 501	May 12	May 16	
Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & 504	May 19	May 30	
Beaver Creek Estates North - 50514 Rge Rd 202	Jun 2	Jun 4	
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to campground entrance & Hoopers Dr	Jun 5	Jun 9	
Whispering Hills Estates - 51308 Rge Rd 195	Jun 10	Jun 14	
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to Blackfoot Grazing Reserve Entrance	Jun 16	Jun 24	
Twp 492 approx. 1.72kms east of Rge Rd 170	Jun 26	Jun 27	
Twp 490 between Hwy 857 & Rge Rd 142	Jul 2	Jul 25	
Twp 490 between Hwy 870 & Rge Rd 120	Jul 28	Aug 22	
Twp Rd 512 from Rge Rd 191 to HWY 834	Aug 25	Sep 3	
Shoulder Pulls (Location TBD)			
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1	
Gravelling	Mar 13	Dec 22	
Dust Control- 1st Application	May 13	May 30	
Dust Control- 2nd Application	Aug 8	Aug 15	
Completed In Progress Scheduled Delayed			

RANGE ROAD 202 CONSTRUCTION NOTICE:

Over the coming weeks, Range Road 202 will undergo a significant road upgrade—from a gravelled surface to a durable, all-weather hard surface. This improvement includes stabilizing the existing road base with soil cement, followed by the application of two layers of chip seal. Although this process differs from traditional asphalt paving, residents and motorists will enjoy a similar finished surface—dust-free when dry and mud-free when wet.

During construction, sections of the road may be temporarily closed to allow crews to work safely. Detours will be clearly marked. Please plan alternate routes where possible or drive cautiously if you must travel through the construction zone (local traffic only).

Beaver County is committed to maintaining a safe, injury-free work environment for all staff, contractors, and the public. We kindly remind all drivers to respect posted speed limits in construction areas. Excessive speed poses a serious risk to workers and others in the area.

Construction sites can present potential hazards such as heavy equipment, dust, mud, gravel, chip seal materials, and other debris. We urge everyone to stay alert and travel with care.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve your roads. These upgrades are essential to maintaining safe and reliable infrastructure in high-traffic areas.

For more information, please contact the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

Social media

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



Discussion of Beaver Regional Partnership leads to amend bylaw

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council discussed recommendations concerning the Beaver Regional Partnership (BRP) Agreement at its May 21 regular meeting.

Following the discussions, council passed amendments to the BRP Agreement, which had been proposed by the BRP at its April 15 meeting.

The BRP has also recommended that each participating council in the Beaver Region approve the amended BRP Agreement.

County Council was asked to accept the amended Schedule 'A' of the BRP Agreement, and incorporate the amended schedule into the BRP bylaw as another amendment.

Council would do this by passing second and third readings of Bylaw #24-1158 Beaver Regional Partnership.

"The Agreement is attached as a schedule to the BRP Bylaw and, therefore, a motion to amend the bylaw is required before it can be passed," explained Margaret Jones, general manager of legislative services.

Discussion at county council concerned the issue of allowing groups like Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC), Beaver Foundation, and Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission to participate in the BRP meetings.

BRP has decided it will only ask these partnering groups to come to the meetings when the topics involves their agency.

"Why exclude the groups we partner with," asked Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3), who serves as board chair for BESC and Beaver Foundation.

Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) responded that "most BRP meetings do not involve BESC or the Water Commission."

He said it "makes sense" not to have these agencies at meetings that "don't involve them."

He noted that BRP meetings act in an advisory capacity only, making recommendations to the five councils in the Beaver Region.

"It doesn't replace council authority," he said. Any decisions made by municipal councils are then taken back to the BRP.

Hrabec also expressed concern over BRP allowing, in his opinion, for too many closed sessions based on Section 46 of the BRP agreement.

Williams replied that the results of closed sessions "have to go back to councils," so they are kept informed in any case.

Hrabec said he "wanted to ensure" the agencies would be included when needed. To that, Reeve Smook said that, "the reason that the clause is in there has been addressed."

He added that BRP, "won't discuss the issues of the three agencies if they are not at the table... We'll wait (on the discussion) to invite them."

Hrabec replied that he was "okay" with the BRP amendments if Williams can assure him that the three agencies in question will be asked to attend any BRP meeting when there are issues that affect them.

Council then passed the necessary amendments and bylaws providing final readings to the amended BRP Agreement Bylaw.

"Once the BRP bylaws are passed by all municipalities in the Beaver Region, the Agreement will govern future BRP meetings," said Jones.

Update approved for Ryley/Beaver Inter-municipal Development Plan

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council has authorized the updating of the Ryley/Beaver Inter-municipal Development Plan.

County Council made the move at the May 21 meeting, making it subject to approval from the Village of Ryley.

Margaret Jones, manager of legislative services, explained that the IDP between the county and Village of Ryley was approved in 2008. Jones said the IDP was adjusted in 2012 and 2018. Amendments were related to the annexation of Clean Harbors land and its uses in Equity Industrial Park.

"In 2019, when the IDPs were being developed for all the towns and villages, a common consultant ISL Engineering was used," said Jones, in her report to council. "ISL began work on the Ryley/Beaver IDP but the project was suspended until the village had updated its Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw."

"The IDP project was never reactivated," said Jones.

Then in 2024 the county approved an updated Area Structure Plan for the Equity Industrial Park (EIP)

Jones said the Municipal Development Act requires that land use documents support each other. This means that the IDP has to be reviewed to ensure it aligns with the EIP plans, as soon as possible.

"The Beaver Region received funding from the provincial government's Alberta Community Partnership Grant for IDPs the county developed in 2019.

"Administration is optimistic that the grant can be accessed to fund this project as well," she said.

Jones asked council to approve its participation in the project now "so that an application can be submitted in a timely manner."

The level of funding under the grant program is not known, she added, including whether the county and village will be required to cost-share the project.

A motion by county council to approve the recommendation was passed.

The next step will be to advise the Village of Ryley Council of its decision and ask for their partnership going forward.

An IDP is a land use planning document that addresses future land use in an area that is of joint interest to two or more municipalities. It includes future development, including annexations, transportation systems, environmental and other matters.



Join us at an upcoming Open House for the Atlas Carbon Storage Hub.

The Atlas Carbon Storage Hub from Shell and ATCO EnPower intends to store CO₂ emissions generated in the Alberta Industrial Heartland region.

The first phase of Atlas plans to permanently store CO₂ captured by Shell's Polaris carbon capture project. The CO₂ will be permanently stored approximately two kilometres underground below areas of east central Alberta.

A future phase of the Atlas Carbon Storage Hub, that could potentially store CO₂ for the partners and third parties, is subject to a future investment decision.

Please join us at one of our upcoming open house events to hear more details about the next steps for the project, ask us questions and provide us with feedback.

UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Round Hill

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Round Hill & District Community Centre – 9 Township Road 484, Round Hill, Alberta

Vegreville

Wednesday, June 11, 2025
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
The Social Centre – 4802 47A Street, Vegreville, Alberta

Viking

Thursday, June 12, 2025
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Viking Community Hall - 5021 54 Ave, Viking, Alberta

For all events, doors open at 4:30 p.m. A presentation will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by a Q&A session, and time to speak one-on-one with the project team. Dinner will be provided.

Questions? Contact: Janine King
Corporate Relations Advisor - CCS
Janine.J.King@shell.com | 587 879 1633

ATLAS

CARBON STORAGE HUB

POWERING CCS

