

BEAVER COUNTY SEED CLEANING CO-OP

September & October

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The Beaver County

Chronicle

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Council hears from residents about odour complaints

Patricia Harcourt

After reviewing two letters of complaint concerning odours from Claystone Waste’s landfill operations, the latest Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) referred the issue to Beaver County Council.

Council will consider its response to the two letters of complaint at the Sept. 17 meeting to be held on Wednesday this week.

In her report to council, General Manager of Community and Protective Services Deborah Juch recommended that council consider directing administration to prepare a fact sheet outlining the dual approval processes for Claystone Waste Ltd. development.

This fact sheet would be specifically about the municipal and provincial development application processes, and the contact information for concerned citizens to direct complaints about Claystone’s odours and other emissions to the Province.

The issue was raised at the Sept. 3 GPC meeting.

“The committee reviewed two letters of concern from Ryley area residents regarding the odours emanating from

the Claystone Waste Ltd. compost facility,” stated Juch.

She explained that a development permit allowing for Claystone’s compost facility was issued by the county three years ago in 2022.

This included a review of Claystone’s existing related Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) permit.

An expansion of this composting facility was approved in 2024 and 2025 for these two permits.

“The county approval was contingent on, and aligned fully with, the AEPA approval which itself contains as a condition an approved odour management plan and ongoing compliance,” stated Juch.

Juch also discussed which level of government is responsible for ensuring rules are kept in terms of enforcement.

“AEPA has jurisdiction over the monitoring and enforcement of odour and other emissions from landfills,” she said.

The county also has a Community Standards Bylaw “that regulates odour as one of many nuisances that the county can enforce against to reduce impact on neighbours,” Juch said that,

“in the case of a landfill, provincial jurisdiction supersedes any authority that the county has.

“The province is wholly responsible to ensure Claystone complies with its approved odour management plan,” concluded Juch.

GPC has had recommended residents be provided a fact sheet outlining the authority boundaries between the two jurisdictions, the approval processes and that “the province oversees compliance,” she said, suggesting that “external resources” prepare the fact sheet on behalf of the county.

However, county residents have traditionally turned to the county regarding such complaints.

There was a letter to the county from county residents William and Christa Winsnes and another letter from a Village of Ryley resident, Willis Reist.

The Winsnes’ state in their letter: “The compost facility has been the source of persistent odours, often described as ‘rotten’ or ‘sewage-like,’ which have plagued the community for years.

Recent incidents highlight the severity of the problem: in August 2024, Claystone Waste acknowledged a tech-

nical malfunction in the aeration system that caused caused increased odours leading to widespread complaints from residents in Ryley and Beaver County.”

Another complaint this July concerned strong odours that were the result of moving material in the landfill which a certain wind direction caused to affect the village. The Winsnes’ added that these “were not isolated events.”

In his letter, Reist stated his opposition to the expansion project at the Claystone landfill.

“As it is, when the wind blows in the wrong direction, which it has quite regularly lately, the smell from the compost is so file (sic) and putrid that one has to retreat indoors or leave town... There is no getting used to this smell.”

Reist also referred to upcoming municipal elections and how this might affect the voting by residents, who he says have had their complaints ignored by members of council.

A new county council will be elected either by acclamation or through municipal elections Oct. 20.

“There is no guarantee that the new council will grant new operational permits,” said Reist in his letter.

New business tax incentive bylaw to replace policy

Patricia Harcourt

The county has been working on a new bylaw that will provide a tax incentive for non-residential categories in business or development.

A new bylaw has been proposed (Bylaw 25-1178, the Non-Residential Tax Incentive) with first reading recommended to be passed at this week’s county council meeting.

Margaret Jones, Manager of Legislative Services, introduced the new bylaw and explained that such incentives must now be inscribed in a bylaw rather than a policy.

A Business Incentive Grant Policy had been passed by Beaver County in 2017.

This policy provides a grant for new or expanded commercial or industrial development over a three-year period in amounts that are the equivalent of a reduction in taxes.

Year 1 equals a 75 per cent reduction in taxes; Year 2 equals a 50 per cent reduction; Year 3 equals a 25 per cent reduction.

However, “Subsequent to approval of this policy, the Municipal Government Act was amended to require that tax incentives in the form of tax deferrals or exemptions be authorized by bylaw,” she said.

The proposed bylaw includes all the policy guidelines, with some amendments included in it as well.

One amendment is that an application fee would be charged in the proposed bylaw, with the amounts put into an amended Fees, Rates, and Charges Bylaw.

“If no fee is specified in the bylaw, the provision for the application fee can still remain in the Non-Residential Tax Incentive Bylaw in the event a future council decides otherwise,” states Jones.

Another addition is that if a development or re-vitalization project has already commenced, the project will be ineligible for the tax incentive.

“This will encourage the developer to obtain all necessary permits, complete the work in a timely manner, and will also mitigate a risk to the develop-

er that the bylaw is revoked before the development can be completed,” Jones added.

Under the policy, the assessor has been processing applications and this process will continue into the new bylaw.

This includes either the chief administrative officer or a delegate, with council hearing any appeals on decisions.

Plus, council can be the decision maker on applications should it choose to do so. This would require an amendment to the proposed bylaw.

Since the policy was put in place in 2017, seven properties have received the grant for a value of \$1,014,148, said Jones.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 17

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

October 8

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

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANT DEADLINE

Beaver County values the incredible work of community organizations! Through the Community Support Grant program, we provide funding and in-kind support to help bring impactful projects to life.

Thinking about applying? Here's what you'll need:

☒

A completed application form,

☒

A detailed project budget,

☒

The organization's most recent financial statements,

☒

Evidence of financial need or quotes for the project.

Deadline: September 30th, 2025

Visit our website under Community > Community Support Requests for more information or to fill out an application form.

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

OCTOBER 15, 2025

Appeal Body

SDAB

Application No.

O20020-25-D0034

Applicant

KENT MARTENS (ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA)

Landowner

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

Location

NW-11-49-18-W4

Development

Discretionary Use - 168 ft2 Domed Observatory (Recreation, Intensive)

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.

RAIL SAFETY WEEK - SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2025

Rail Safety Week is here, and it's the perfect time to remind everyone about the importance of staying safe around trains and railway tracks. Whether you're walking, driving, or biking, taking a few simple precautions can save lives. Trains are fast, powerful, and cannot stop quickly. It can take more than a mile for a train to come to a full stop - far longer than most people realize. That's why it's so important to:

- Always stop, look, and listen before crossing railway tracks.
- Never walk along train tracks - they are not safe shortcuts or places to play.
- Obey all crossing signals and gates - even if you don't see a train coming.
- Put away distractions like phones and headphones near railway crossings.

By following these simple steps, we can all do our part to prevent rail-related tragedies in our community. Rail Safety Week is a reminder that safety is everyone's responsibility.

ROAD MAINTENANCE: SHOULDER PULLS

Beaver County construction crews are completing shoulder pulls on the following roads this season.

- Rge Rd 200 from HWY 14 to Twp Rd 500
- Twp Rd 492 from HWY 834 to Rge Rd 192
- Rge Rd 173, 430 meters south of Twp Rd 500 to Twp Rd 492
- Twp Rd 500 from HWY 854 to Rge Rd 171
- Twp Rd 484 from HWY 855 to Rge Rd 164
- Twp Rd 502 from HWY 854 to Rge Rd 171

This work reclaims gravel from the road edges, restores the crown for proper drainage, and improves overall driving conditions. During this process, residents may notice temporary rough surfaces and road equipment. We ask drivers to slow down, watch for signs, and give crews space to work safely. For more information, visit the Road Maintenance FAQ on the Beaver County website. If your question isn't answered there, please contact the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

BEAVER COUNTY

FORM 3

Notice of Nomination Day
Local Authorities Election Act
(Section 26)

LOCAL JURISDICTION: BEAVER COUNTY, PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is September 22, 2025 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction office set out below within the period beginning on January 1, 2025 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office(s)	Number of Vacancies	Ward or Electoral Division Number (if applicable)
Councillor	1	1
Councillor	1	2
Councillor	1	3
Councillor	1	4
Councillor	1	5

Location (Address) of Local Jurisdiction Office:

Beaver County Service Center
5120 50th Street
Ryley, AB

Dated at the Village of Ryley in the Province of Alberta
this 3rd day of September, 2025.

Margaret JONES
Returning Officer

Fall 2025
Large Item
Pickup

Hamlet of Bruce: Sep 26 – Oct 2

Village of Ryley: Oct 3 – 9

Town of Tofield: Oct 10 – 16

Village of Holden: Oct 17 – 23

Town of Viking: Oct 30

Visit our website for more information on
dates, bin locations, and accepted items

claystonewaste.com/large-item-pickup

Dates are subject to change
pending equipment availability.
Large item pickup is a free service
offered by Claystone Waste.

Claystone
Waste Ltd



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Over the summer, County construction crews have been working to upgrade the following roads:

- **Beaver Creek Estates North 50514 RGE RD 202**
- **RGE RD 200 from Secondary HWY 630 to Hoopers Drive and Campground Entrance**
- **TWP RD 492 Approximately 1.72kms east of RGE RD 170**
- **TWP RD 490 between Highway 857 & RGE RD 142**
- **TWP RD 490 between Highway 870 & RGE RD 120**

These locations will soon begin to receive the second layer of chip seal and there may be delays as work crews' direct traffic to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the second chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will continue to be reduced on these roads until the final sweep is complete. Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors, and general public. There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips. We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: TWP RD 512 FROM RGE RD 191 TO SECONDARY HIGHWAY 834

The soil stabilizing for the road base with soil cement is now complete. We will soon be starting the first layer of chip seal and there may be delays as work crews direct traffic in order to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will be reduced on these roads once opened until the project is complete. **During this construction phase, portions of the road may be closed to allow crews to work safely please use another route, detours will be posted or be cautious when you need to drive through construction zones (local traffic only).** Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors and general public. Already this year we have had people exceeding the posted speed limit through our construction zones, endangering staff, contractors and the public. There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips. We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank-you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service Centre at 780-663-3730.

ROAD SURFACING UPDATE:

Beaver County is pleased to announce that the hard surfacing projects at the following location(s) have been completed:

- **Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 and 504**

This upgrade will provide smoother travel and extend the long-term durability of the roadway for all users. To ensure the road remains in excellent condition, we ask the public to please follow the guidelines below:

- Road bans will remain in place for approximately one year.
- No loading or unloading on the roadway.
- Avoid driving heavy and tracked equipment on the road, please use alternate routes or haul roads.
- Report any damage or unsafe conditions to the Beaver County Service Center.

“The farmer has patience and trusts the process. They have the faith and deep understanding that through their daily efforts, the harvest will come. And then one day, almost out of nowhere, it does.”

– Robin Sharma



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 SEPTEMBER 17
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	P1, P2, P3
Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & 504	May 19	May 30	All 4 Stages
Beaver Creek Estates North - 50514 Rge Rd 202	Jun 2	Jun 4	P1, P2
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to campground entrance & Hoopers Dr	Jun 5	Jun 9	P1, P2
Whispering Hills Estates - 51308 Rge Rd 195	Jun 10	Jun 14	P1, P2, P3
Rge Rd 200 from Hwy 630 to Blackfoot Grazing Reserve Entrance	Jun 16	Jun 24	P1, P2, P3
Twp 492 approx. 1.72kms east of Rge Rd 170	Jun 26	Jun 27	P1, P2
Twp 490 between Hwy 857 & Rge Rd 142	Jul 2	Jul 25	P1, P2
Twp 490 between Hwy 870 & Rge Rd 120	Jul 28	Aug 22	P1, P2
Twp Rd 512 from Rge Rd 191 to HWY 834	Aug 25	Sep 3	P1, P2
Shoulder Pulls			
Rge Rd 200 from HWY 14 to TWP RD 500	Sept 9	Sept 30	
Twp Rd 492 from HWY 834 to Rge Rd 192	Oct 1	Oct 9	
Rge Rd 173 from 430 meters south of Twp Rd 500 and Twp Rd 492	Oct 10	Oct 24	
Twp Rd 500 from HWY 854 to Rge Rd 171	Oct 27	Nov 4	
Twp Rd 502 from HWY 854 to Rge Rd 171	Nov 5	Nov 14	
Bridge Replacement (RGE RD 171 from TWP 484 - 490	Jun 26	Jul 26	
Gravelling	Mar 13	Dec 22	
Hamlet Road Rehabilitation (Dates TBD)			
Bruce - Main Street from railroad tracks to 4 th Avenue			
Kinsella - Main Street from Highway 14 to 3 rd Avenue			
2 nd Avenue from Main Street to King Street			
Completed In Progress Scheduled Delayed			



Social media

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



County considers a zero per cent mill rate increase on interim 2026 budget

Council wants interim budget passed before election

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County will consider a 0 per cent mill rate increase on an interim 2026 budget it wants to pass before next month's election.

Beaver County decided to conduct its interim operating and capital budget deliberations for 2026 prior to the municipal election being held in October.

These budget meetings are usually conducted in the latter part of November and early December to be passed in time for the end of the year. The Municipal Government Act states that interim budgets for the upcoming year must be finalized and passed by the end of the previous December.

However, council agreed with administration's suggestion to hold the budget meetings prior to the Oct. 20 elections. The reasoning behind it was that the new council would be in transition at that time and wrestling with a possibly unfamiliar financial scenario that might prove difficult for new councillors unfamiliar with the process.

So budget meetings were held instead in late August and into September. County Council will be considering the interim budget for operations and capital spending at this week's regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

This will be the second-last meeting of the current four-year term for this slate of councillors. The final regular meeting of council will take place Oct. 8 just prior to the elections on Oct. 20.

An organizational meeting will take place following those elections to swear in the new council and deal with the appointments to commit-

tees and boards.

At this week's meeting, the documents for this interim budget will be introduced by Ryan Arndt, General Manager of Corporate Services.

The budget meetings were held Aug. 25-27 where council reviewed a draft budget presented by Arndt.

This draft budget was then debated on Sept. 10.

"The 2026 Interim Operating Budget and the 2026 Capital Budget... include the changes (if any) from that meeting," stated Arndt in his Sept. 17 report to county council.

"It is a requirement of the Municipal Government Act that an interim budget be approved by Dec. 31, 2025," he states. "Therefore administration recommends that council approve the interim 2026 Operating Budget and 2026 Capital Budget."

"During an interim budget process, data including updated assessment information will be collated and analyzed again to create a recommendation for final operating budget approval in April 2026."

The salary grid for non-union staff is not disclosed, said Arndt, due to the Access to Information Act Section 20(1).

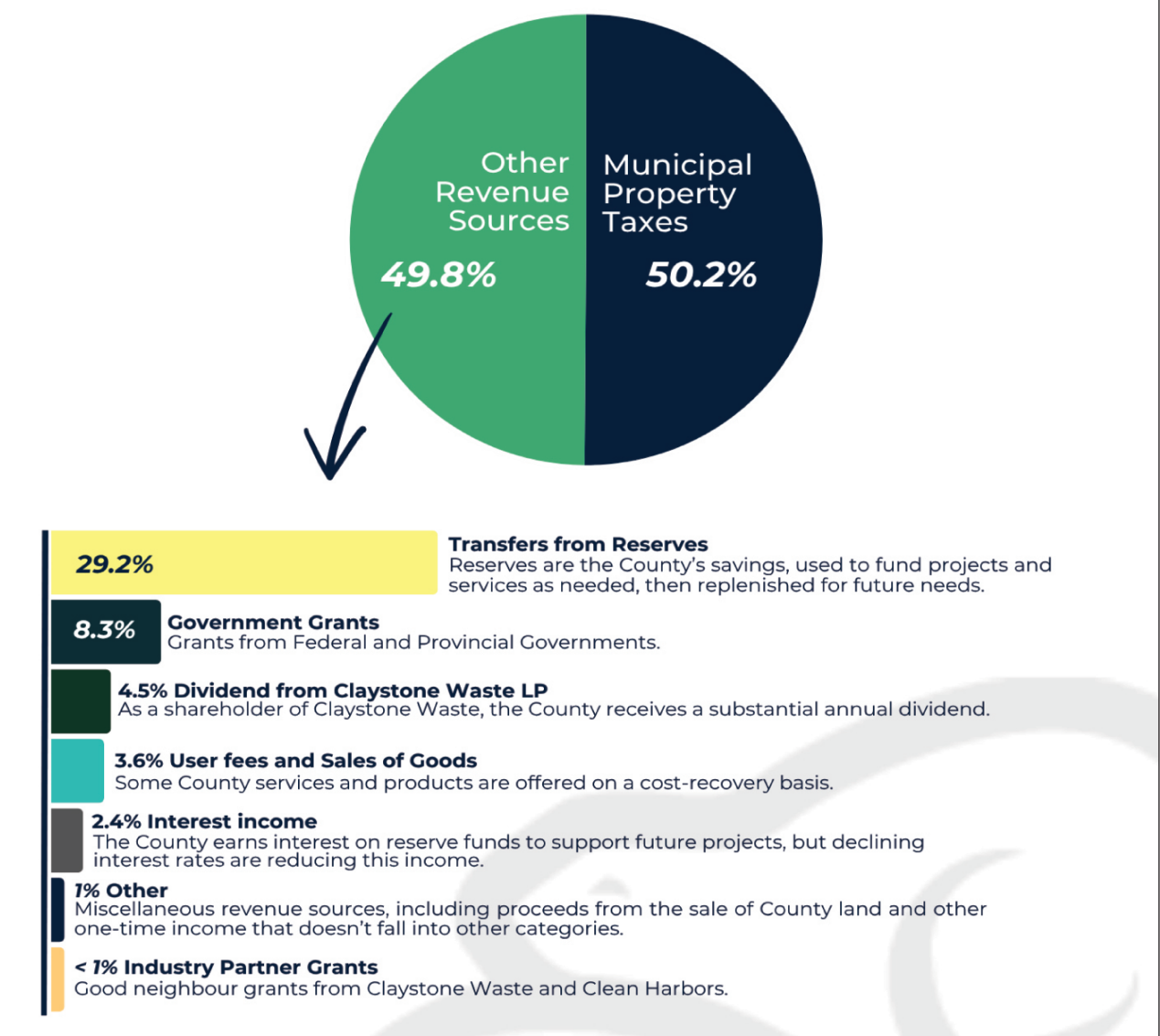
Council will be considering adopting a 2026 Interim Operating Budget with total expenditures of \$22,697,258, and a tax levy of \$15,331,949 needed to be raised.

Also under consideration is a 2026 Capital Budget with total spending of \$11,884,561. A tax levy of \$1,940,900 would be needed to make up the gap between that amount and what is raised through other sources.

He requested "that council consider approving the 2026 non-union

Where the Money Comes From

Generating revenue is an ongoing challenge for municipalities, and Beaver County is no exception. The County is committed to balancing community needs with the resources available, working to get the most value out of every dollar spent. Revenue comes from a variety of sources, the breakdown for the 2026 budget is shown below.



salary grid as presented by administration in Closed Session."

The county must get its revenue sources in two ways. At the moment the municipal property taxes are the greatest source of income at 50.2 per cent, with other revenue sources coming in at 49.8 per cent of revenues.

"Generating revenue is an ongoing challenge for municipalities, and Beaver County is no exception," states the draft budget report.

"The county is committed to balancing community needs with the resources available, working to get the most value out of every dollar spent."

Apart from property taxes, revenue comes from a variety of sources including 29.2 per cent transfers from reserves, 8.3 per cent government grants, 4.5 per cent from Claystone Waste dividends, 3.6 per cent from user fees and sales of goods, 2.4 per cent from interest income, 7 per cent from other sources like sale of county land and one-time income, and 1 per cent from industry partner grants.

As for property taxes, the county is considering passing a budget with a 0 per cent municipal tax rate increase; plus, an increase in Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) and

provincial policing requirements of which the county has no control over the amount and which is listed as a separate mill rate.

In the report, there were four options presented by administration in terms of recommendations and considerations.

"Both assessment and tax rates can change each year based on the county's budget and shifts in property values," the report advises.

It was expected that there would be a 5 per cent increase in inflation growth which could add about \$200,000 in revenues.

A raise in a property's assessment value can also raise the taxes for that

property even if the county does not raise the municipal tax rate.

Property taxes are calculated based on the property's assessed value and the tax rate set each year by council through the Mill Rate Bylaw.

This bylaw is usually finalized in the spring of the upcoming year when any changes or inputs that occur between the interim budget and final budget can be allowed for and calculated.

In the meantime, the new county council will not have to deal with any such changes until the New Year and into the spring, if council passes this draft budget as presented this week or next.