

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF INVERGORDON No. 430
Regular meeting of Council held in the R.M. Council Chambers
7 Danchuk Drive in Crystal Springs, SK
May 1st 2024
9:00am

<i>Present:</i>	<i>Reeve</i>	<i>Bruce Hunter</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 1</i>	<i>Kelvin Dutka</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 2</i>	<i>Keith Thibault</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 3</i>	<i>Calvin Parsons (arrived at 10:45am)</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 4</i>	<i>Kevin Hawreschuk</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 5</i>	<i>Wayne Bacon</i>
	<i>Councillor, Division 6</i>	<i>Edwin Rundbraaten</i>
	<i>Administrator</i>	<i>Courtney Beaulieu</i>
<i>Delegations:</i>	<i>Irene Harmon</i>	<i>Carrot River Valley Watershed Association</i>
	<i>Jamie Lobb</i>	<i>Fletts Springs C&D Area</i>
	<i>Dale Markling</i>	<i>Ratepayer, Dixon Lake</i>
	<i>Doug Bryshun</i>	<i>Ratepayer, Dixon Lake</i>
	<i>Jay Ranford</i>	<i>Ratepayer, Dixon Lake</i>
	<i>Mary-Lou Thevenot</i>	<i>Ratepayer, Dixon Lake</i>
	<i>Wayne Hanke</i>	<i>Ratepayer, Dixon Lake</i>

A quorum being present, Reeve Hunter called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

Minutes of Regular Meeting

118/24 Thibault

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday April 10, 2024 be approved as read.

CARRIED

Minutes of Special Meeting

119/24 Dutka

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Wednesday April 17, 2024 be approved as read.

CARRIED

Statement of Financial Activities

120/24 Rundbraaten

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Statement of Financial Activities as at April 30, 2024 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Bank Statement

121/24 Thibault

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bank Statement as at April 30, 2024 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Payroll Register

122/24 Hawreschuk

BE IT RESOLVED, that Reference No. 900064 (March 2024) and Reference No. 000677 to 000695 (April 2024) totaling \$39,479.92 as outlined in the Payroll Register attached to and forming part of these minutes, be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Authorized Expenditure Report

123/24 Dutka

WHEREAS, payment to Celtic Contracting Ltd was authorized on Resolution No. 099/24 in the amount of \$499,500.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following authorized expenditures totaling \$526,529.72 as outlined in the Authorized Expenditure Report attached to and forming part of these minutes, be accepted as presented:

- Cheque No. 3650
- EFT No. 2276 to 2277; and
- Online Banking No. 2024-19 to 2024-23.

CARRIED

List of Accounts for Approval

124/24 Thibault

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following payments, totaling \$42,430.68, as outlined in the List of Accounts for Approval attached to and forming part of these minutes, be approved for payment:

- Cheque No. 3651 to 3664; and
- EFT No. 2278 to 2291.

CARRIED

Unpaid Taxes Report

125/24 Hawreschuk

WHEREAS, total taxes outstanding as of April 30, 2024 are as follows:

- Current: -\$19,992.14 (Credits)
- Arrears and Interest: \$63,455.49

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Unpaid Taxes Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Council Reports

126/24 Thibault

WHEREAS, heavy traffic in the Organized Hamlet of Tway currently utilizes Kostyna Avenue and 1st Street however the road is believed to be too narrow and insufficient to withstand the traffic.

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Hamlet Board, Bob Corrie has requested to Councillor Thibault that heavy traffic instead be routed down Railway Avenue and Alexander Street and that the RM be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of these roads accordingly.

WHEREAS, all municipal roads within the urban limits of an Organized Hamlet are the responsibility of the hamlet to maintain and such powers are granted to the hamlet to request the passage of a Weight Restriction Bylaw by Council to prohibit heavy traffic through the hamlet.

WHEREAS, Council does not desire to prohibit farm machinery from being able to pass through the hamlet.

BE IT RESOLVED, that an agreement be drafted with the Organized Hamlet of Tway to permit farm machinery to utilize Railway Avenue and Alexander Street and that the RM shall perform, at no cost to the hamlet, surface blading only, as required;

AND, that all other heavy traffic shall be prohibited, such as gravel trucks.

AND, that any additional maintenance such as gravel, asphalt patching or sealing, dust control or other similar work shall be the responsibility and expense of the Organized Hamlet of Tway.

CARRIED

Foreman, Myron Toner joined the meeting at 9:56am.

Delegations

The following delegates pertaining to the Invergordon Conservation & Development Area, Dixon Lake Weir Project and Waterhen Summer Work agenda items joined the meeting at 10:07:am:

Irene Harmon, Watershed Manager – *Carrot River Valley Watershed Association*
Jamie Lobb, Secretary-Treasurer – *Fletts Springs Conservation & Development Area*
Ratepayers of Dixon Lake: Dale Markling, Doug Bryshun, Jay Ranford, Mary-Lou Thevenot and Wayne Hanke.

Waterhen Summer Work

Jamie Lobb advised Council that the *Fletts Springs Conservation & Development Area* has approved RM work to be completed on the Waterhen in 2024 up to \$12,000.00.

Invergordon Conservation & Development Area

Irene Harmon provided the Council with an update on the pending dissolution of the *Carrot River Valley Watershed Association* into the North-East District of the *Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds* (SAW).

Councillor, Calvin Parsons joined the meeting at 10:45am.

Dixon Lake Weir Project

127/24 Bacon

WHEREAS, ratepayers of Dixon Lake discussed with Council their concerns relating to the water level of Dixon Lake, a pre-existing beaver dam on the outlet of the lake and posed questions to Council about the status of a potential weir.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Councillor Hawreschuk along with Dale Markling and Doug Bryshun, ratepayers of Dixon Lake, be authorized to present a flood easement agreement to all affected landowners in accordance with Hydrology Report dated April 24, 2023 as prepared by *MPE Engineering Ltd*;

AND, that said easement agreements must be signed by the affected landowners and presented to Council at an upcoming meeting.

CARRIED

Irene Harmon, Jamie Lobb, Dale Markling, Doug Bryshun, Jay Ranford, Mary-Lou Thevenot and Wayne Hanke departed the meeting at 11:31am.

128/24 Thibault

BE IT RESOLVED, that it be acknowledged that representatives from *Water Security Agency* and the *Saskatchewan Conservation and Development Association* declined to attend today's meeting pending legal guidance to the questions and clarifications requested upon them.

CARRIED

Dust Control Custom Work Rate

129/24 Dutka

WHEREAS, the amount of surcharge added to the product cost in 2023 of \$0.07/L was sufficient to cover the cost of RM man-hours and machinery in preparing road surfaces and in executing the dust control program.

BE IT RESOLVED, that a custom work rate for dust control be set as \$0.59/L.

CARRIED

Annual Grants Policy Revision

130/24 Dutka

WHEREAS, a revision to the Annual Grants Policy has been presented to add Paragraph L, as follows:

L. Snow Removal for Community Events

Annual snow removal donations are hereby granted to the following community halls:

- Crystal Springs Community Hall
- Meskanaw Community Hall
- Tway Community Hall
- Yellow Creek Community Hall

Donations shall be for one (1) event of snow removal required for Snowmobile poker rallies or funerals only.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Annual Grants Policy GG-021 Revision 6 be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

Staff Reports

Foreman Toner presented his report to Council and departed the meeting at 12:44pm.

131/24 Hawreschuk

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Foreman's Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Recall Seasonal Operators

132/24 Rundbraaten

BE IT RESOLVED, that the recall of Equipment Operator, Daryl Filpula, be acknowledged as April 23, 2024.

CARRIED

Appoint Building Officials (Revised List)

133/24 Dutka

BE IT RESOLVED, that under the authority of Section 16 of the *Construction Codes Act*, the following revised list of Building Officials of *MuniCode Services Ltd.* be hereby appointed to the RM of Invergordon, No. 430 for the year 2024:

Clayton Meier – BOL332
Ryan Thiessen – BOL555
Travis Elkin – BOL580
Shenah Cartier – BOL622
Clint Vargo – BOL798
Kelsey Rebryna – BOL818

CARRIED

Farmstead Exemption

134/24 Bacon

WHEREAS, Section 293(2)(e) of *The Municipalities Act* provides a tax exemption for a dwelling occupied by an owner or lessee of land, to the extent of the amount of the assessment for the dwelling does not exceed the total assessment of any owned or leased land in the rural municipality.

WHEREAS, the occupant of the farmstead dwelling on SW 18-45-22-W2 is not the owner of the land as the occupant sold the land and dwelling in 2020, along with all other land holdings in the RM except two 7-acre parcels.

WHEREAS, in 2021 the farmstead dwelling was no longer fully exempt from taxation under Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act*.

WHEREAS, for the 2022 Assessment Roll the occupant of said farmstead submitted a declaration of leased lands (for 2 quarter sections in the RM) to Assessor Beaulieu which would result in the farmstead dwelling returning to fully exempt from taxation.

WHEREAS, in preparation for the 2023 Assessment Roll, the Council amended its Farmstead Exemption Policy GG-006 to require a lease agreement to be witnessed by a lawyer and submitted with a Section 293 declaration.

WHEREAS, the occupant of the farmstead dwelling on SW 18-45-22-W2 submitted the same declaration as in 2022, as well as the required lease agreement signed by a lawyer, and as such the Section 293 exemption was applied to the dwelling utilizing the declared lands for 2023.

WHEREAS, in October 2023, the landowner of the declared lands signed to withdraw the Section 293 declaration effective immediately and going forward, however the 2023 Tax Roll was completed, as a result the change would not take effect until 2024.

WHEREAS, Council passed Resolution 227/23 to submit a resolution to the SARM Midterm Convention in November 2023 to request the amendment of Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act* to remove the dwelling exemption provided to a lessee of land.

WHEREAS, for the 2024 Assessment Roll the occupant of the farmstead dwelling and landowner submitted the same declaration of leased lands and lease agreement by the March 31, 2024 deadline, contradictory to the withdrawn statement provided in October 2023.

WHEREAS, the lease agreement submitted does not, on its face, appear to be legitimate due to the nature of the monetary exchange and terms of the agreement.

WHEREAS, Administrator Beaulieu presented a letter from Carson & Co who has reviewed the historical facts on the matter, as well as the terms within the lease agreement and provided various recommendations to Council.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the declaration of leased lands be refused whereby the occupant of the farmstead dwelling on SW 18-45-22-W2 shall only be provided a Section 293 exemption to the dwelling by utilizing taxable assessment of land in which they personally own;

AND, that Carson & Co send a letter to the landowner of the declared leased lands and/or the occupant of the farmstead dwelling requiring the submission of additional documentation in order to substantiate the lease agreement.

CARRIED

Municipal Hail Withdrawals

135/24 Thibault

BE IT RESOLVED, that Council hereby approves the lands to be withdrawn from the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance program as per the March 31, 2024 Withdrawal List.

CARRIED

Assessment Roll

136/24 Parsons

BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 204 of *The Municipalities Act*, Council hereby acknowledge the municipal assessment roll for the year 2024 shall be prepared and open for inspection with notices issued on May 3, 2024.

CARRIED

Tax Enforcement (2023 Arrears)

137/24 Bacon

WHEREAS, the List of Lands With Arrears with respect to outstanding 2023 taxes were advertised in *The Journal* on February 23, 2024.

WHEREAS, Section 10 of *The Tax Enforcement Act* states that upon the expiration of a period of sixty (60) days following such advertisement, a tax lien is to be registered against the title of every parcel of land included in the published list which the taxes remain in arrears and the cost of such tax lien is added to the amount of the arrears of taxes.

WHEREAS, as of the date of this meeting the total 2023 arrears including penalties and costs owing is \$42,249.65.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Council hereby acknowledge tax liens shall be registered in accordance with Tax Enforcement Policy GG-016, on lands remaining in arrears as of May 1, 2024.

CARRIED

Gas Tax Project Application

138/24 Rundbraaten

WHEREAS, under the current funding agreement the RM has \$165,682.22 to allocate and expend on approved projects by December 31, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED, that a Request For Quotation be issued for required repairs on the Yellow Creek Firehall Roof and Struthers Lake Regional Park upgrades.

CARRIED

Kinistino Library Appointment

139/24 Bacon

BE IT RESOLVED, that Councillor Bacon's appointment to the Kinistino Library Board be rescinded in order to appoint a ratepayer and invested local community member in his place;

AND, that Brittney Nygaard be appointed the Kinistino Library Board for the RM of Invergordon for the remainder of the 2024 year.

CARRIED

Subdivision Application – SW 19-44-23-W2

140/24 Parsons

WHEREAS, a Subdivision Application has been received from Community Planning for the subdivision of approximately 80 acres (Proposed Parcel "A") of cultivated land from a quarter section.

WHEREAS, the Proposal Parcel "A" contains legal existing access from a developed road.

WHEREAS, the balance of the quarter shall contain an existing farmstead, occupied by the applicant, and also contains legal existing access from a developed road.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in reference to File No. SUBD-00294-2024, Council approves the Subdivision Application of Parcel "A" (76.90 acres) on SW 19-44-23-W2 as drawn on the Plan of Proposed Subdivision dated April 19, 2024 by *Valley Geomatics Land Surveyors*.

CARRIED

Subdivision Proposal – SW 24-44-24-W2

141/24 Bacon

WHEREAS, a proposal has been submitted to Administrator Beaulieu for a proposed 4-acre subdivision for the purpose of facilitating an aerial spraying ag-commercial development.

WHEREAS, the proponent has not submitted a subdivision application to Community Planning at this time, however is seeking informal support from Council prior to proceeding with the purchase of the land and subdivision.

WHEREAS, under Zoning Bylaw 23-08 no more than four (4) subdivided parcels (plus the balance of the quarter) can exist on any one quarter-section in the Agricultural District.

WHEREAS, the quarter section in question already contains five (5) subdivided parcels in addition to the balance of the quarter, existing at the time Zoning Bylaw 23-08 was adopted, however two (2) parcels are for municipal use.

WHEREAS, an amendment to Zoning Bylaw 23-08 is being prepared to address other requirements.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Council support the proposal of an aerial spraying ag-commercial development as presented;

AND, that an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw 23-08 be prepared to update the density requirements in the Agricultural District to exclude municipal or public utility parcels.

CARRIED

Adjourn

142/24 Hunter

BE IT RESOLVED, that this meeting be adjourned at 2:01pm.

CARRIED

Bruce Hunter
Reeve

Courtney Beaulieu
Administrator