



# WHEATLAND COUNTY

## Reeve Monthly Report

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Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: July 2020

Report Date: July 30, 2020

### **July 2 WC Infinite Possibilities Conference Call**

A brief teleconference open to businesses in our region, as well as business support agencies and services. It was decided to pause these calls over the summer due to reduced participation.

### **July 2 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting**

Financial Variance Report, 2019-2021 Strategic Plan review, RRRF Operational Funding, selling/disposal of office laptops, monthly Loan Report with Arrears, RRRF loan update, Regional Covid-19 Collaboration Recovery Plan, Open Farm Days Update, 2020 CF Symposium update, and marketing materials for Directors provided.

### **July 7 Council Meeting**

Council held public hearings and approved three land redesignations. First reading and scheduling of public hearings for amendments to our Land Use Bylaw to update multiple Land Use Districts, Specific Use Regulations, and Definitions regarding Cannabis Production Facilities and Cannabis Cultivation, as well as other amendments to our Land Use Bylaw. Council passed second and third readings for a borrowing bylaw for the Transtor Capital Replacement project. Council and administration reports. Council approved amendments to our Procurement Policy. Contract awarded for Automatic Vehicle Location System. Muirfield sale of lots process, water meter project, Range Road 205 agreement, utility connection fee change.

### **July 8 Agricultural Service Board Meeting**

Soil movement education campaign and support for Alberta Farmland Trust Resolution approved. Revisions to Agricultural and Environmental Policies, Fusarium Graminearum press release, Manager's report, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry key contact report, including information regarding CAP – some budget reductions due to new programs, many programs not accepting applications, but check online for those that are open, Government of Alberta department staff reductions.

Following the meeting we met to discuss ideas for the 2022 Provincial ASB Summer Tour.

### **July 8 Telephone Meeting with Town of Strathmore Mayor Fule**

An opportunity for Mayor Fule and I to discuss current issues and concerns.

### **July 10 Visit Rosebud with MP Martin Shields**

It was my pleasure to join MP Shields and visit the hamlet of Rosebud, we visited the Theatre and several local businesses, discussing the challenges and opportunities that they have been

experiencing. Did you know the Rosebud Theatre is a unique cultural arts program that only relies on government funding for 2% of their revenue? They have been hit hard with the loss of ticket sales from cancelled shows, please consider supporting the theater in your giving. The cancellation of shows has significantly impacted businesses in the hamlet as well, I would highly encourage everyone to explore all that Rosebud has to offer!

**July 13          Wheatland Housing Board Committee Meeting**

Continued discussion regarding public engagement plan.

**July 14          Municipal Planning Commission Meeting**

The Commission approved three development permits (cannabis store in Cluny, dwelling accessory, and machining services home-based business type 3) and did not approve one development permit (diaper compost facility), as well one subdivision application was approved.

**July 14          Planning and Priorities Meeting**

Opportunity for administration to provide updates and background information to Council. Actionable items will come forward to future Council meetings.

**July 17          Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting**

Update on Growth and Servicing Plan project, update on public engagement activities (we expressed concerns about engagement occurring primarily online and this Phase being conducted in the summer, the engagement timeline was expanded from July 24-September 4 and delayed in order to allow time for municipalities to provide feedback prior to the launch, had hoped for delay until July 30<sup>th</sup> to allow our team sufficient time to review, but motion was lost with 8 municipalities voting in favour and 2 opposed). Policies to bring forward motions and for email voting, Board Chair Recruitment Committee structure, and COVID 19 roundtable discussion.

**July 24          Assessment Model Review Webinar with RMA (info provided by RMA, our Council has not had an opportunity to discuss the proposed changes and thus has no position at this time)**

Over the past several months, RMA has participated in a closed-door stakeholder review of Alberta's assessment model for wells, pipelines, and machinery and equipment property. According to the Government of Alberta, the intent of the review is to develop options for government that enhance industry competitiveness while ensuring the ongoing viability of municipalities. In addition to RMA, the review included participation from AUMA, as well as industry-focused associations such as the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada, and the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association. The review was jointly led by Alberta Municipal Affairs and Alberta Energy. This review included the Government of Alberta presenting options on changes to assessment on wells, machinery & equipment, and pipelines. The RMA was not involved in the development of the scenarios presented but was provided opportunity to identify how these scenarios would impact municipalities.

Throughout the review process, RMA's focus was firmly on informing government and other participants of the impacts that various potential changes to the assessment system would have on municipalities, as well as questioning the role of the assessment system as a vehicle to support industry competitiveness. Unfortunately, despite the significant evidence presented by RMA that the proposed changes would have major negative impacts on many rural municipalities, and have limited competitiveness benefits by actually raising assessment in some cases, the Government of Alberta is proposing changes to the assessment system that are opposed by RMA. It should also be noted that the technical details of the proposed changes were not a focus of the review, and RMA was not

invited to participate in last year's technical review.

Fortunately, the Government of Alberta will not make a final decision on the recommendations prior to consulting directly with municipal and industry stakeholders. RMA anticipates that this consultation window will last for approximately one month. RMA will be aggressively advocating to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and others in government on the serious impacts these changes will have on many rural municipalities.

RMA has presented an analysis of alternative methods of increasing industry competitiveness. Ideally proposed changes will balance industry's needs for fairer assessment with municipal sustainability.

**July 29            Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant Board Meeting**

Financial review, CEO report, and Chairman report.

**July 30            Agriculture Grant Announcement**

I was honoured to join Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry along with Honourable Leela Sharon Aheer, MLA Chestermere-Strathmore at Namaka Farms for the announcement of a \$175,000 Canadian Agricultural Partnership Grant for research to improve animal health by using antibiotics more effectively.