



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: November 2020

Report Date: November 24, 2020

November 2 Mayors and Reeves Liaison Meeting

Discussion regarding impact of assessment changes, anticipated further assessment reviews in other sectors, impacts of unpaid linear taxes (both from solvent and insolvent companies) and the need for a mechanism for municipalities to enforce collectability, action plan to develop taskforce, and impacts on surface rights and landowner payments.

November 3 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Convention

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and related public health measures it was necessary to hold the RMA fall convention virtually. Certainly not the same and we missed out on significant networking opportunities, but we were able to get together with our neighbours at Rocky View County and participate in the first day of the convention together.

The convention started with the Annual General Meeting, including RMA Business Services Report, financials, and President update.

Nominations for the RMA President election.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs Honourable Tracy Allard presented her address.

We held part one of our favourite part of every convention the Ministerial Forum (aka Bear Pit).

Participation by the following members of the Government of Alberta Cabinet:

- The Honourable Doug Schweitzer, Minister of Jobs, Economy, and Innovation,
- The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks,
- The Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation,
- The Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
- The Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy

Questions were diverse and included issues like education requisition and the Assessment Model Review, education tax on uncollected municipal linear tax, ag research and bias, and forestry fees. Official opposition address.

Speeches for RMA President.

Resolution Session

1-20F Police Funding Model Freeze (*MD of Lesser Slave River*)

2-20F Blue-Ribbon Panel to Review Unpaid Taxes Owed by Oil and Gas Companies
(*Birch Hills County*)

3-20F Support for Alberta Farmland Trust (*Wheatland County*)

4-20F Provincial Policing Costs Levy – Designate as a Requisition (*Lacombe County*)

5-20F Legislated Notice Requirement (*Big Lakes County*)

6-20F Government of Alberta Embargoed Committee Work (*MD of Willow Creek*)

7-20F Amendments to Municipal Government Act Section 619 (*MD of Willow Creek*)

8-20F Enhancing Support for Farmers When a State of Agricultural Disaster is Declared
(*Leduc County*)

9-20F CRTC Aggregate Wholesale Pricing to Mandate Rural Investment (*Big Lakes County*)

10-20F Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta (*MD of Taber*)

11-20F Creation of Municipal Affairs Process to Resolve Disputes Regarding Council Sanctions and Disqualifications (*Rocky View County*)

12-20F Expansion of Elk Hunting for Management in Agriculture Production Areas
(*Leduc County*)

13-20F Provincial Government Disaster Recovery Program Payments (*County of Grande Prairie*)

14-20F Seniors' Foundation Requisitions (*MD of Greenview*)

15-20F Security Deposits for Dispositions (*Saddle Hills County*)

16-20F Federal and Provincial Disaster Support (*RM of Wood Buffalo*)

17-20F Rural Small Business Properties Assessment Sub-Classes Amendment (*RM of Wood Buffalo*)

18-20F Municipal Decision-making on Fire Bans in Hamlets Within Forest Protection Area (*Mackenzie County*)

19-20F Reinstatement of the Benefit Contribution Grant for Early Childhood Educators
(*RM of Wood Buffalo*)

ER1-20F Financial Support from RMA for Appeal of Legal Decision Regarding Vehicle/Trailer Billboard Signs Along Roadways (*Foothills County*)

All resolutions were passed with the exception of 11, 14, and ER1. RMA will now start advocacy on the Resolutions that were endorsed. Resolutions are crucial to RMA's advocacy efforts. They allow us to have a direct role in the advocacy process by identifying priority issues that require action by other levels of government. RMA uses resolutions to guide our advocacy positions and the issues we prioritize when working with other levels of government or stakeholders.

Resolutions are typically directed toward the provincial or federal government, and seek changes to legislation, regulations or policy, address funding or program issues, or encourage alternative policy approaches related to a specific rural municipal issue or concern.

November 4 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall Convention

The morning started with an election for our District 2 Director, I was honoured to be elected to represent Central RMA District 2. Thank you to Paula Law of Lacombe County and Michelle Swanson of Clearwater County for running. I'm grateful to be joining a strong board and administrative team.

Next was part 2 of our favourite part of the convention, the Ministerial Forum.

Ministers participating:

- The Honourable Travis Toews, Minister of Finance
- The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
- The Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health
- The Honourable Josephine Pon, Minister of Seniors and Housing
- The Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta
- The Honourable Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education

Questions included how the province plans to reduce spending, while continuing municipal funding at sustainable levels. Rural crime. Rural health care during the pandemic. Seniors Housing RFEIO. Multiple questions regarding provincial broadband strategy and significant issues with rural connectivity. Mental health, specifically in agricultural community, insurance costs (vehicle and condominiums).

AGM was reconvened, to ratify elections.

Education Session – Red Tape Reduction

The Government of Alberta is engaged in the process of reducing red tape across all ministries with the goal of streamlining their operations. This session featured representatives from Municipal Affairs, Environment and Parks, and Agriculture, and Forestry. These representatives spoke about the red tape reduction initiatives within their ministry. This session also featured representation from Brownlee LLP, who provided a legal perspective on reducing red tape. Members also had the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session.

Education Session – Media Training

Every organization needs to be prepared to speak to the media in order to promote themselves, manage a crisis or respond to a newsworthy event. Hosted by Alchemy Communications CEO Kathryn Kolaczek, this workshop provided RMA delegates with the opportunity to learn about the current media climate; different media opportunities in TV, digital and radio; how to control messaging; and the chance to hear case studies of crisis communications in traditional and social media. RMA delegates left the workshop with a strong basic understanding of how to be prepared to speak to the media in multiple environments.

Education Session - Rural Healthcare

Access to rural healthcare is vital for maintaining communities and attracting new economic development. The recently-released AHS implementation plan includes initiatives that have the potential to impact rural healthcare. This session featured representation from the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Alberta Health Services (AHS), and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta (NPAA). Members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Education Session – The Business of Advocacy

Advocacy requires relationships. This session featured speakers from Global Public Affairs, who highlighted how advocacy works in Alberta's current political environment and provided members with insight how to advocate from the local level. RMA board and staff were on-hand to share how

we advocate as an association, the importance of building collaborative and positive relationships, and how members play an important role in supporting advocacy at the local level.

November 5 Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce Rebranding and Ribbon Cutting

It was my honour to represent Wheatland County at this celebration. I'm sincerely appreciative to the Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce Board. Chambers of Commerce provide the means to aid business networking and development across all communities. The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) is no exception. The SWCC provides members with support, advocacy, and a broad range of services that businesses need in order to prosper. It is truly a network of support for our local entrepreneurs. The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber and the businesses who belong are the backbone of our communities and we are grateful. Congratulations on the name change and thank you. We are stronger together.

November 5 Community Futures Management/Personnel Committee

Performed 6 month Executive Director Performance Evaluation, presented to Board, and reviewed with Executive Director.

November 5 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting

Started with Special Meeting of Shareholders to appoint Directors of the Corporation. Approval of amended 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements. Then convened Director's Meeting, election of Officers, honoured to be re-elected to serve as Chair. Appointment of Loan Sub-Committee members, financial reports, Semi-Annual Financial Report to Western Diversification, committee appointments, SWOT analysis update, new WD policies, Alberta Job Grant, loan arrears report, RRRF update, Shop Local campaign, CFNA appointment of ED. Approval of ED 6 month performance review.

November 10 Council Meeting

Full agenda packages (with back up documentation) are available on our website:

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/agendasandminutes/>

You can also watch the recording on our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRJrvIs0eygNM7zERLnviOg?view_as=subscriber

Public Hearings and bylaw readings for a redesignation and amendment to Direct Control District, final reading for a road closure. Approved amended Public Behaviour Bylaw. Notice of Motion regarding utility servicing model. Council and department reports. Approved signing of Marigold Schedule C regarding requisition. Approved IT support position. Capital spending Q3 update (42% of budget spent, completed projects underbudget) and unaudited Financial Statement review for Q3, overall operating expenditures down approximately \$4 million (overtime and staff reductions, fuel costs, decreased training, primarily due to Covid and strategic decisions in anticipation of fiscal impacts). Support for potential annexation of former school site by Village of Hussar. Rosebud ratepayer waterline connection. South Truck Fill Contribution. WID conveyance rates.

November 16 Wheatland Regional Partnership

Community Futures Wild Rose Business Analyst presented information about CFWR operations and the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund program. Canadian Badlands, asset management sharing agreement and insurance question, waste management fee discussion, and community updates.

November 17 Municipal Planning Commission

MPC appointed Tom Ikert as our Chair and Donna Biggar as our Vice Chair. MPC approved one Development Permit and one subdivision.

November 17 Dalum Fire Association AGM

It was a pleasure to join Division 7 Councillor Armstrong, reviewed financial statements, incident reports, and Chief Report.

November 18 Telephone Town Hall with Municipal Leaders

Premier Jason Kenney, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Tracy Allard, Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, and Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health shared the latest information regarding COVID-19 and the ongoing work being done to protect Albertans, and answered questions from municipal leaders across the province. The diversity in challenges that rural and urban municipalities are facing was evident.

November 20 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting

Bill 48 potential impacts to growth boards, Growth and Servicing Plan update and revised timeline, growth plan consultant advised there are current entitlements to accommodate a further 900,000 people in the region, public engagement update and What We Heard Report for Phase 1, REF principles, process and timelines, post growth plan priorities for 2021, Participation of External Stakeholders in CMRB Initiatives Policy, Data Sharing Framework, Board Chair Recruitment Subcommittee update, Q2 and Q3 actuals, and board and committee dates and committee appointments.

November 20 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Governance – Board Chair Hiring Subcommittee

Reviewed Board Chair opportunity profile, evaluated applications, and created short list. Short list interviews scheduled for December 4 virtually, with final candidates anticipated to be interviewed in person following that.

November 21 Marigold Library Board Meeting

Approved financial statements, approved draft Operating and Capital/Projects Budget, new headquarters building update, Strategic Plan 2021-2022, Schedule C update, Finance Policy, Freedom to Read Week Proclamation, ALTA update, and roundtable.

November 23 Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant AGM

Audited financial statements, review of fiscal year with year over year comparisons, total bushels processed, seed treating, transloading, commercial processing, pedigree seed program, gross profit, risk management strategy and trends, and division mix analysis. Election of new board members.

November 24 Committee of the Whole

Budget review, including public engagement, Interim Operating and Capital Budgets.

November 26 CMRB Governance Committee

Review of 2021 budget, reserve funds policy, cost sharing framework, Vice Chair selection, posting recorded CMRB meetings, Chair contract extension, and appeal/reconsideration mechanism. Report was submitted prior to meeting, will highlight significant discussion and recommendations verbally.

November 27 CMRB Workshop

Preliminary policies for Growth Management and the Efficient Use of Land. Report was submitted prior to meeting, will highlight significant discussion and recommendations verbally.

Rural Municipalities of Alberta

I also attended Rural Municipalities of Alberta Board Orientation and our first Board meeting.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

I participated in Advocacy Days, which runs November 17-26.

I was appointed to serve on the following committees:

Committee of the Whole

Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus

Rural Forum

Standing Committee on Community Safety and Crime Prevention

Standing Committee on Social-Economic Development

A full report will be shared with all of Central RMA Division 2 once Advocacy Days have concluded.