



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: March 2020

Report Date: March31, 2020

Wheatland County Response to COVID-19

I am so incredibly thankful for our Wheatland County administration. Our Chief Administrative Officer, Brian Henderson, and his team have been proactively planning, analyzing, and implementing measured responses to protect our staff and residents, while also working to ensure essential services are maintained. They have been operationalizing provincial directives that require daily navigation.

Our top priority is, and always will be, Wheatland staff and residents' safety and wellbeing. Our Business Continuity Strategy has been activated to ensure County operations continue.

In parallel our administration has been focused on supporting our business community through this trying time. I am particularly proud of all our entrepreneurs and business owners who are working to find innovative ways to stay sustainable and planning for recovery after this crisis.

I have made it a priority to reach out to all our municipal neighbours, the Villages of Hussar, Rockyford, and Standard, Siksika Nation, the Towns of Strathmore and Drumheller, Rocky View County, Foothills County, Newell County, Vulcan County, and Kneehill County. I'm collaborating on a regional level to find ways we can work together to support each other and our businesses, and in the event we need to coordinate essential service delivery or activate mutual aid.

I have been keeping in regular contact with our MLAs and MP. I have been liaising with our multiple RCMP detachments that serve the County. I've been serving several Boards I sit on.

One of the most accurate things I have heard is:

If it appears we have overreacted looking back at this time it will mean the measures we implemented were effective.

As we deal with the intersection of the pandemic and the oil and gas crisis and the potentially devastating impacts to our budget our Council will have difficult decisions to make, but we will get through this together.

I'm overwhelmed by the ways our community and region are coming together to be there for each other and connect even while we socially distance as we all navigate a dynamic and uncertain situation.

The COVID-19 situation is unprecedented, complex, and rapidly evolving. We choose facts over fear. Preparation over panic. We are all in this together.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to our incredible County staff or myself if you have suggestions or if you have questions.

Wheatland County is providing our residents up to date information from a municipal perspective on our main website:

<http://wheatlandcounty.ca>

As well as on our economic development site:

<http://infinitewc.ca>

As this is a rapidly evolving situation please stay up to date with information from the Government of Alberta's COVID-19 website or social media channels:

<http://alberta.ca/COVID19>

Alberta Health Services also has extensive information on their website, including the online self assessment tool:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>

As well please stay up to date on federal information at Government of Canada's website or social media:

<http://canada.ca/coronavirus>

March Council Commitments

March 3 Council Meeting

We held four public hearings, 3 bylaws were approved including Intermunicipal Development Plans with the Village of Standard and Town of Drumheller, and one land redesignation, one land redesignation was refused. Council and staff reports. Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with several Counties were approved, Vulcan, Kneehill, Rocky View, and Foothills. Transportation updated that road bans will start March 5. The new 2019 Environmental Update was shared, an exceptional document that outlines our key focus areas, erosion and sediment controls within our transportation programs, agri-environmental advancements, audit successes, our recycling initiatives, our attention to water, and our advocacy efforts. Cost sharing lighting at the intersection of Highway 901 and 817 will be taken forward to Alberta Transportation.

March 4 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference Networking Reception

An excellent opportunity to network with business owners, other jurisdictions of government, the Canadian Badlands Board and fellow municipal members.

March 5 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference

Partners gathered from across South-Eastern Alberta at the 2020 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference in Strathmore.

It was my pleasure to bring greetings on behalf of Wheatland County.

Matthew Boscariol, Wheatland County General Manager of Community and Development, presented “It’s Time To Grow”.

[Travel Alberta](#)’s CEO Royce Chwin presented on the “Next 10-Alberta’s 10-year Tourism Strategy”. Alberta is developing a strategy with the goal of doubling tourism spending to \$20 billion by 2030.

Rheannon Green, with [Alberta on the Plate](#), shared “Generating Food Tourism Across Alberta One Plate at a Time”. Keys are focusing on fostering relationships, educating consumers, and increasing awareness.

Councillor Donna Biggar shared an inspiring message on behalf to the Canadian Badlands Tourism Board.

Nonfiction Studios presented the regional marketing campaign, including marketing objectives, strategy, and key performance indicators.

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, had our Infinite WC display set up to share our story at the 2020 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference.

March 5 Meeting with Siksika Nation Chief and Council

Wheatland County Council met with Siksika Nation Chief and Council. We discussed ways we can collaborate and be stronger together.

March 5 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting

Approved financial variance reports, cyber insurance options, grant for Open Farm Days, contracts for Rural Opportunity Fund and Agri-tourism Innovations Challenge, youth loan for Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta Marketplace, application for Wheatland Mercantile Rural Opportunity Fund application, and monthly loan report with arrears. The Board accepted, with regret, but understanding, the resignation of our General Manager and discussed a hiring process.

March 6 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference

Jon Schallert presented Isn't it Time to Reinvent Yourself into a Consumer Destination? at the 2020 Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference.

Ryan Schmidt with Strathmore Stampeded did a Five Minutes of Fame presentation.

The Annual General Meeting was conducted.

March 6 Rosebud Theatre Letter From Wingfield Farm

Rosebud is without a doubt one of my happy places and we were thrilled to take in Letter from Wingfield Farm at Rosebud Theatre.

The Wingfield Cycle is a Canadian series of seven one man plays - Letter from Wingfield Farm, Wingfield's Progress, Wingfield's Folly, Wingfield Unbound, Wingfield on Ice, Wingfield's Inferno and Wingfield Lost and Found - written by Dan Needles, directed by Douglas Beattie and performed by Rod Beattie. The plays have been performed for over 30 years with close to 5000 performances!

I've never been able to make it to any of the plays in the series so I was thrilled when I noticed the first in the series was being performed again. I wasn't sure what to expect with a one man play, but we were soon mesmerized by at least 9 characters, brilliantly portrayed, and knit together into a community that is there for each other when it really matters. The story filled my heart and I laughed until my ribs hurt.

From Rosebud Theatre's website:

When a city businessman trades his pinstripe suit for overalls and retreats to a hundred-acre farm, the residents of Persephone Township raise their eyebrows. Weekend farmers are a common enough sight, but this man seems to think he can make a living with a broken-down racehorse and a single furrow plough. Letter From Wingfield Farm is the story of one man's attempt to embrace a less complicated world. In a series of letters to the editor of the Larkspur weekly newspaper, Walt Wingfield tells of the people and events of his first year as a man of the soil.

Between dinner and the play we stopped for candy at the gift shop in the Mercantile and then we visited the Rosebud & District Centennial Museum, which highlights the pioneer and ranching history of the Rosebud, Redland and Beynon area. Blackfoot, Cree Metis, ranchers, cowboys, coal miners and settlers who were drawn to this beautiful valley.

http://www.rosebud.ca/museum_home.htm

What a gem Rosebud is and to have this calibre of theatre, museum, shopping, and experiences right here in Wheatland County is incredible.

March 9 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Visioning Meeting with consultant

Discussion regarding the organizational mission for the CMRB, what we see 5 years from now, achievements, what we might be working on then, who the primary “customer” of CMRB is and what they say about they Board’s work, governing versus facilitative, importance of compromise, and the key knowledge, skills, and abilities of staff and Board.

March 10 Municipal Planning Commission

Four Development Permits were approved (sign, dwelling moved on, home based business, and industrial medium). Three subdivision applications were approved.

March 10 Teleconference Meeting with MLA Aheer

We’re having regular meetings to keep each other up to date, Minister Aheer shared from a provincial perspective and I updated from a municipal perspective, reiterating our hope for advocacy regarding our inclusion in the CMRB and follow up on the Bow River Plan.

March 12 Wheatland Housing Board Meeting

Audit report was presented by Gregory, Harriman and Associates, good clean audit, commend our staff for their excellent work.

Social Housing and Lodge Financial Reports, Maintenance Supervisor Report, Social Housing, Resident Manager, and CAO Report, unveiled new logo, which was approved. Set a Hospice requisition (amount equal to half of the requisition for the WHMB) after noting receiving ministerial approval of the Wheatland & Area Hospice Society (WAHS) to be added as a member of Wheatland Housing Management Body (WHMB) Board. Requisition money would be turned over to the WAHS for hospice operating costs. A requirement for monthly reporting must be brought to the table. Later the Wheatland and Area Hospice Board requested the requisition be postponed due to recent events impacting our communities, including the economic downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic. A resignation letter from long serving Strathmore Lions member was shared. Outbreak preparedness and planning, which led to administration implementing a preventative quarantine to protect our residents and staff.

March 13 Community of Practice on Municipal-Indigenous Relations videoconference

Facilitated by Darren Reedy, Manager of Welcoming and Inclusive Communities with AUMA. Discussed results of November 2019 survey on the community of practice, AUMA’s recommendations on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Calls to Action, and municipal resources. Discussed tradition of reciprocity protocol, where a gift of value is offered for knowledge. Municipal representatives shared experiences. City of Edmonton has an Indigenous Relations Office and trains all staff at Mayor and Council direction. Grande Prairie council and senior admin have participated in a medicine walk with an elder. I shared our Blanket Exercise experience and our recent meeting with Siksika Nation Chief and Council and our hope to coordinate further training for our Council. Both Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) have several resources and AUMA is bringing out a document outlining the TRC Calls To Action relevant to municipalities. We agreed to continue these conversations on a monthly basis.

March 13 Teleconference with interim GM for Community Futures Wild Rose

Discussed terms of interim position and board needs. First steps and priorities.

March 17 COVID-19 AHS Update for Municipalities RMA in conjunction with AUMA

AHS presented: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – An Update For Our Partners, Dr. Brent Friesen, Zone Medical Officer of Health shared; what we know about COVID-19, incubation period, spread, symptoms, disease trajectory estimates (80% mild, 15% severe, 5% critical, 3-4% mortality), comparison to influenza, global cases, Canadian and Albertan context, AHS Response, public health measures, flatten the curve simulations, who is at risk, what public, businesses, and community partners can do to protect themselves

Questions regarding ECC, 811 overwhelm, workplace protocols for sickness, illness length, gathering size compared to other provinces, reinfection and immunity, asymptomatic transmission, timeline for rescheduling events, cash a transmission mechanism, and timeline for virus.

I won't share statistics as the situation changes day to day and they are no longer relevant. Main message was all municipalities are at risk and need to take precautionary measures as directed by Chief Medical Officers of Canada and Alberta.

March 18 COVID-19 Ready – Leading Your Organization Through a Pandemic Crisis

Alberta Counsel and Grapevine Communications teamed up to offer a free COVID-19 webinar to help protect staff, communicate with clients, and address social stigma. Strive to lead with compassion and confidence, make decisions and take action, normalize change. Leadership response is ideally real time, action oriented, considers culture, and proactive. Crisis response ecosystem is circular - foresight, prevention, preparation, activation, evaluation. Differentiating issue (known/planned, business continuity maintained, timeline can be influenced) versus crisis (unprecedented, business continuity interrupted, compressed timeline). Actions and communication need to be simultaneous. Accuracy of information + speed of release + empathy + openness -> credibility + trust = successful communication. Execute a solid communication plan, be a trusted source of information, express empathy early, show competence and expertise, remain honest and open. Focus on delivering what people want to know and what you want them to do.

March 18 Council Teleconference

Our Chief Administrative Officer, Brain Henderson, updated Council on how administration has been operationalizing provincial and federal directives, business continuity planning, critical service identification, intensified cleaning in County buildings, monitoring of situation on hourly basis, potential budget impact, and messaging. Opportunity to discuss any concerns or gaps Councillors had identified. Reviewed options for upcoming meeting and scheduled commitments.

March 18 Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant Meeting

We held our first virtual meeting. Please check out the new website:

<https://strathmoreseed.ca/>

March 19 Teleconference with MLA Aheer

Updated each other on current challenges and issues.

March 20 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting

Videoconference meeting. Will review and approve release of Calthorpe workshop results via email and ratify at next meeting. Reviewed first draft of 2019 Annual Report, will circulate proposed amendments and review at next meeting. Approved the Public Engagement Policy, though timelines will change to reflect measures in place with COVID-19 pandemic. Approved consolidation of Land Use and Intermunicipal Servicing Committees.

March 20 Telephone Town Hall with Premier Kenney, Minister Madu, Municipal Affairs staff (Paul Wynnyk – Deputy Minister, Dale Beesly – Assistant Deputy Minister Technical and Corporate Services, Ethan Bayne – Assistant Deputy Minister Municipal Assessment and Grants, Gary Sandberg – Assistant Deputy Minister Municipal Services), Shane Schreiber – Managing Director Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Provincial Operation Centre, and Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw to Update Mayors and Reeves

Premier Kenney thanked us for our work, bluntly discussed the depth of the recession, the current modelling for the virus peak, incredible testing (third highest per capita in world), advisors indicate on track to have capacity in health system as long as public health measures in place are followed, balancing public health and economic/social implications in response.

Minister Madu reviewed provincial and federal supports in place. Thanked us as municipal leaders. Discussed Provincial Pandemic Plan. Provincial EOC increased to level 4. Bill 9.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw also thanked us, said we were rightfully concerned, though some responding in ways that actually challenge response, reviewed contact tracing, encouraged us to amplify provincial communications and take steps based on federal and provincial recommendations and evidence and review Business Continuity Plans.

Questions regarding electronic meetings – provisions coming, best ways to engage public while physically distancing, communication around positive tests – indicated every municipality will have positive tests, indicated number of cases isn't concern, community transmission is, property tax deferrals and measures to preserve liquidity and cash flow – encouraged to look carefully and quickly at deferring deadlines, municipal deadlines, how to prepare to deal with this and wildfire season, payment of education tax, declaring State of Local Emergency, utilities – Premier indicated expectation that municipalities will follow businesses in providing relief, rural crime anticipated to increase, and police funding.

March 20 Webinar with Brownlee LLP – COVID-19: Municipal Challenges and Solutions

Legal experts provided information and answers to questions pertaining to legal issues related to our shared COVID -19 issues. Brownlee had its leaders in the key areas that have arisen so far including human resources, privacy, liability, Council process and governance. Presentation with summaries of the key issues on which they have been advising municipalities for the last week.

Key areas discussed were:

- **Human Resources** (Self Isolation; absences; Family and Responsibility Leave; Layoffs and Termination)
- **Privacy** (Disclosure and Reporting)
- **Contracts** (Force Majeure; Frustration; Performance)
- **Governance** (Electronic Meetings; Excluding/Accommodating Public; Council Roles and Responsibilities, in Derek Brown's opinion there are benefits to declaring a SOLE, greater powers, proactive planning – I think we already have been, implement Business Continuity Plan – we already have, prioritize operations, redirect staff, decrease essential operations, conscript qualified people, for ex. local contractors in snow storm, supply procurement, liability protection under section 28, “good faith”, needs to be renewed every 7 days). Update Procedure Bylaw.
- **Emergency Management** (Federal Emergency Powers; Provincial Health Emergency; Local – is there a benefit to implementation?)

March 23 Council Meeting Teleconference Test Call

To test technology for first teleconference meeting.

March 24 Council Meeting

We conducted our first virtual Council meeting via teleconference. We chose to use a teleconference platform as some of our Councillor's internet connectivity may not support videoconferencing.

We held 6 public hearings, and approved bylaws for 2 land redesignations, 1 land use bylaw amending to update Highway Commercial, Hamlet Mixed Use, and Hamlet Commercial Land Use Districts, Specific Use Regulations and Definitions regarding Cannabis Stores, approved 2 readings of the Intermunicipal Development Plan with Kneehill County (with 2 amendments, based on feedback received in the Public Hearing) and will consider third reading after the Intermunicipal Committee has had a chance to discuss amendments made, approved Intermunicipal Development Plan with Special Areas Board.

First reading was moved, and Public Hearings scheduled for a road closure bylaw, and 4 land redesignations.

The Audit Service Plan was approved.

Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with the Villages of Hussar, Rockyford, and Standard, as well as the Special Areas Board and the Town of Drumheller were approved.

Hamlet entrance sign policy was approved.

Update provided on rural address signs. In September 2019 Council was informed of the plan to replace approximately 1,800 rural address signs that had deteriorated and faded significantly. These signs are primarily south and west facing and are approximately 9 years old. The replacement signs have been ordered and delivered. To ensure consistency, we will be installing the replacement signs in-house, rather than distributing them to ratepayers individually. The installation method will consist of the county sign installation technician traveling a predetermined grid and installing approximately 25-30 signs per day. The sign installations are expected to be completed in 3-4 months beginning this spring. As these signs are located within the road right of way, access agreements will not be needed. The public notification process will include posting on our

website, social media and newspaper advertisements. As no action is required of the public, we do not anticipate receiving any negative responses on this project.

We approved dust control rates at \$1.50 per linear foot for calcium chloride, \$6.00 per linear foot for oiled dust abatement and \$3.00 per linear foot for reapplications of previously oiled dust abatements.

We approved a letter of support for Gleichen RCMP for a new position for a crime reduction specialist.

Council approved providing \$1500 to the Strathmore & District Chamber of Commerce to help fund expenses associated with changing the name to The Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce.

Correspondence was reviewed from Alberta Environment and Parks – follow up on White Paper submission, Sturgeon County – Interest in Alberta-focused reception at FCM, Calgary Region Airshed Zone Society (CRAZ) – membership request, Drumheller Area Health Foundation – request for funding, News Article – Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA).

March 24 Wheatland Family and Community Support Services Finance Committee Meeting

Review draft budget options, previous indirect funding and current requests. Draft recommendations for the full Board.

March 25 Wheatland Family and Community Support Services Board Meeting

Approved Indirect Program Funding Requests as recommended by the Finance Committee, subject to each partner municipality approving the WFCSS requisitioning. Reviewed 2020 Budget. Discussed COVID-19 impacts to services and staffing. Financial and reconciliation statements approved. CAO report.

March 26 Teleconference with Member of Parliament, Honourable Martin Shields

Updated Mayors and Reeves in the Bow River Riding on the Federal response to COVID-19. Quarantine Act, discussion around temporary foreign workers, future events, business sustainability, health facilities, supply chain, medical first response and Personal Protective Equipment.

March 26 Town of Drumheller with Neighbouring Municipalities Conference Call - COVID-19

Representatives from multiple municipalities in the area round tabled on responses, concerns, solutions and how we can coordinate our efforts. MLA Nate Horner asked to have any gaps or deficiencies brought to his or our MLA's attention. Drumheller's motto is Careful, Compassionate, and Caring. Clean, clean, clean! Mental health impacts – idea to use Teams for virtual coffee breaks to socialize, also to highlight benefit coverage and Employee Assistance Program availability. Common concerns around playgrounds and possible transmission. Concern with recycling piling up – include with waste. Threshold to go to essential services only? Trigger? Process? Lay off impacts on pensions and benefits. Tax bylaw deadline considerations. Think about 10 day/30 day window? Need to coordinate regionally? Budget concerns. Contingency planning for emergency and protective services? Natural hazard season – flood and wildfire. Clergy from ministerial group end meetings, ideas like mindfulness, meditation, yoga.

March 26 Wheatland County and Infinite WC Economic Development Teleconference

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscarol, facilitated a conversation with our region's businesses to see how it is currently going and share input on what can be done creatively to adapt, network and support business in the region during this challenging time. Discussed how businesses are adapting, how Wheatland can support and other levels of government initiatives.

March 27 CMRB COVID-19 Discussion Videoconference

In the wake of the healthy conversation regarding each community's response to the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic at our last Board meeting an ongoing call/ virtual meeting was organized.

The current Government of Alberta's priorities are as follows, based on comments and daily updates from the Premier and/or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH). These are subject to change on an almost daily basis, during yesterday's update topics discussed included:

1. Food Safety
2. Health Systems Capacity
3. Trucking continuity
4. Eviction protection measures
5. Supports for Vulnerable Albertans (eg Homeless)
6. Personal Protective Equipment to first responders
7. Enforcement of Public Health Orders

Common issues and actions shared included budget impacts, activation of business continuity plan and maintaining essential services, and focusing on business supports. Several municipalities are laying off staff, deferring hiring seasonal staff, decreasing budgets and decreasing or eliminating tax increases, waiving penalties, some are dealing with staff who are unwell, focus on recovery – tasked economic development advisory committee with planning, using video updates and community town halls via teleconferencing to combat rumours and attitudes with a strong campaign to take seriously, and some cancelling Council Meetings and public hearings.

March 27 RMA Member COVID-19 Outreach Call

Introduction of Situation and initial key milestones:

- RMA cancelling of Spring Convention morning March 12
- Medical Officer of Health declarations of no gatherings over 250 afternoon of March 12.
- March 16 discussion with the Premier and Minister of Health. RMA asked to be represented at AEMA Provincial Operations Centre for daily briefings
- Provincial State of Local Health Emergency March 17
- Emergency Management Amendment Act approved March 20 to prevent provincial state of emergency from superseding a local state of emergency
- Reduction just announced today to mass gatherings being limited to 15 people. This applies to in-

person gatherings in a single room or single space at the same time. At this time, it does not include normal operations of workplaces and businesses (i.e. offices, manufacturing, construction, industrial) not specifically defined by the chief medical officer of health.

Provincial Decisions Affecting Municipalities

- Natural Gas & Electricity 90-day Utility Payment Deferral. Request for municipalities to consider the same for Water & Sewer, etc.
- Deferral of Education Property tax on Non- Residential Properties. 50% deferred for 6 months, 50% deferred into 2021 and beyond.
- Use of CPO's to enforce measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Temporary Municipal Governance Changes re COVID-19
 - Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation
 - MGA requirements time extensions
 - ICF & IDP time extensions

Yet to Come

- Determination of Essential Services
- Restrictions on Road Bans for flow of essential goods and movement of agricultural goods
- Stimulus funding discussions *send in shovel ready projects!

RMA Actions & Asks Not Yet Addressed

- Request sent to Minister Madu to defer assessment model review until 2021
- RMA and AUMA request to Minister Schweitzer to delay implementation of police costing model by one year

Overall

- Refer to GOA website for COVID-19 resources as well as RMA website
- Let us know your issues!

The logistics of implementing the deferral of education portion non-residential property tax has not yet been finalized. We anticipate more information to be shared early next week.

In the joint RMA/ARMAA submission, we asked for the PERC program to be expanded to all unpaid non-residential school taxes for the duration of the deferral.

Did any rural municipalities declare a local state of emergencies to date? There are currently a total of 57 States of Local Emergency declared across Alberta. This includes a combination of rural municipalities, urbans, First Nations and Metis Settlements.

Do we have to amend our W&S bylaw and Tax Penalty bylaws if we decide to defer penalties on utilities and property taxes? Yes, I would expect that bylaw amendments would need to be done for changes to your penalties

FYI, here is the Ontario list of essential workplaces regarding the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>

Food cultivation including farming, livestock, aquaculture and fishing and businesses that support food supply chain ARE included in the BC essential services.

Are there any talks about potential relief for people or companies not able to pay municipal taxes come fall and if there would be any support for municipalities that could have a possible problem collecting taxes? A little off topic but this could impact decisions that we will need to make soon when we are able to resume more operations and potential projects.

Are there any plans in place if looting starts to happen with many stores closed? I believe Vancouver is already seeing this.

Are other municipalities organizing volunteers in the community and if so, has AHS developed Volunteer protection protocols. Does a SOLE offer a muni more liability protection than without one?

There is liability protection in a SOLE.

We need to get Emergency Operation Centre staff considered essential to permit testing. Staff are currently self-isolating with symptoms that may or may not be COVID related. We asked Provincial Operations Centre today about this. If this escalates, we need to be able to clear staff to get back to work sooner.

Does a SOLE override a worker's right to refuse unsafe work? Where does the burden of proof lie regarding "unsafe work"?

SOLE? A con is if a sole stands up your EOC, then you have to have all of your essential emergency staff in the centre and its difficult to social distance

March 29 Telephone Town Hall with Premier Jason Kenney, Mayors and Reeves, AUMA, RMA

Premier Kenney provided an update and answered questions along with members of his Cabinet, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu, the Minister of Treasury Board and Finance, Travis Toews, the Minister of Health, Tyler Shandro and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, on what government is doing to alleviate the pressures we are facing during this pandemic.

Premier Kenney:

Multiple crisis - Public Health, leading the world in managing. Peak likely below health care system capacity.

Looking for feedback on expanding enforcement to bylaw officers?

Encouraged to align with Provincial policies and public health orders. Misalignment could confuse, reduce confidence, and contribute to panic.

Economic crisis, both from economic shutdown and catastrophic collapse of energy. Focused on long term recovery. This makes Alberta situation unique, expecting federal backstop.

Brace for largest quarterly contraction in history. Potential for unemployment to increase to 400,000. Provincial Deficit above \$15 or \$20B, therefore province fiscally constrained, but won't limit financial response to pandemic or economic recovery. Tough choices in future.

Commended deferral in fees and taxation.

Minister Madu:

Extended thanks. Our work as local leaders has never been more important. Friday - new regulation to help us lead effectively through pandemic, can now meet online or via teleconference. Extending timelines under MGA. Emergency contingency fund.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw

Q&A

Economic recovery. Infrastructure opportunities to capitalize on employment market. Ready for project rollout.

Not implausible that's WTI and WCS could be at negative, expect to see massive curtailment of production. Working with federal and key policy makers in US on prospective joint North American emergency action plan and policy, coordinate curtailment. Banks calling for this. Credit backstop from Government of Alberta.

Interprovincial self isolation? Focus on anyone with any symptoms, even mild, self isolate.

Financial support for cash flow issues from deferring property tax? Work together to each manage our own liquidity, option to seek line of credit through ATB

Plans to escalate to mandatory lockdown of non-essential services? Not advised by CMO.

Have defined non-essential first on Friday, with provision to move online.

Snowbirds out walking, provincial direction contradicts federal directive to stay home? Provincial CMOs and federal discussing today and clarifying, federal Quarantine Orders direct to stay in own property, discuss risk of feeling well and leaving on walk vs risk of isolation, Alberta will shift to consensus recommending those who are self isolating should stay in own property. Apologize for confusion.

Capital project continuation with distancing? Keep construction sites open as long as complying, construction currently in essential service list. Critical we get jobs moving, short season, bring forward shovel ready spiral and maintenance projects. Recovery package- delay until summer, with exception of construction. Safe operating practices!

Geospatial mapping? More detailed breakdown? Will see what surveillance team can do, while balancing privacy issues. How a business can determine if they're essential? List recently became more restrictive.

Encouraging wearing of masks? Following successful jurisdictions such as Singapore, where masks are utilized for sick, particularly when entering health care settings. Not as strong evidence for the well to wear masks. Surfaces, touching face, mask doesn't protect, can also infect putting in and taking off mask. Washing hands more important.

Lock down province? Hindsight. Chosen limits, measures based on analytics.

Municipal discretion on non-essential services? Use common sense

Stimulus projects under New West Trade to Procure locally? Simplify procurement procedures.

Agriculture deemed essential, what about suppliers? Reflected broadly in list, support services included. Virtually entire sector.

2 black swan events

Demand impaired across multiple sectors, particularly energy. Increased global energy supply. Unprecedented challenge energy, which impacts Alberta's budget.

Priorities now are health care resources, basics to Alberta, adequate fiscal stimulus response, however Alberta

has a limit. Will use fiscal capacity for priorities.

Peak? Challenge with modelling, depends on actions, difficult, probably more likely in May.

If we ease off on distancing measures virus will continue to spread.

Supports for most vulnerable?

Community spread by asymptomatic people? WHO China evidence concluded possible, but asymptomatic not major driver of transmission. Early symptoms can be quite mild.

Looking at testing strategy, considering constantly changing evidence, prioritization.

Policing costs? Scheduled to proceed, still 2021 billing.

Remind marathon, not a sprint. Pace yourselves.

Sense of renewed solidarity across our province.

Special sitting of legislature this week.

March 30 Telephone Town Hall with Premier Kenney and Alberta Agriculture Minister, Honourable Devin Dreeshen: COVID-19

An update on what Agriculture and Forestry is doing to alleviate pressures during the pandemic. I heard our own Patrick Earl, Economic Development Officer, ask about national food security and value adding for agriculture producers.

As well Ray Kettenbach, Board Chair and David McAllister, General Manager of the Western Irrigation District (WID) asked questions.