



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: April 2020

Report Date: April 28, 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'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.

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 physically 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://infinetwc.ca>

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

<http://alberta.ca/COVID19>

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

<http://canada.ca/coronavirus>

April 1 Council Operating and Capital Budget Review

Administration presented a review of both operating and capital budgets and we discussed potential revisions given the pandemic and oil and gas economic crisis that will likely significantly impact revenue.

April 2 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. MP Damien Kurek shared about federal supports, we discussed how municipalities currently don't qualify for wage recovery programs, reconsideration of this could help with sustainability and continuity. Noted that municipalities have never been in a State of Emergency for this long before, looking for assistance from province on extraordinary costs, continued discussion around firefighter PPE. Some municipalities running Emergency Operations Centres virtually.

April 2 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscarior, 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.

April 2 Seniors and Housing Ministry Town Hall with the Honourable Josephine Pon

The Town Hall consisted of opening remarks from Dr. Hinshaw, followed by a moderated period of questions and answers from Dr. Hinshaw and officials from Alberta Health Services. Many questions regarding operations, staffing, homecare requirements with inability for family to visit and assist with care, and recent changes to Provincial Health Orders. Councillor Koester circulated a summary of the meeting and can speak to this as Wheatland Housing Management Board Chair.

April 2 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting

Board approved Financial Variance Report – February 2020, discussed and approved a plan for GIC Maturity, ratified a Motion for Loan Payment Suspension for April and May – Covid-19 Crisis and Loan Write offs and Allowances. Reviewed Monthly Loan Report with Arrears. Heard an update on office closure. Ratified a motion to enter into an agreement with Alberta Economic Development Trade and Tourism CARES Program Agri-Tourism Project. Ratified a motion to enter into an agreement with Community Futures Pan West (Rural Opportunity Fund) Agri-Tourism Project. Ratified a motion to enter into an agreement with Factor 5 to implement the Agritourism Cluster Innovation Challenge. CFNA and WD Updates. Marketing and Communications Update (Website, Social Media). Junior Achievement of Southern Alberta Marketplace is cancelled with the school closures. Personnel Committee - General Manager hiring process update.

April 3 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 an ongoing call/ virtual meeting was organized. Only Cochrane, Foothills, Chestermere, and Wheatland joined the call. Government of Alberta Municipal Affairs representative provided provincial updates, keep sharing CMO updates, support for businesses, Alberta modelling anticipated next week, some provinces have checkpoints. Questions about Peace Officers and enforcement, RCMP strategies, and if we will see a federal state of emergency.

April 3 AHS Calgary Zone COVID-19 Community Conversation

These Community Conversations are an opportunity for AHS' partners and stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of COVID-19, and to lay the foundation for a coordinated response to COVID-19 in the coming weeks and months. Discussed current context, what's new in response, and questions were addressed. Global cases at the time were just over 1 million, Canadian cases were just over 10,000, Alberta cases were at 968 with 61% in the Calgary zone.

AHS Response:

- Pre-existing pandemic plans have been guiding response since early January when the situation in China was first identified
- January 29, 2020: Provincial ECC response structure established
- March 9: ZEOCs established in each zone to coordinate locally
- Many municipalities have established their own EOCs, and are coordinating with AHS and the Government of Alberta
- Focus: reducing transmission and increasing health system capacity to care for people who become infected and require care and support

Communication remains a priority.

- Sessions like this are held across the province
- AHS web updated daily ahs.ca/covid
- Hundreds of questions are responded to daily by email and social media
- Health Link (811) providing advice, including the need for testing
- COVID-19 online assessment tool created
- Public Health is notified of all positive lab results and immediately follows up with the case and investigates for any contacts

Questions regarding keeping essential workers safe, plans for large scale testing, utilization of nursing students, interprovincial travel, isolation while still symptomatic but after testing, and data metrics.

April 3 Teleconference with Member of Parliament, Honourable Martin Shields

Mr. Fairborz Birjandian, CEO of Catholic Immigration in Calgary, led discussion on immigration during the pandemic. He highlighted that his organization can check the temperatures of new arrivals like Seasonal Agriculture Workers, and may be able to facilitate their 14 day quarantine (he encouraged those interested in this service to contact his organization). There was some discussion over whether testing upon arrival could waive the mandatory quarantine period. Due to the possibility of asymptomatic transmission and unreliable test results for those not exhibiting symptoms, this is not currently a possibility.

Mr. Brian Brewin, Rural Municipalities of Alberta Director: District 1 - Foothills-Little Bow,

discussed issues around migrants arriving from the United States not isolating or continuing to gather in public groups. The suggested solution was to contact provincial authorities like Alberta Health Link for advice and/or enforcement.

Mr. Barry Morishita, President, Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Mayor of Brooks, noted that JBS Canada was not accepting international workers for the time being, but rather recruiting in Calgary. He also indicated that municipalities were awaiting new funding opportunities from the Province of Alberta, and additional Gas Tax funds from the federal government.

Mr. Brewin encouraged municipal officials to look for shovel-ready projects and send them to the RMA, who would then communicate with the FCM to demonstrate to the relevant federal entities that municipalities have projects ready-to-go once funding is allocated. MLA Joseph Schow encouraged municipalities to discuss these projects with their respective MLAs.

Darcy Burke, Mayor of Rockyford, discussed challenges in funding a regional water project near Rosebud, as COVID-19 had increased costs. Mayor Morishita noted that several such projects had been re-estimated in the region and they were anticipating 30-40% cost savings.

MP Martin Shields asked for feedback on health system capacity. As of the date of the call, Vulcan, Taber, and Brooks reported they were not under strain and prepared to meet demand.

With regard to food banks, Taber food bank had asked the Town and Municipal District for assistance. Brooks food bank had lowered the requirements to qualify for assistance. In Vulcan, it was estimated that demand would increase.

Mayor Pederson of Standard inquired about government heritage funding available for events in the future, given that the pandemic was limiting fundraising opportunities and requiring events to be cancelled. He also noted that Telus had supplied wholly inadequate service over the past week, with 911 service unavailable. Also discussion regarding importance of rural broadband.

When asked if they would be hiring students for summer jobs, the following answered:
Bassano: yes, Carbon: yes, County of Newell: yes, Brooks: yes, Standard: yes, Rockyford: yes

To conclude the call, MP Shields discussed opposition to implementing a carbon tax increase at this exceptionally difficult time, as well as the political situation in Ottawa.

April 6 Community Futures Wild Rose Management and Personnel Committee Teleconference and Committee Meeting

Reviewed applicants and determined hiring process. Planned communication with applicants.

April 7 Council Meeting

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

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/wheatland-county-council/agendas-and-minutes>

You can also watch the recording on our YouTube channel:

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

We held our second Council Meeting via teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

First reading and scheduled public hearing for a bylaw regarding Land Use Bylaw 2016-01 to update Speargrass Low Density Residential District and Speargrass Medium Density Residential District regarding Dwelling, Secondary Suites, RV storage, and Fences.

Discussion regarding procurement policy.

Council and staff reports.

Council approved funding as requested by WFCSS.

Our Senior Assessor, Dennis Klem, did a thorough presentation on assessment and impacts to this year's assessment. Including Assessment Class Definitions, Key Dates for Assessment Preparation of Land & Improvements; Linear Property; Designated Industrial Property; Alberta Linear Property Assessment System - 2020 Tax Year Change Report; Comparison Report - 2018 Compared to 2019 Assessment; Graph – 5 Year Comparison by % of Assessment Class (2015-2019). Our net change in linear assessment in 2019 was over \$150 million resulting in an approximate tax revenue decrease of \$1.3 million, mainly due to policy change at a provincial level.

Approval to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Alberta Transportation for cost sharing of lighting at the intersection of Hwy 901 and Hwy 817, the cost sharing will be at a 50/50 ratio and the municipality's share of this funding shall not exceed \$30,000.

April 7 Webinar with Jon Schallert

In the midst of a historic time in the world and in tourism, and in the wake of the Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference, Jon Schallert (Keynote Speaker at our conference in Strathmore), offered a free follow up webinar to Canadian Badlands Tourism stakeholders.

Jon addressed questions regarding turning your community into a Consumer Destination, particularly now. Jon felt that there were many who had questions at the conference and due to time constraints, they were not able to be addressed. This was also a good opportunity to speak about potential challenges posed by COVID-19, as we are all feeling the social and economic effects and how to be the place consumers will want to come to (even willingly go out of their way!) when things open back up, to be a destination you need to be so compellingly unique consumers say, "I have to go to buy from that place!" Jon spoke of some retailers doing more volume than before health restrictions in place. Destinations can compete with larger (both physical and online) competitors.

Consumers are most comfortable travelling by car right now, pull locals, tourists, and out-of-towners (15-60 minutes, even hours away), coming from afar they'll spend more, because they can't come often like locals. Develop ultra-services (delivery, shipping, take out, curb side contactless pick up, customized changes, ready to act services, access at all times, personal assistance and helplines,

stretched hours of operation, on-call employees, creating services no one expects, create experiences for current situation eg.kite kits, bundled kits or monthly clubs, scavenger hunts, business interview videos, collaborating with competitors, asking for favours from customers – social media). Cross promotions with similar top 10% customers. Bounce-back promotions, entice customer for an unplanned return visit, do with every purchase (defers the discount so no loss of revenue right now). Brand presence – proprietary visual, emotional, rational, and cultural image you associate with a company, product, community, or entity that's consumer oriented, during virus shift consumers place safety and family first, so add sub message to address concerns. Don't be tone deaf. Every media seeking content, proactivity, great time to talk about what you're starting to do, send pre-packaged info of highlights. Virtual tours, behind the scenes, YouTube segments good to reach out with, not a substitute for real life, focus on making real life safer. Task force establishment to share solutions, get involved, look at chamber. We will get through together, by connecting.

www.successfulindependentbusiness.com

April 7 Telephone Town Hall Alberta Municipal Affairs

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu, the Minister of Service Alberta, Nate Glubish, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Devin Dreesen, the Minister of Children's Services, Rebecca Schulz, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw provided an update on what government is doing to alleviate the pressures faced during this pandemic and answered questions. Minister Madu updated regarding the launch of the Alberta Bits and Pieces Program to help meet the demand for critical product and services. More than 3000 offers of support have poured in from both private and non-profit organizations since the program opened. The offers include commercial vehicles, hotel rooms, mobile trailers, food and water services, hospital gowns, face masks, ventilators, and other personal protective equipment. Albertans who wish to offer product or services during the COVID-19 pandemic are asked to do so online at www.alberta.ca/bitsandpieces

Info regarding supports that are being put in place to help with cash flow and to ease financial concerns. Details of these have been shared with municipalities in an email from Deputy Minister, Paul Wynnyk, who was also part of this town hall. This included information about deficits and debt limits, time extensions under the Municipal Government Act, and deadlines for financial statements and development appeals. Field officers from the Alberta Emergency Management Agency are available to support municipalities with their emergency management and business continuity plans.

Questions regarding protecting seniors, notification of COVID positive tests, agriculture and supply chain (deemed essential), clarification around previous reporting of numbers by local geographic area, which is a larger area of population, heard from municipalities that that was not adequate, so drilled down to more local levels in the local geographic areas, and that's what's currently represented on map. So there is a difference between what was up last week and the new dashboard, which went live yesterday. The change was a response to what was heard from municipalities that wanted more local level data, and so that is the shift that was made going forward. Health care system capacity and availability of PPE, child care for essential workers, modelling, temporary foreign workers with estimated 25% unemployment projected, rent and eviction protection, testing for critical infrastructure staff, food supply, stimulus project criteria, demand for connectivity, planning for wildfire season and potential impacts of COVID, and communication with people who don't have internet.

April 9 AHS Calgary Zone COVID-19 Community Conversation

AHS facilitated a virtual Community Conversation to discuss Alberta's response to COVID-19, and how we can coordinate activities to ensure that Albertans are protected and supported. This was an opportunity to learn about forecasting and modeling updates that were released by the Alberta Government this week. As well as Medical Officer of Health Brent Friesen, Dr. Cabaj, provincial lead MOH for Surveillance & Health Assessment presented. Dr. Cabaj is extensively involved with the modeling information that is being released by the Government of Alberta this week and was available to answer questions.

All numbers quickly become dated as the statistics are updated daily, if not hourly. Global cases of COVID-19 (on this day approximately 1.5 million cases), Canadian context (on this day approximately 20,000 cases), Alberta context, Calgary zone context (approximately 1400 at time of creating presentation), at time of presentation 60% of provincial cases – international airport with large number of flights coming in, couple of early community clusters, and what has changed in the Province's response. Changes included shifting in testing strategy from travelers to high risk local exposures, at risk populations, and essential services workers. Wearing masks may be considered as an additional measure. Stricter measures for congregate care settings, including reporting, preventative measures and plans to protect.

Shared modelling, largely the same data that Premier Kenney and Dr. Hinshaw have been speaking to. Alberta modeling uses our case data and is updated as new information becomes available. Alberta uses modelling to anticipate the number of COVID-19 cases over the coming months. This helps them make decisions and prepare hospitals to care for critical and acute patients. These decisions include the aggressive public health measures currently helping to limit the spread of the virus.

Modelling data is intended to demonstrate expected trends, and not intended to be a predictor of day-to-day increases in hospitalization rates.

The most probable scenario for Alberta suggests the virus will reach its peak mid-May. An estimated 820 people could require hospitalization during the peak period, with more than a quarter requiring critical care.

Probable Scenario • For every case, 1-2 more people are infected. • This scenario is comparable to the more moderate growth seen in the UK and countries that have had some success in “containing” growth. • Given our early and aggressive interventions and contact tracing to limit spread, this is expected to be the most likely scenario for Alberta.

Elevated Scenario • For every case, 2 people are infected. • This is comparable to the more rapid growth initially seen in Hubei. • Planning for this scenario is prudent and responsible given the catastrophic impacts should the health system become overwhelmed.

Extreme Scenario • For every case, 3 more people are infected. • This scenario assumes limited and late interventions so that COVID-19 rapidly spreads through the population. • This scenario shows what would have happened if Alberta did not undertake early and aggressive interventions and contact tracing to limit spread

Probable scenario depends on our continued efforts. Not on track for Extreme scenario, but it demonstrates what could happen if we didn't take measures. Technical details of modeling such as

methodologies, discrete event simulation, validation and verification were asked about.

<https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-case-modelling-projection.pdf>

Mental health was discussed, and resources shared.

Questions from stakeholders were answered, including regarding modelling, Easter, messaging to specific groups, smartphone apps to monitor and track exposure, other health issues such as mental/cardiac health impacted, and temporary foreign workers.

Key Messages:

COVID-19 is spreading in our communities. Follow public health measures, including mandatory self isolation for travellers and if you have symptoms, practice physical distancing, keep up to date on information and use the tools at AHS or call Health Link if you have symptoms and 911 for emergent care.

April 9 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. Discussion around provincial Bill 13, federally opposition is pushing hard for timeliness of programs and supports, particularly for our small and medium sized businesses. Discussion regarding campgrounds, golf courses, garage sales, budgets, virtual opportunities for our businesses, and stimulus projects. Unique idea of initiating a 6 month TIPP program starting July 1 to make payments of taxes easier for people affected by COVID.

April 9 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscariol, 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. We were able to connect two succession initiatives for them to explore any synergies that may exist.

April 9 RMA Member Webinar - Running Effective Virtual Meetings for Mayors, Reeves & CAOs

We are in unprecedented times. Our current circumstances have required us to shift a variety of practices to support social distancing recommendations from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. The COVID-19 health emergency has prompted revisions to the MGA and its Regulations, enabling Council meetings to be held entirely by electronic means (e.g., live-stream, teleconference, etc.).

For many municipalities this is uncharted territory and raises many questions including – How do we align electronic meetings with our procedural bylaw? How can we still involve the public? How might this new practice impact our other policies? What are the most effective practices for chairing the meeting and ensuring that everyone who wants to speak has a chance to? How do we continue to support transparency and demonstrate accountability? How do we ensure we can securely have in camera discussions?

Maria deBruijn, with Emerge Solutions, and Ian McCormack, with Strategic Steps, presented:

- Identify what's changed with the revisions to the MGA;
- Share a framework for effective virtual meetings; Plan, Act, Report, Evaluate
Procedure bylaw, policy implications, notifications, meeting procedural considerations, implications for other boards and committees, dashboards
- Describe key considerations in preparing for virtual meetings;
- Outline roles and responsibilities in the virtual realm;
- Describe good practice when conducting virtual meetings; Technology and security, test
- Offer recommendations to support transparency and accountability during and after the meeting.

Municipal Affairs update noted we should not be amending Procedural Bylaws as the new regulation supersedes municipal procedure bylaws and will only apply during the pandemic.

April 9 RMA Member Virtual Meeting

Discussion regarding Municipal Affairs items; MGA timeline extensions, Non-residential property tax deferral implementation, Municipal Cash Flow provisions - Operational borrowing/debt limits/debt servicing limits, changes to the Emergency Amendment Act, determination of Essential Services, ministry weekly "Municipal Governance during COVID-19 Outbreak" Q & A bulletins, RMA request for assessment model review deferral. RMA Spring 2020 Resolutions plan.

Discussion with Minister Nixon/Alberta Environment & Parks, Rural Doctors issue, Protective Services Update - Police/CPO/Bylaw Officer & Firefighters, discussion with Minister McIver/Alberta Transportation, "Cabin Fever" by city residents and lake/rural recreation properties, seniors facility restrictions and impacts to municipalities, FCM discussions & Federal Stimulus probability, virtual Governance.

Upcoming issues, outstanding COVID-19 legislative amendments – MGA timelines, debt limits/debt servicing limits, stimulus announcements and capital budget expectations. Encouraged to original capital plans and more. Joint appeal with AUMA to delay police funding, comments about filling positions in anticipation of increased rural crime, however depo is closed, some officer and non-officer staff already hired. Noted with court system suspended justice will be difficult. Discussion around the New West Trade Partnership Agreement and simplifying procurement rules and procedures to utilize local contractors and get projects started asap.

April 14 Municipal Planning Commission

The commission approved two development permits (one for a dwelling, accessory and one for the Rosebud lagoon), and one subdivision application which was also for the Rosebud lagoon.

April 14 Premier's Town Hall

Premier Jason Kenney, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu, the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, Doug Schweitzer, the Minister of Community and Social Services, Rajan Sawhney and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw.

Thanks for our leadership and coordinated action across all levels of government.

Health update, encouraged by numbers we continue to see, stable and well below what models projected. Don't assume we've won this prematurely, but what we're doing is helping. Built in excess health care system capacity to handle peak, anticipated at end of May.

Major announcement regarding mental health coming, seeing consequences of both the pandemic and the economic crisis.

Relaunch strategy, we will not stay in current scenario any longer than we must. Will open carefully. Economic response (\$13.4 billion announced to date), much of which is deferrals on taxes and fees, additional liquidity by Alberta Treasury Branch, doubling capital, maintenance and repairs budget (surge to get people to work) through provincial projects, municipal affairs working on strategy for municipal projects.

Oil and gas sector, predicting low price scenario, cannot stress how much impact that will have. Aware of our fiscal challenges as municipalities, but keep in mind Province's situation as well. Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, spoke to recent changes to testing protocols, interest in information at municipal level, interest in outbreaks – working with Provincial Operation Centre on timely notification. Goal is to prevent spread in all communities.

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu, noted importance of our work together and offered thanks. Aware of obstacles we are facing, doing everything they can to help and keep Albertans safe. Deferral of education tax to increase solvency of businesses, giving municipalities flexibility in applying deferrals with municipal deferrals. Concurrently preparing for other disasters like fires and flooding.

Question about campgrounds and golf courses, petition circulating regarding golf course closure. Dr. Hinshaw said they carefully weighed pros and cons, need to minimize people's movement, but hopeful outdoor recreation can be opened in future, particularly given how well we're doing. Campgrounds may be people's home part of the time, weekend camping is non-essential, but don't want to impact people's homes. Avoiding unintended consequences with policy decisions.

Paving as a support to oil and gas.

Following deferrals if we see defaults exceed education requisition, crippling property tax bad debt situation, remittance options for municipalities in paying requisition. Will have to deal with on individual basis with each municipality.

Rapid test kits for truck drivers coming in from US. Premier Kenney is concerned with border procedures, part of relaunch will include higher level, possibility of asserting powers under Public Health Act.

Timelines for graduated return to group activities and public areas?
Challenging to say, but we now have testing capacity to look at spread, as well as hospital data, anticipate in the next two weeks we can look at data, if numbers are stable or declining we can talk about plans for gradual return, prepare, prioritize different sectors.

FCSS Emergency fund, province is working closely with municipalities, non-profits, civil societies,

Relaunch strategy, we will not stay in current scenario any longer than we must. Will open carefully to support vulnerable populations. A number of applications have already been approved.

Modelling to determine PPE requirements, how far out did the province project and who did the province identify needed PPE? AHS has done modelling, high level model probable and elevated levels for hospitalization and applied daily use rates, as well as ancillary workers estimated usage. Factored in existing stock and expected orders (not relied on), 4 week supply without orders, that being said hospitalization lower than models predicated on, receiving more supplies than anticipated so burn/run rate is increasing. PPE going out to pharmacists, first responders, seniors care centres.

MSI Capital, municipalities making data driven decisions, having options how we spend MSI Capital would increase options.

Minister Madu stated ready to work with us on flexibility in applying rules, prepared to look at shovel ready projects and. Department looking at restrictions around MSI.

Sole sourcing for projects to get local workers on projects, yes, looking at removing all legal impediments to procurement. Expressing exceptions to New West Trade agreement, to ease standards of applying procurement procedures and requirements. Premier asked Minister Madu to issue directive in writing.

Interprovincial border procedures to reduce risk of second wave.

Rural crime and police costing model, trend of mental health, addictions, and rural crime increase with increased unemployment. Additional 25 officers hired, original forecast was 75 in first year, depot is currently on pause, following up with RCMP to see if they can make goal, continuing to train officers differently, consulting with RMA, AUMA, and Municipal Affairs, aware of financial pressures, but given feedback on rural crime we need to work together on this. Noticed a reduction in calls, however increase in domestic violence, monitoring that and coordinating response. Looking forward to working with municipalities on establishing priorities regarding rural crime.

3P projects consideration of low interest loans, to get 3P projects underway.

Very keen on P3 projects, innovative financing beyond conventional means.

Support for food supply and food banks? \$5million in funding for food banks, applications being reviewed and funds will be disbursed immediately. Also federal funding announcement. Have removed stipulation in regular FCSS funding guidelines, so food can be purchased. Education has also supplemented with funding.

Technical support for seniors homes with outbreaks to contain spread? AHS has implemented number and outbreak requirements across the continuum of care, any site can call at first sign of illness and immediately get access to team of professionals, steps to follow, and resources.

Access to N95s for agricultural needs, for example fertilizer application.

Broadband capacity issue, cell phone capacity, importance of broadband strategy. Service Alberta working on this.

Now that we have more masks available will we follow Taiwan and South Korea's model of widespread testing and mask wearing in order to open businesses? Purposefully replicate aspects of

techniques that have shown success. Tighter border screening, aggressive testing tracing, and quarantining procedures, masks, seems like common sense part of relaunch. Ordered tens of millions of masks, for crowded circumstances, looking at successful jurisdictions and learning from them. Ramping up testing, first province to open to all symptomatic, contact tracing, importance of masks being in addition to other public health measures,

Singapore has shared they have seen flux of imported cases that have spread and they are going to have to implement more measures.

It's become clear wearing masks helps with asymptomatic spread.

Schools open to increase herd immunity? Open to increase spread is under discussion, personal opinion is we would have to have means to control spread. Children are not immune to severe consequences, also pass to other high-risk individuals, not risk free.

April 15 Teleconference with Minister Aheer, MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore

Differentiation of rural and urban economy. Relaunch strategy. Science and research around possible prophylactic and treatment options. Our business supports – we will invite MLAs to join in conference calls with our businesses. Capital projects for stimulus consideration. Compost company clean up and sharing communication regarding complaints. Lodge – home care and building project.

April 16 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. Federal update indicated changes are being made to programs based on feedback received, some still under development. Question regarding federal support for municipalities, particularly with respect to oil and gas revenues, answer most supports will be provincial, Bank of Canada buying provincial bonds so province can invest in crisis. Expressed frustration over lack of support for energy sector, likened it to a civil war within cabinet. Summer jobs grant being expanded. Provincial update over 1900 cases in Alberta as of yesterday, meat packing plants with cases reported, encouraged to follow all public health measures, investment in mental health announced yesterday (including tele and online resources for isolating and rural residents), Bill 13 has not passed yet – hopefully next week, question about private campgrounds, STEP program municipal eligibility.

Question with TIPP application and provincial direction to defer non-residential. AUMA lobbying for stimulus project funding to be done fairly and through existing program such as MSI. Several municipalities have laid off staff, anticipating reduced revenues due to loss of user fees and uncollected taxes, taskforces working on recovery strategies, some municipalities already instituting fire bans.

April 16 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscariol, 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.

I shared info about expanded Canada Summer Jobs program. The principal at Wheatland Crossing School also reached out to see how the school might collaborate, possibility to use sign for community events when it is up.

I was thrilled to hear the Development Permit process was efficient for the new Rosebud County Market initiative, the market is pulling together 14 businesses to offer fresh, local products in a way that complies with public health measures in place.

The Rosebud School of the Arts is utilizing creative teaching and alternative assignments to finish terms. Actually seeing higher than typical interest in enrollment for next year, possibly attributed to focus on growth of development. Planning potential alternative offerings depending on public health directives.

A local financial advisor indicated he's seeing an all time high in seeking financial services and guidance.

Tannis shared a new initiative from Open Farm Days being piloted.

Gap in support for small business was identified that I was able to convey to our MP.

April 17 Teleconference with Member of Parliament, Honourable Martin Shields

Brian Brewin discussed cattle industry concerns, as well as issues the potato industry is facing. He noted that rapidly changing regulations were straining health care service providers.

Michaela Glasgo noted that a power failure had caused provincial reporting delays. She discussed the status of community spread in her constituency, and challenges faced by local charities.

Joseph Schow outlined concerns in the agriculture sector and the province's efforts to combat COVID-19.

Leela Aheer discussed recent Government of Alberta legislation and spending initiatives.

Martin Shields and Leela Aheer discussed the status of large events and festivals going forward. Martin Shields noted the financial situation facing community newspapers and encouraged advertising to support them where possible.

Ron Wickson raised the discussions between the AMA and the Government of Alberta, and Leela Aheer, Joseph Schow, and Michaela Glasgo responded.

Darcy Burke noted that his municipality was not being adequately notified about returning snowbirds.

Molly Douglass discussed JBS Canada.

Discussion regarding newly instituted legislation and impacts on property rights/personal freedoms.

I asked, at the request of Wheatland County councillors, MP Shields to consider the particular challenges our golf courses are facing. They need to continue employing staff to maintain the course, with zero income. Canada Summer Jobs funding could help. As well conveyed challenges I have heard from some of our smaller rural businesses, specifically those that may not meet employee salary thresholds for federal support, but who employ several contractors. I also had the opportunity to share updates from Wheatland County. Following sharing about our business support weekly calls, we were able to loop MP Shields in on the following call.

April 18 Marigold Library Board Meeting

Started with Annual General Meeting, reviewed governance statements (mission, vision, and values). Reviewed 2019 Audited Financial Statements with auditor, good, clean, unqualified audit. Appointed auditor for 2020. Annual Report was presented and is attached. Committees and signing authority reviewed. Following AGM held regular board meeting, approved Financial Statements, update on new headquarters build, and Value of Your Investment and Power of Your Library Card documents (documents related to libraries serving Wheatland County are included as addendum to this report). CAO updates including regular virtual support meetings with library managers and consideration around decontamination and quarantine best practices for curbside pick up library service provision. Concluded with round table sharing about member libraries and pandemic.

April 20 Planning and Priorities Meeting

Discussion topics included: Operating Budget Taxation, Golf Course Taxation, Fire Services Organizational Chart, Cannabis Production Facilities, Energy District Regulations Update, Goldfinch Industrial Area Structure Plan, Soil Import - Briefing and Action Plan, Environmental Reserve Easement and Environmental Reserve Policy, Municipal Development Plan Update & Request for Direction, Tax Deadline and Deferral, and Development Permit Fee Deferral.

April 20 Telephone Town Hall

Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kacey Madu, Minister of Transportation, Ric McIver, Minister of Infrastructure, Prasad Panda and Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Deena Hinshaw.

Public Library operating grants have been approved for 2020-2021 to the maximum eligible amount. Library boards paid 50% of the grant immediately. That advanced payment will help municipalities to support their libraries and allow libraries to keep running, pay their staff and provide library services to Albertans during this difficult time. Online library services are a huge resource for Albertans, including children, parents, caregivers, and those in isolation, especially during the COVID19 crisis.

Distribution of personal protective equipment to non-health facilities across our province. Some of these facilities include optometrist offices, funeral home, pharmacies, disability service providers and social service and civil society groups. Non-Alberta Health Services facilities can request personal protective equipment through the government's email address at pessecc-logistics@gov.ab.ca.

Clarify capital maintenance and renewal program increases that were announced on April 9th, doubling spending on capital maintenance renewal projects, this year in order to jump start construction that will get Albertans back to work. The specific projects will be announced and communicated in the coming days, focus was on accelerating projects, that GoA was intending to

build anyways. Goal was twofold, one; to put people to work now and two; to set us up for success when the relaunch of the economy starts by building infrastructure that will assist with that relaunch.

Municipalities encouraged to follow provincial lead and institute our own local capital maintenance and renewal expense to help boost the economy.

Questions regarding clarity on ministerial order for essential services exceptions to road bans, MSI as stimulus method, procurement, clarifying municipal deficits (can't be budgeted for, but may happen due to unpredicted events), must maintain a positive net financial position, where net assets are greater than their net liabilities, all Albertan municipalities, currently meet this criterion.

Food bank demands, community gardens, funding formula for stimulus projects, shovel ready projects, is the project ready? Do you have from a municipal point of view, the specifics and the designs, and all of those things ready? Is it going to help stimulate local economy? Is it going to add jobs to the economy? Is it going to help you as a municipality? Messaging for people who want to reopen and who are getting outdoors without regard for public health measures, newcomer supports, difficulty self isolating, language barriers,

Special Advisory Committee is conducting rapid evidence review on outdoor transmission. because there's a possibility that with ultraviolet radiation, and the increased ventilation of being outdoors, that transmission outside is potentially less a risk than in indoor settings.

Timeline for relaunch, suicide, mental health impacts,

April 21 Council Meeting

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

<https://wheatlandcounty.ca/wheatland-county-council/agendas-and-minutes>

You can also watch the recording on our YouTube channel:

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

Public hearings and final bylaw readings for 2 land use redesignations were approved, 1 public hearing was held with final readings for the bylaw deferred to allow for development area concerns to be addressed.

Bassano RCMP Detachment Commander Corporal Andrews presented a quarterly report on the Annual Performance Plan to Council, the plan focuses on priorities of community visibility, contributing to safe roads, and rural crime reduction.

Handi-bus funding was reduced from previous years and approved.

A request from Rocky View County to cost share on advocacy regarding the CMRB was approved.

A report on Cannabis cultivation and enforcement was presented.

A new Playground Equipment Funding Policy was presented and will be revised based on feedback by Council.

Council approved applying to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General for our Community Peace Officers to have expanded jurisdiction on 1- and 2- digit primary highways within Wheatland County. This would allow Wheatland County Peace Officers to conduct moving traffic enforcement on these primary highways within Wheatland County. Historically, ratepayers who live along those roadways have not been provided the traffic safety patrols that other roadways within the county have had due to this policy. This exemption will allow our Peace Officers to provide a similar level of traffic safety as other ratepayers who do not live along 1- and 2- digit primary highways.

The final Operating and Capital Budgets were approved.

The auditor presented the Audited Financial Statements and Audit Findings Report, which Council approved.

April 22 Wheatland Family and Community Support Services Board Meeting

Reviewed municipalities responses to funding request. Approved 2020 Budget. Discussed administration cell phone requirements, benefits. Reviewed financials statements and reconciliation report. Review engagement is ongoing and will be completed next week. CAO report, program report done, will be submitted when review engagement report ready. Marketing. Family Resource Network funding update.

April 23 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. Federal and provincial updates, testing is available all over the province. As of last night, Alberta has 306 new cases which brought us to a total of 3401 with 1310 recovered. Continuing Care facilities have been hit the hardest, new provisions being put in place that health care workers are only allowed to work out of one site each. There is new funding being put in place to increase staffing and attempt to lessen the emotional and physical burden on them. There is also going to be a wage increase of \$2/hr for health care aides, in total there's been 7.3 million dollars per month allocated to the extra support. Discussed snowpack and flood probability (low). Roundtable.

April 23 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscariol, 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.

This week we heard from Leanna Biggar, she shared how she supported BJ Janzen in setting up the Rosebud Country Market, the ecommerce site was set up in less than a week and surpassed all expectations with 39 orders in the first week! She's currently sharing a 4 part series of insights for business owners, including strategy, marketing, branding, cash flow and revenue management through these challenging times.

MP Shields also joined the call and shared a federal update.

Wendy with Community Futures Wild Rose shared a new Canadian Agricultural Partnership program, Products to Market. Area ag producers can contact her for assistance with applications. For more info or to apply, visit https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/program/MARKETS_SMALL

April 23 Wheatland Housing Board Meeting

Financial impacts of COVID-19 to date, social housing and lodge reports, February financials, GIC plan, CAO report. Chair can bring forward proposal for Council consideration regarding lodge building project.

April 24 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting

The Board accepted the Q1 Actuals.

The 2019 Annual Report was approved with only one of the three proposed amendments that we put forward collaboratively with Rocky View and Foothills County being approved (“It was also a year of challenges as some members continue to struggle with the purpose of the Board, their role, impacts to local autonomy, and lack of dispute and/or appeal mechanism”), a note regarding requesting direction from Municipal Affairs was not approved, nor was the note regarding IREF challenges and refusal.

Agriculture Background Report was approved.

An updated work schedule was accepted, consultants anticipate a 9 week delay at this point due to the pandemic and do not believe we will finalize the Growth and Servicing Plan before our deadline, with the new targeted completion date of February 12, 2021. To accommodate the new anticipated completion date, it will be necessary for the CMRB to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs for an extension to the original deadline set for submission of the Growth & Servicing Plans. At this time, it is anticipated that an extension of three months would give the necessary time to complete the Growth and Servicing Plans, however, given the fluidity of the situation, this may change. It was recommended that the Board not send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting an extension to the deadline for submitting the Growth and Servicing Plans until June 2020. This will allow for more monitoring of the situation and give greater certainty to projected completion dates. The necessity of physical distancing impacts the development of the Growth and Servicing Plan as Workshop #3, where alternate scenarios will be discussed with elected officials and staff, is best conducted face to face. A work continuity plan was accepted, discussion around convening economic development organizations.

Performance evaluation processes for both Chair and Chief Officer were approved.

Terms for Board and committee Vice Chairs were extended for one year due to public health measure constraints that limit secret ballot procedures, as well as signing authority policy updates, which will be reviewed post-pandemic.

Chair and Chief Officer goals were addressed in closed session.

April 24 Special Council Meeting

Regarding Lakes of Muirfield Council directed administration and legal representation to pursue working with 0747744 B.C LTD on negotiating, finalizing, and executing the “Transfer Commitment” and Collateral Completion Documents between Wheatland County and The Developer; and further that the Transfer Commitment be effective for May 1, 2020, with all other steps and exchanges occurring in due course; and further that the security and releases are tendered on or before the Effective Date, and release upon completion of all steps; and further that administration report back to Council on the Completion Date with completed transfers including document exchange, and confirmation of Water Licenses issued to the County; that Wheatland County assume operations and responsibility for the water system as of the “Effective Date”.

Council approved the Tax Rate Bylaw and approved revision of Bylaw 2010-16 to revise property tax due dates to August 31st, 2020 and penalty dates to September 1, 2020 and November 30th, 2020.

April 24 Rural Municipalities of Alberta Virtual Spring Resolution Session

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1-20S - 97% | Alberta Wetland Mitigation Directive (<i>Saddle Hills County</i>) |
| 2-20S - 97% | Additional Depreciation of Machinery and Equipment Property (Schedule D) (<i>MD of Opportunity</i>) |
| 3-20S - Withdrawn | Implementing Western, Rural Municipal Representation on FCM WEST (<i>Sturgeon County</i>) |
| 4-20S - 97% | Water and Wastewater – Laws, Regulations and Funding (<i>County of Grande Prairie</i>) |
| 5-20S - 76% | Regional Economic Development Alliances Continued Provincial Funding (<i>MD of Spirit River</i>) |
| 6-20S - 81% | Economic State of Crisis (<i>Brazeau County</i>) |
| 7-20S - 40% | Health Care Co-ops (<i>County of Warner</i>) |
| ER1-20S - 85% | Loss of 2% Strychnine (<i>Cypress County</i>) |
| ER2-20S - 71% | New Physician Funding Framework (<i>Lac La Biche County</i>) |
| ER3-20S - 91% | Housing Management Body Compliance Requirements During Pandemic Response (<i>Mountain View County</i>) |

April 24 Strathmore Seed Board Meeting

Financial review, insurance update, staffing update, CEO report, and chair report.

April 29 Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB Grant Program Application, 2% Liquid Strychnine Pricing, Brandings and Social Distancing Requirements, Chair's Report, and Manager of Agriculture and Environment Report.

April 30 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. Federal and provincial updates. Roundtable.

April 30 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscariol, 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.

April 30 Strathmore Wheatland Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting