



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: May 2020

Report Date: May 25, 2020

May 1 Teleconference with MP Martin Shields

Federal updates and an opportunity for questions and answers with MP Shields, MLAs, an RMA representative, and fellow municipal leaders in the Bow River riding.

May 4 Telephone Town Hall

Municipal Affairs Minister, the honorable Kaycee Madu, and Health Minister, the honorable Tyler Shandro, several departmental officials, including Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs Paul Wynnyk. Dr. Mark Joffrey, President and Medical Director for Alberta Health Services, Dr. Francoise Belanger, President of Quality and Chief Medical Officer of Alberta Health Services, and Leanne Wagner, Assistant Deputy Minister of workforce planning with Alberta Health Services.

Minister Madu thanked the municipalities who have submitted shovel ready projects, they are helpful in assessing the demand and capacity to undertake additional construction project which could help stimulate Alberta's economy and position us for the recovery that lies ahead and indicated we should expect an announcement regarding stimulus funding soon. He also indicated MSI funding will continue as planned. Updated on start of relaunch (surgeries, health care, boat launches, camping, golf courses). Reviewed emergency preparedness and floods.

Minister Shandro discussed rural healthcare, pointing out that 20% of our population in the province lives in rural Alberta, being served by 5.8% of the AHS budget and 7% of the physicians in this province.

Questions included guidance for home based business relaunch, gyms, timeline for protecting rural healthcare, homecare workers in more than one facility, non-essential travel, consideration for delayed education tax payment, recovered cases messaging, concerns with risk of relaunch and ongoing messaging, lack of consultation with municipalities regarding rural health, daycares, seasonal communities and summer homes, public beach openings, acute care hospital visits, municipal and private campground, boat launches, and beach openings, meat processing plants and supply chain concerns, retraining funding, and playground openings.

May 5 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/UCRjrv1s0eygNM7zERLnvigOg?view_as=subscriber

Public Hearings and bylaw readings were held for a land redesignation, and a public hearing was held for a road closure. A revised Animal Control Bylaw was approved. The 2020-22 Tax Penalty, Interest and Monthly Payment Bylaw was approved. Council and administration reports.

May 7 Calgary Metropolitan Region Joint Intermunicipal Servicing and Land Use Meeting

Asked to attend in Deputy Reeve Klassen's absence.

Committee approved recommendation to the Board approval of the South and East Calgary Regional Transportation Study, Wheatland voted in opposition due to significant errors (in the range of 300%) for our 2015 population horizon and jobs numbers. It was determined there was population from an area outside Wheatland's included area in the Calgary Metropolitan Region utilized for this study and the committee finally voted to amend during deliberations on the integration of the North Calgary Regional Transportation Study and the South and East Calgary Regional Transportation Study. Growth & Servicing Plan Project and progress update, draft Recreation Policy, and policy discussion on Agricultural Lands.

May 7 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Wheatland County Economic Development Officer, Patrick Earl, and General Manager of Community and Development Services, Matt Boscariol, facilitate a weekly 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. These are ongoing conversations.

Specifically this week we heard from Carolyn Melnyk Workforce Consultant / Operational Lead Employer Liaison Service for Alberta Labour and Immigration Employer and Program Services Branch had a number of questions we discussed regarding relaunch, including reflection of each stakeholder in the relaunch plan, what success will look like, how government can support successful relaunch, areas of risk and concern, other considerations and next steps.

May 7 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting

Financial variance report, AGM considerations, ratify loan payment suspension and succession matching project, loan report with arrears, WD updates, CED committee, discussed budget, and preliminary findings from Business Retention and Expansion survey.

May 8 Teleconference with Minister Aheer

Discussed ag supports, Bill 10 (upon review will be amending to ensure only used in extreme circumstances), physician town hall, MP shared federal ag announcement, stimulus projects, casino funding and community association sustainability, provincial budget.

May 8 CMRB COVID-19 Teleconference

Update from Municipal Affairs representative, PPE availability, relaunch considerations.

May 8 RMA Virtual Meeting

Discussed Municipal Affairs issues – fact sheets every Friday, forthcoming stimulus funding, municipal cash flow, Assessment Model Review will continue, FCM Update, Relaunch Strategy, Alberta Transportation, Oil/Gas Well Site Rehabilitation Program, NWPTA Trade Agreement – still in place, Premier has indicated he will discuss with other provincial counterparts, rural doctors, provincial parks partnerships, police funding and provincial policing interim committee, flooding disasters, forest/wildland fire risk, and RMA Spring 2020 Resolutions.

May 12 Municipal Planning Commission

One subdivision application was approved with conditions.

May 14 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, including that there is ambiguity regarding Canada Summer Jobs program, hopefully notification from Minister's office soon, all requests were submitted. I provided updates from Wheatland.

May 14 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

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Specifically, this week we heard about an Open Farm Days initiative that is focused on increasing rural farm exposure when the typical Open Farm Days events may not be feasible, including a local opportunity to be shared soon! As well we heard an update on a local business collaboration that has had remarkable success with both continuing and new customers, a survey showed 93% of customers would continue with virtual market shopping following pandemic.

May 14 Wheatland Housing Management Body Board Meeting

Financial impacts of COVID-19 to date, social housing and lodge reports, March financials, discussed GICs, report from Barry Nephin, Building Committee report, letters of support, and CAO report.

May 15 CMRB COVID-19 Teleconference

Update from Municipal Affairs representative. Encouraged people not to use 911 for public health order compliance concerns, discussed playgrounds. Shared formula tool used for relaunch decision making.

May 19 Council Meeting

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Public Hearing was held for a Land Use Bylaw amendment pertaining to Speargrass, the Wheatland/Kneehill IDP was approved. A thank you to Gleichen Lions Club for a donation was approved. An additional Fire Guardian was appointed. An overview of the WC Mercantile was provided, following a Councillor inquiry into facilitating a ranch direct beef sales directory.

May 20 Municipal Affairs: COVID-19 Telephone Town Hall

Update from Municipal Affairs Minister, the Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, the Honourable Tanya Fir and Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Deena Hinshaw provided updates and answered questions. Most pertinent was discussion regarding in person Council meetings, which will require clarification on current requirements under the MGA and COVID Suppression regulation. Clarification on municipal jurisdiction on playground opening.

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May 22 Teleconference with MP Martin Shields

Update from MP Shields and RMA representative, discussion, and questions from other municipalities in riding.

May 22 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Meeting

Conflict of Interest Policy, issue with Outside Activities section being subjective and ambiguous, moved to amend to remove that section, but motion was lost, Policy passed with the section as drafted from committee. South and East Regional Transportation Study discussed with a motion from Foothills for the study to go to Councils for review and comment before returning to the June Board meeting. Integration of North and South/East studies was deferred until the South and East study is approved. Workshop 2 summary report approved to be shared publicly and Growth and Servicing Plan Project update. Board Chair and Chief Officer goals approved.

May 25 Strathmore Seed Cleaning Plant Board Meeting

Financial review, CEO report, safety update, and Chairman's report. Demolition of town facility is underway. Capital and maintenance plan was approved.

May 27 Wheatland Family & Community Support Services Board Meeting

Review Engagement Report, benefits, media interactions, financial and reconciliation reports, and CAO report – restart, marketing, indirect programs.

May 28 Town of Drumheller with Neighbouring Municipalities Conference Call - COVID-19

Report submitted prior to teleconference.

May 28 WC Infinite Possibilities Regional Business Collaboration

Report submitted prior to teleconference.