

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#27526 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014

Councillor MacPhee moved adoption of the Agenda as presented.

Carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#27527 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on March 24, 2014 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#27528 SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2014

Councillor Simpson moved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Town Council held on April 10, 2014 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

DELEGATION

1. Wilde & Company – 2013 Audited Financial Statements

Kyle Bodnarchuk, C.A. and Meghan Saskiw, C.A. of Wilde and Company, Chartered Accountants attended the meeting as a delegation to present the Town of Vegreville draft 2013 Audited Financial Statements.

Mr. Bodnarchuk expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Town Administration staff on the completion of the 2013 audit.

Mr. Bodnarchuk and Mrs. Saskiw highlighted and brought to the attention of Town Council many items within the document.

The delegation answered questions and inquiries from Council.

Mayor and Council thanked the delegation for their presentation.

Kyle Bodnarchuk and Meghan Saskiw left at 7:40 p.m.

2. Vegreville Public Library Board

Natalia Toroshenko, Chair of the Vegreville Public Library Board attended the meeting as a delegation and presented and provided to Town Council the following:

Good evening, Mayor & Council. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you as a delegation at tonight's meeting of Vegreville Town Council. As Chair of the Vegreville Public Library Board I am making this presentation on behalf of the Board, whose mandate is the governance of our public library, as well as on behalf of the citizens of Vegreville, the citizens of the Western portion of the County of Minburn who reside in the Vegreville Library District and all patrons of our local public library.

I attended the Council meeting on March 24, 2014 as I was keenly interested in the 2014 Budget which was to be tabled that evening. I was interested in this Budget for various reasons: as a former municipal councillor of 9 years, as a Vegreville taxpayer since 1987, and as the Chair of the Library Board which had made a 45 minute presentation to Council on March 3 detailing the specific services which the library offers: the wide variety of programs for people of all ages, numbers of patrons/visitors/members, hours of operation, collection development, and perhaps most importantly, a breakdown of the sources of operational funding which all these services to be delivered. I was deeply disappointed in Council that evening, for although the budget was tabled, there was not one word of discussion or debate or information or justification about the details within the budget, and it passed within 30 seconds of being tabled. I was saddened by the fact that as a taxpayer, I could learn nothing about Council's decisions of how to spend my tax dollars at a public meeting of Council, which would deem it both accessible and transparent, but had to resort to receiving some of the information in an editorial in a local newspaper two days later.

It is my understanding that four 'organizations', which are not Town owned organizations, but rather operate at arm's length to the Town, had their budgets cut by 10%: VTSS, the Chamber of Commerce, the Museum,

and the Library . I have no doubt that each of these organizations provides valuable services which enhance the quality of life in Vegreville, but I am here to clarify that the Library is not an arm's length organization – it is a Town services, an essential Town service. According to Part 1, Section 2, Article 3(b) the MGA, "... The purposes of a municipality are (b) to provide services, facilities, or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality, ...". Library services are just one set of services provided by the municipality of the Town of Vegreville. Others include Emergency services; Recreational services such as the Aquatic & Fitness Centre, the Arena, the Multiples, the walking trails, the parks and playgrounds; Community Services such as FCSS; Infrastructure services such as roads, snow removal, and safe, potable water; and other services too numerous to mention here.

The Province of Alberta, newly established in 1905, passed the Libraries Act that year as one of its first pieces of Legislation, demonstrating its commitment to libraries as being essential to the development of communities. For the last 95 years, since 1919, Vegreville Municipal Council has deemed library services an essential part of its own community, and through its own bylaw, established the Vegreville Library Board which, on behalf of the Municipal Council, is the governing body of the local public library. In recent years, Vegreville's commitment to the Library has been renewed and reinforced:

- in 1999 the municipality joined the Northern Lights Library System which greatly enhanced our patron's access to resources through inter-library loans;
- in 2004, the Council of the day, under the leadership of then Mayor David Kucherauw, committed to building a new library building as the legacy project commemorating both the Province's centennial in 2005 and Vegreville's centennial in 2006 (hence the name Veg. Centennial Library);
- a 'Friends of the Library' group has been created, populated by volunteers whose main mandates are fundraising and advocacy;
- and most recently (last Wednesday), 16 volunteers spent 3 hours with a facilitator from the Public Library Services Branch of the Province of Alberta mapping out our public library's Plan of Service for the next 5 years (to 2018), which is required by the Province, and is how each municipal public library determines which services will satisfy the needs of its community.

So, I am here to ask you, Vegreville Town Council, to reconsider your 10% cut of \$36,000 to the public library's 2014 budget. Why?

- Because the public library is an essential service in the community.
- Because no other Town services were affected by cuts.
- Because the \$360,000 allocation that the Board requested from the Town represents needs, not wants, basic needs that are necessary to deliver the same level of services that our citizens identify as being needed.
- Because if \$36,000 reduction in funding remains, the public library will have to cut services, including community programs, hours of operation, and collection development.
- Because this Council's priority for its 4 year term is economic development – and studies show that for every \$1 invested in library services, an economic return of \$4 is realized. Surely library services are an integral part of Council's strategic plan for Vegreville's economic growth and development.

And finally, I ask you, Vegreville Town Council, to reinstate your 10% cut of \$36,000 to the public library's 2014 budget because it's the right thing to do. Thank you.

The delegation answered questions and inquiries from Council.

Councillor Berry asked to be on the record stating the following:

"While I support the Vegreville Library, there are a few points in the presentation to which I will comment. Council passed the 2014 budget at its regular meeting of March 24, 2014 after considerable debate had already occurred during many previous budget sessions, all of which were meetings open to the public. In accordance with the Libraries Act, once established a Municipal Library Board becomes a corporation, with the rights and responsibilities of a corporation. It is that corporation which is responsible for the management of the public library and its services.

When provincial legislation is quoted to me, I become curious. So, reading from the Libraries Act, section 8, subsection 1): "The municipal board shall before December 1 of each year prepare a budget and an estimate of money required during the ensuing year to operate and manage the municipal library. And subsection 2); the budget and the estimate of money shall be forthwith submitted to the council of the municipality. And subsection 3); council may approve the estimate under subsection (1) in whole or in part." Council has not received the board's budget as required in the Act, but has the right to, as well as ask for information particularly to look at trends over time.

According to the provincial government, in 2011, municipalities gave an average per capita appropriation of \$34.73 to their local library boards. Based on that figure Vegreville's board would receive \$199,975. However, our 2014 budget grant of \$324,422 provides a per capita appropriate of \$56.34, and the Board is asking for \$62.59 per capita – well above the provincial average. A family of three is taxed three times that. At what point must a line be drawn on increased taxation?"

Mayor Hayduk advised Natalia Toroshenko that Town Council will review this matter at a future meeting of Town Council.

Mayor and Council thanked the delegation for her presentation.

Mayor Hayduk declared a recess at 8:06 p.m.

Mayor Hayduk reconvened the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

#27529 ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS - MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR MUNICIPAL EXCELLENCE

Correspondence received April 3, 2014 from Ken Hughes, Minister of Municipal Affairs, stating:

I am pleased to invite the Town of Vegreville to provide submissions for the 13th annual Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence, which formally recognizes local government excellence and promotes knowledge sharing among municipalities. These awards offer an opportunity to recognize the truly great work being done by local governments in Alberta.

An independent review committee, comprised of representatives from various municipal associations, will recommend award recipients in four categories and one award for outstanding achievement.

Innovation Award – recognizes a leading practice embodying the first use of an idea in a municipal context in Alberta;

Partnership Award – recognizes a leading municipal practice involving consultation, coordination, and co-operating with our municipalities, jurisdictions, or organizations;

Smaller Municipality Award – recognizes the innovative practices developed by communities with less than 3,000 residents;

Safe Communities Award – recognizes a leading practice that promotes or improves public safety in municipalities; and

Outstanding Achievement Award – recognizes a municipality or municipal partnership that has helped to inspire action and change that has benefited local government practices in Alberta. This award, selected by the review committee, recognizes the best submission from the other categories.

Submission forms and additional details can be found on the Municipal Excellence Network website at www.menet.ab.ca. The submission deadline is May 23, 2014. Award recipients will be announced at the 2014 fall conventions of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

I encourage you to share your success stories, and I look forward to celebrating these successes with your communities and your neighbours.

If you have any questions regarding the Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence or the Municipal Excellence Network, please direct them to the Municipal Excellence Team, at 780-427-2225, or by email at metnet@gov.ab.ca.

Councillor MacPhee moved that the correspondence received April 3, 2014 from Ken Hughes, Minister of Municipal Affairs, be received and brought back to a future meeting of Town Council for further discussion.

Carried unanimously.

#27530 ALBERTA MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – 2014 MSI ALLOCATION – CAPITAL AND OPERATING

Correspondence dated April 7, 2014 from Ken Hughes, Minister, stating:

On March 6, 2014, Budget 2014 announced the consolidation of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Capital and Basic Municipal Transportation Grant (BMTG) programs under the MSI Capital program. The consolidation has brought together over \$1.2 billion of grant funding for infrastructure in 2014 and will result in more streamlined, efficient and flexible program delivery for municipalities.

The government remains committed to providing the full \$11.3 billion in funding to municipalities over the life of the MSI and increases resulting from the consolidation of the MSI Capital with the BMTG will be in addition to this commitment.

In 2014, total consolidated MSI program funding will reach \$1.24 billion, with \$871 million in MSI Capital funding, \$343 million in capital funding previously provided under the BMTG, and \$30 million in MSI Operating funding. While we continue to realign MSI Operating funding to encourage transformational change, \$25 million in additional capital funding will be provided in 2014 to lessen the impact of the phased elimination of the MSI Operating program.

In regards to MSI Operating, I appreciate the feedback I have received from a number of municipalities and I am taking your concerns seriously and will look at ways to mitigate any overall reductions that your municipality may have incurred due to this reduction. I would also like for you to forward any ideas that you have for my consideration to address these reductions.

Your total MSI allocation is \$1,552,840, with a more detailed break-down between MSI funding components outlined in Appendix A (attached). MSI funding amounts for all municipalities are also posted on the Municipal Affairs MSI website at municipalaffairs.ablerta.ca/MSI.cfm.

Funding allocations under the consolidated MSI-BMTG program are calculated using the existing MSI formula for the former MSI funds and the existing BMTG funding formula for the former BMTG program. Although the consolidation does not impact how grant funding is allocated, some municipalities will experience changes in their individual allocations. Changes in allocation amounts are mainly due to the shifts in each municipality's portion of population, education tax requisition, and/or kilometres of local roads compared to the provincial total, combined with a reduction in the MSI Operating budget.

Use of all funding will follow MSI terms and conditions, as outlined in the 2014 MSI program guidelines.

Investing in all families and communities is one of the priorities of the Building Alberta Plan and I am committed to supporting Alberta's communities to meet their local infrastructure needs and priorities.

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that the correspondence dated April 7, 2014 from Ken Hughes, Minister, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL**#27531 TOWN OF VEGREVILLE MONTHLY CASH STATEMENT FOR MONTH ENDED JANUARY 31, 2014**

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that the Town of Vegreville Monthly Cash Statement for the month ended January 31, 2014 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

MEMORANDA**#27532 TRANSFERS TO RESERVES - 2013**

A Request for Council Decision dated April 4, 2014 from Cliff Craig, Corporate Services Director, stating:

Operating funds have been set aside in the following reserves as part of the 2013 Year End process. These Transfers from the Operating Fund to the Reserve Funds were not budgeted, and therefore require Council approval.

Councillor Rudyk moved that Town Council authorize the transfer of \$558,470.46 from the Operating Fund to the Operating Reserves for the year ended December 31, 2013 as follows:

Ambulance Communication Equipment	Depreciation/Amortization	\$ 37,637.68
Ambulance Vehicles	Depreciation/Amortization	\$ 40,804.68
Ambulance Cardiac Monitor (2009)	Depreciation/Amortization	\$ 5,783.80
Ambulance Heart Simulator (2011)	Depreciation/Amortization	\$ 1,697.36
Ambulance LP15 Defibrillator (2011)	Depreciation/Amortization	\$ 4,170.00
Ambulance General		\$ 81,863.71
Library	2013 Operating Surplus	\$ 23,401.19
Multiplex Life-Cycling	Town & Curling Club	\$ 10,000.00
Museum – Life-Cycling		\$ 3,112.04
General Operating Contingency Reserve	2013 Year End Surplus	<u>\$350,000.00</u>
Total Transfer to Operating Reserves		<u>\$558,470.46</u>

Carried unanimously.

#27533 TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES - 2013

A Request for Council Decision dated April 4, 2014 from Cliff Craig, Corporate Services Director, stating:

The Emergency Services Department completed the upgrade in 2013 of the Communications Equipment for both the Fire and Emergency Medical Services. The EMS portion of the upgrade will be reimbursed to the Town of Vegreville by Alberta Health Services through the Funding Agreement. A transfer from Reserves was required to pay for the EMS portion of the equipment in 2013.

This Transfer from the Operating Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund was not budgeted, and therefore requires Council approval.

Councillor Brodziak moved that Town Council authorize the transfer of \$51,057.08 from the Ambulance Communication Equipment Operating Reserve to the Operating Fund for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Carried unanimously.

#27534 OPERATING RESERVES RECLASSIFICATIONS - 2013

A Request for Council Decision dated April 4, 2014 from Cliff Craig, Corporate Services Director, stating:

In years past, Town Council had established Operating Reserves to set aside funds for specific purposes. In reviewing the Operating Reserves and in an effort to consolidate the Operating Reserves listing, Administration is requesting that Council re-class the following reserves into the General Operating Contingency. This will improve the efficiency for the use and designation of these funds.

Councillor Simpson moved that Town Council authorize the reclassification of the listed Operating Reserves to the General Operating Contingency Reserve for the year ended December 31, 2013 as follows:

From the following Operating Reserves:	
Olympic Torch Relay Reserve	\$ 39,876.32
Railway Crossing Maintenance Reserve	\$ 16,596.10
Inter-municipal Development Plan Reserve	\$ 36,283.43
50 Avenue Beautification Reserve	\$ 84,110.98
Post Office Renovations Reserve	\$ 430.98
To the General Operating Contingency Reserve	\$177,297.81

Carried unanimously.

#27535 AMBULANCE UNIT RESERVES RECLASSIFICATIONS - 2013

A Request for Council Decision dated April 4, 2014 from Cliff Craig, Corporate Services Director, stating:

In 2009, the Town of Vegreville and Alberta Health Services [AHS] entered into a funding agreement for Ground Ambulance Services. The funding agreement has been renewed and is in place until 2016. One of the provisions included in the agreement is for the depreciation of the Ambulance vehicles and equipment where AHS pays the Town for the annual depreciation amounts. Annually, the depreciation amounts have been transferred into Operating Reserves for the Ambulance Units. This will improve the efficiency for the use and designation of these funds.

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council authorize the reclassification of the listed Ambulance Unit Reserves to the Ambulance Vehicle Reserve for the year ended December 31, 2013 as follows:

From the following Ambulance Unit Reserves:	
Ambulance Unit 1856	\$133,700.90
Ambulance Unit 1857	\$126,725.33
Ambulance Unit 1858	\$136,087.31
To the Ambulance Vehicle Reserve	\$396,513.54

Carried unanimously.

#27536 2013 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A Request for Council Decision dated April 11, 2014 from Jody Quickstad, Town Manager stating:

Wilde and Company, Chartered Accountants has conducted and completed the audit for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that Town Council approve the 2013 Audited Financial Statements as presented by Wilde and Company, and

Further that “Facilities” be added to page 2, Expenses column.

Carried unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL

#27537 REGIONAL COLLABORATION GRANT

A Request for Council Decision dated April 14, 2014 from Paul Suiter, Recreation, Culture and Facilities Manager stating:

The Recreation, Culture and Facilities department has prepared a Regional Collaboration Grant application through Alberta Municipal Affairs Regional Collaboration Program (RCP). This grant application is being proposed as a joint submission in partnership with the County of Minburn No. 27. The purpose is to secure funding to proceed with the development of a Recreation Master Plan for both the Town of Vegreville and the County of Minburn.

At present the County provides financial support to the Town for recreation in the form of a recreation grant application. This is an annual request and has demonstrated a level of understanding that recreation is shared responsibility for the residents of both municipalities. The development of a master plan together would further this understanding and allow for a planning blueprint for both governments.

Discussion ensued to include “Culture” in the Master Plan.

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council approves the submission of the Regional Collaboration Grant application to Alberta Municipal Affairs; and

Further that a letter be forwarded to the County of Minburn No. 27 requesting that they partner with the Town of Vegreville on the application for the development of a Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

Carried unanimously.

#27538 VEGREVILLE MINOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION – ACCESS TO WATER AND WATERS COSTS

A Request for Council Decision dated April 14, 2014 from Laurie Evans, Community Services Director stating:

On April 9, 2014, Al Bohrson, Wayne McWilliams and Jim Schieck attended the Legislative Committee Meeting as representatives of Vegreville Minor Soccer Association (VMSA) requesting assistance from the Town of Vegreville to irrigate soccer pitches located on Elk Island Public School properties, namely at Vegreville Composite High School and A. L. Horton Elementary School.

Prior to purchasing the required equipment (water canon) VMSA attended the meeting to discuss with Council and Administration the possibility of direct access to a hydrant, staff assistance and the cost of water.

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that Town Council provide direction to Administration regarding the following requests from the Vegreville Minor Soccer Association for the year 2014:

1. To allow access/tag the fire hydrant at the schools to operate a “water canon” to irrigate the soccer pitches;
2. To have Town staff hook up the valve and water meter to the hydrants and to move to other hydrants as required at no cost to VMSA; and
3. To donate the cost of the water.

Carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR HAYDUK

Mayor Hayduk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Call to make contacts regarding Brown Lots - March 27, 2014
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9, 2014
- Legislative Committee Meeting - April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment - April 10, 2014
- Vegreville Regional Solid Waste Sub-Committee Meeting - April 11, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR BERRY

Councillor Berry reported and/or attended on the following:

- Alberta Senior Citizen’s Housing Association - Calgary - March 25 - 28, 2014
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9, 2014
- Legislative Committee Meeting - April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment - April 10, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR BRODZIAK

Councillor Brodzia reported and/or attended on the following:

- Alberta Senior Citizen’s Housing Association - Calgary - March 25 - 28, 2014
- FCSS Advisory Committee Meeting - April 1, 2014
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9, 2014
- Legislative Committee Meeting - April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment - April 10, 2014
- Leon Benoit MP Funding Announcement & Town Hall - April 14, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR KOZAKIEWICZ

Councillor Kozakiewicz reported and/or attended on the following:

- Alberta HUB Meeting - St. Paul - March 27, 2014
- FCSS Advisory Committee Meeting - April 1, 2014
- Vegreville Economic Development & Tourism Board @ ATCO - April 7, 2014
- Economic Developers Association Conference - Kananaskis - April 8 - 11, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR MACPHEE

Councillor MacPhee reported and/or attended on the following:

- Legislative Committee Meeting – April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment – April 10, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR RUDYK

Councillor Rudyk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Vegreville Economic Development & Tourism Board @ ATCO – April 7, 2014
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9, 2014
- Legislative Committee Meeting – April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment – April 10, 2014
- Vegreville Regional Solid Waste Sub-Committee Meeting – April 11, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON

Councillor Simpson reported and/or attended on the following:

- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Meeting – April 1, 2014
- Veterans Memorial Highway Association – AGM – April 4, 2014
- Veterans Memorial Highway Association Executive Meeting – April 4, 2014
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch - April 9, 2014
- Legislative Committee Meeting – April 9, 2014
- Special Meeting of Town Council re: RCMP Detachment – April 10, 2014
- John S. Batiuk Regional Water Commission Meeting – April 10, 2014
- Vegreville Regional Solid Waste Sub-Committee Meeting – April 11, 2014
- Regular Town Council Meeting - April 14, 2014

#27539

Councillor Kozakiewicz moved that Town Council go in-camera at 9:19 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

Deanna Tymchyshyn and public in attendance left the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

#27540

Councillor Simpson moved that Town Council come out of camera at 10:25 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before Council, Mayor Hayduk declared the Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

MYRON HAYDUK
Mayor

JODY QUICKSTAD
Town Manager