

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#2017-JAN-01 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017

Councillor Simpson moved adoption of the Agenda as presented.

Carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#2017-JAN-02 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

Councillor Berry moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on Monday, December 12, 2016 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

#2017-JAN-03 ANGELA PITT, MLA AIRDRIE – LETTER

Correspondence dated December 2, 2016 from Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, stating:

I just recently heard about the decision to close the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. I support the efforts of the Town of Vegreville to reconsider this decision.

This Case Processing Centre is a major employer in the town of 6000 people. Losing about 280 positions will certainly have a devastating impact on the community. And should the present employees decide to move to Edmonton to continue employment one can only imagine the impact on this rural community. Small rural communities already struggle to survive.

I ask that your government meet with the Town of Vegreville to discuss options that would allow the Case Processing Centre to remain in that community.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 2, 2016 from Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-04 ALBERTA HUB – LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 9, 2016 from Soren Odegard, Chair, Northeast Alberta Information HUB to Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the 42 members of the Northeast Alberta Information HUB the regional economic development alliance of Northeast Alberta. Our alliance focuses on issues that include positioning the region for future growth, encouraging investment, labour force development and municipal collaboration. Vegreville is one of the 37 municipalities that make up our alliance. As Chair of the Northeast Alberta Information HUB I want to express our serious concern with the decision to close the Vegreville Case Processing Centre.

The planned relocation of this operation to Edmonton and the resultant loss of 228 skilled jobs in the Vegreville community will have significant detrimental effects not only for the Town of Vegreville but for our entire region.

One of our focus areas endeavours to attract residents and employees as part of our mandate, therefore we would strongly encourage you to reserve your decision to relocate the CPC out of Vegreville.

The collective effect of this decision – at a time when Alberta specifically rural Alberta are facing significant economic challenges – will undoubtedly lead to a further blow to the local/regional economy and will negatively impact all local/regional businesses. This decision has implications that go beyond the CPC and its employees in ways that will undermine social networks and the sustainability of the community.

Based on the rationale given by your department to move this center from Vegreville we look forward to working with you to implement a strategy that addresses these reasons. We have worked with the Federal Government in the past on initiatives to address these issues and to grow “rural” Alberta and in fact some of these issues have been funded by Federal Government Departments.

We feel confident that the capacity exists to work collaboratively to identify a sustainable solution that will ultimately have a greater positive economic impact than the one currently being proposed.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 9, 2016 from Soren Odegard, Chair, Northeast Alberta Information HUB to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-05 COUNTY OF SMOKY LAKE – LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 21, 2016 from Craig Lukinuk, Reeve, Smoky Lake County to Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

On behalf of Smoky Lake County, we are respectfully asking that you reconsider your decision to move the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of this employer in Vegreville will have devastating effects to our neighboring community. The loss of 228 jobs within the Town of approximately 5800 people will impact not only the personnel that work at this location, but their families, schools, churches, businesses, retailers, and community clubs. The economic impact will be far reaching, into the surrounding communities as well. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Council is expressing its deep concern for the Town of Vegreville and surrounding area on losing such a large employer. We advocate to you to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 21, 2016 from Craig Lukinuk, Reeve, Smoky Lake County to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-06 GROWTH ALBERTA - LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 1, 2016 from Chad Merrifield, Chairperson, GROWTH Alberta to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

GROWTH Alberta is a Regional Economic Development Alliance (REDA), whose Board of Directors is comprised of municipally elected officials. Located in North Central Alberta, GROWTH Alberta works in partnership with its rural membership, local industry, all levels of Government and a variety of other stakeholders to address the economic challenges, strategies and opportunities that face the region.

*Rurally based with sparse populations and a large geography, we recognize the importance of attracting and retaining industry to the sustainability and vibrancy of our communities. The decision to centralize the Central Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton will have a devastating impact to the community and its residents. With potentially losing up to 44% of a local labour force and 25% of its school aged youth at once, any community would be hard pressed to recover and remain sustainable. **As rural REDAs strive to attract residents and retain youth as part of their mandate, we would strongly encourage you to reverse your decision to relocate the CPC out of Vegreville and implement a strategy in collaboration with the community to attract the college educated and/or bilingual workers to Vegreville.***

We look forward to your response to this correspondence with further detail as to your review criteria and final evaluation regarding this very important and impactful decision.

If you have any questions or concerns in the interim, our administrative office can be contacted at 780 674-3140 or alternatively via email at manager@growthalberta.com.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 1, 2016 from Chad Merrifield, Chairperson, GROWTH Alberta to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-07 TOFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 15, 2016 from Jeff Edwards, Vice President, Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

On behalf of the Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce, we are respectfully asking that you reconsider your decision to move the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of this employer in Vegreville will have devastating effects to our neighboring community. The loss of 228 jobs within the Town of approximately 5800 people will impact not only the personnel that work at this location, but their families, schools, churches, businesses, retailers, and community clubs. The economic impact will be far reaching, into the surrounding communities as well. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Executive Committee is expressing its deep concern for the Town of Vegreville and surrounding area on losing such a large employer. We advocate to you the Honorable Minister of Immigration to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 15, 2016 from Jeff Edwards, Vice President, Tofield and District Chamber of Commerce to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-08 TOWN OF BONNYVILLE – LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 16, 2016 from Gene Sobolewski, Mayor, Town of Bonnyville to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship stating:

Council of the Town of Bonnyville, at their Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2016 approved a motion to provide a Letter of Support to the Town of Vegreville to persuade the Federal Government, namely your Department, to keep the Case Processing Centre open in Vegreville.

The Town of Bonnyville strongly supports the Town of Vegreville's position that the Case Processing Centre remain in operation in the Town of Vegreville.

We are dismayed that it was the staff at the Case Processing Centre, who were advised of this move in their staff meeting and reached out to the Town of Vegreville for help and that this was not communicated to the Town by official means. To announce that a decision was already made not to renew the lease on the current building, a decision that affects 280 employees, without prior public consultation or consultation with the Town of Vegreville is deplorable and certainly indicates a very serious lack of government transparency.

It is Council's understanding that citizens from surrounding counties and municipalities are affected, as their citizens are employed at the Case Processing Centre. The big picture is that the Town of Vegreville has benefited for years from the increased tax base, employment, business attraction and introduction of programming that the Case Processing Centre has provided and this will be a serious blow to their economy.

Council also understands that the reasons given for the closure were that there would be more bi-lingual access, an increase in proximity to post-secondary education centers and that there was space in Crown owned or leased facilities. Council also understands that Council and the Mayor of Vegreville have notified you that they are more than open to discuss alternatives to the closure, from helping with lease negotiations to looking at alternative locations.

Again, Council of the Town of Bonnyville strongly objects to the closure of the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville and strongly supports the Case Processing Centre remaining operational in the Town of Vegreville.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 16, 2016 from Gene Sobolewski, Mayor, Town of Bonnyville to The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-09 TOWN OF BONNYVILLE – LETTER TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT

Correspondence dated December 16, 2016 from Gene Sobolewski, Mayor, Town of Bonnyville to The Honourable Judy Foote, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, stating:

Council of the Town of Bonnyville, at their Regular Council Meeting of December 13, 2013 approved a motion to provide a Letter of Support to the Town of Vegreville to persuade the Federal Government, namely your Department, to keep the Case Processing Centre open in Vegreville.

The Town of Bonnyville strongly supports the Town of Vegreville's position that the Case Processing Centre remain in operation in the Town of Vegreville.

We are dismayed that it was the staff at the Case Processing Centre, who were advised of this move in their staff meeting and reached out to the Town of Vegreville for help and that this was not communicated to the Town by official means. To announce that a decision was already made not to renew the lease on the current building, a decision that affects 280 employees, without prior public consultation or consultation with the Town of Vegreville is deplorable and certainly indicates a very serious lack of government transparency

It is Council's understanding that citizens from surrounding counties and municipalities are affected, as their citizens are employed at the Case Processing Centre. The big picture is that the Town of Vegreville has benefited for years from the increased tax base, employment, business attraction and introduction of programming that the Case Processing Centre has provided and this will be a serious blow to their economy.

Council also understands that the reasons given for the closure were that there would be more bi-lingual access, an increase in proximity to post-secondary education centers and that there was space in Crown owned or leased facilities. Council also understands that Council and the Mayor of Vegreville have notified you that they are more than open to discuss alternatives to the closure, from helping with lease negotiations to looking at alternative locations.

Again, Council of the Town of Bonnyville strongly objects to the closure of the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville and strongly supports the Case Processing Centre remaining operational in the Town of Vegreville.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 16, 2016 from Gene Sobolewski, Mayor, Town of Bonnyville to The Honourable Judy Foote, Minister Public Services and Procurement be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-10 TOWN OF MUNDARE – LETTER TO MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT

Correspondence dated December 14, 2016 from Charlie Gargus, Mayor, Town of Mundare; Jaime Burghardt, Councillor; Jason Kowal, Councillor; Frank Rosypal, Councillor and Irene Talaga, Councillor to the Honourable Judy Foote, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, stating:

The Town of Mundare respectfully requests that you reconsider the decision to move the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of the CPC will not only effect the Town of Vegreville but surrounding communities as residents of our town also work at the CPC. The economic impact will not only be felt by the families, but by the schools, churches, businesses and community clubs. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Council is concerned about the impact of the closure to the Town of Vegreville and the surrounding communities. We advocate to you and the Honourable Minister of Immigration to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 14, 2016 from Charlie Gargus, Mayor, Town of Mundare; Jaime Burghardt, Councillor; Jason Kowal, Councillor; Frank Rosypal, Councillor and Irene Talaga, Councillor, of the Town of Mundare to the Honourable Judy Foote, Minister of Public Services and Procurement be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-11 TOWN OF ST. PAUL - LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 7, 2016 from Glenn Andersen, Mayor, Town of St. Paul to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

On behalf of the Town of St. Paul, we are respectfully asking that you reconsider your decision to move the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of this employer in Vegreville will have devastating effects to our neighboring community. The loss of 228 jobs within the Town of approximately 5800 people will impact not only the personnel that work at this location, but their families, schools, churches, businesses, retailers, and community clubs. The economic impact will be far reaching, into the surrounding communities as well. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Council is expressing its deep concern for the Town of Vegreville and surrounding area on losing such a large employer. We advocate to you and the Honourable Minister of Immigration or Public Service to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 7, 2016 from Glenn Andersen, Mayor, Town of St. Paul to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-12 TOWN OF TOFIELD – LETTER TO MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION

Correspondence dated December 15, 2016 from Harold Conquest, Mayor, Town of Tofield to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, stating:

On behalf of the Town of Tofield, we respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to relocate the Immigration Case Processing Centre from Vegreville to Edmonton.

The closure of this employer in Vegreville will have devastating affects to our neighboring community. The loss of 228 jobs within the Town of approximately 5800 people will impact not only the personnel that work at this location, but their families, schools, churches, businesses, retailers, and community clubs. The economic impact will be far reaching, into the surrounding communities as well. Rural communities play a vital role in Canada, and we need to ensure that our communities stay vibrant and strong.

Our Council is expressing its' deep concern for the Town of Vegreville and surrounding area on losing such a large employer. We advocate to you the Honourable Minister of Immigration to keep this vital facility in the Town of Vegreville.

We look forward to hearing from you on this very pressing matter.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 15, 2016 from Harold Conquest, Mayor, Town of Tofield to the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-13 VILLAGE OF CHAUVIN – LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND PROCUREMENT, SHANNON STUBBS MP, AND JESSICA LITTLEWOOD, MLA

Correspondence dated December 20, 2016 from Jack Goodall, Mayor, Village of Chauvin stating:

Please accept this letter of concern from the Village of Chauvin with regards to the Federal Government's decision to close the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, Alberta. The decision to relocate this office to Edmonton will, in effect, cause job losses for 228+ people. That will be an extremely huge loss of employees, families, school children, community members and volunteers for the Town of Vegreville.

Like Chauvin, the Town of Vegreville is a small community and we can sympathize with them on how difficult it has been to keep employment opportunities within our communities, to keep small businesses operating and to keep our schools open. The down turn of the economy put a huge onus on our communities to keep our residents working in their own towns and villages to be near to their families.

We would encourage you, the Federal Government to reconsider this decision and keep the Case Processing Centre where it has been since 1994. Closing this office will only do harm to the Town of Vegreville and, in turn, put further strain on the entire community.

The council for the Village of Chauvin asks that this decision be reversed to save this community. The saying – “it takes one to know one” is very applicable to this situation and the Village of Chauvin sympathizes with the strain this issue is putting on this community. Please reconsider your decision.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated December 20, 2016 from Jack Goodall, Mayor, Village of Chauvin be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-14 VEGREVILLE GARDEN INN – LETTER ON TAX PENALTY DECISION

Correspondence dated December 23, 2016 from Rena Rahmanian, Vegreville Garden Inn, stating:

Vegreville Garden Inn is extremely disappointed in your decision regarding the tax penalty. We have been an upstanding member of the community for many years and find this a sad testament to the Town of Vegreville.

We have made payment of the penalty.

Councillor Simpson moved that the correspondence dated December 23, 2016 from Rena Rahmanian, Vegreville Garden Inn, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-15 DANIELLE LARIVEE, MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – LETTER ON MSI 2016 OPERATING ALLOCATION

Correspondence dated November 30, 2016 from Honourable Danielle Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs, stating:

The Alberta Government is committed to making the lives of Albertans better. By providing significant funding to our municipal partners through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI), we continue to assist municipalities in building strong, safe, and resilient communities while respecting local priorities.

I am pleased to inform you that the operating spending plan submitted by your municipality has been accepted. You may proceed to apply your municipality's 2016 operating allocation and any estimated 2015 carry-forward to the priorities identified in your plan.

As partners in supporting Alberta's communities, I look forward to working together to move your local priorities forward.

Councillor Brodziak moved that the correspondence dated November 30, 2016 from Honourable Danielle Larivee, Minister of Municipal Affairs, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL**#2017-JAN-16 TOWN OF VEGREVILLE MONTHLY CASH STATEMENT FOR MONTH ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2016**

Councillor MacPhee moved that the Town of Vegreville Monthly Cash Statement for the month ended November 30, 2016 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

MEMORANDA**#2017-JAN-17 JULIE GOTTSSELIG, FCSS MANAGER – VEGREVILLE & DISTRICT FCSS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

A Request for Council Decision dated December 20, 2016 from Julie Gottselig, FCSS Manager and the FCSS Advisory Board stating:

At present, the FCSS Advisory Board has a vacancy for a Youth Member 15-18 years of age. Sterling Cannan has submitted a letter indicating that she is interested in service

Councillor MacPhee moved that Town Council re-allocate 2016 Operating Budget Funds for 2016 as follows:

Communications Master Plan	\$20,000
IT Master Plan	\$30,000
Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$60,000
Estimated Public Advocacy Costs [2016]	(37,500)
Estimated Balance to Public Advocacy Reserve for 2017	<u>\$22,500</u>

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-18 TAX PENALTY CANCELLATION ON TAXROLL 232200

A Request for Council Decision dated December 20, 2016 from Paul Casey, Corporate Services Director, stating:

Vegreville Hotel & Inn Ltd. [Vegreville Garden Inn] was assessed property taxes totalling \$41,3823.68 for 2016. Three separate payments were made with respect to this assessment as follows:

June 27, 2016	\$11,000.00
June 30, 2016	\$14,000.00
July 1, 2016	\$16,382.68

The full amount of the taxes were not paid by June 30, 2016 and accordingly a penalty of 15% (\$2,487.50) was assessed on the unpaid balance.

In November, 2016, the Town mailed letters to owners that had an outstanding balance on their tax roll accounts, excluding TIPP customers. On receipt of the November 2016 letter, Vegreville Garden Inn sent a letter to the Town advising that the final payment was incorrectly processed by its bank on July 1, 2016, and requested that the Town forgive the outstanding penalty. The letter was discussed at the Legislative Committee Meeting on December 21, 2016 with direction to Administration to forward the correspondence to the Regular Council Meeting on January 9, 2016. The Vegreville Garden Inn was contacted via telephone on December 23, 2016 advising them that the matter was discussed by Council at the December 21, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting and that the consensus of Council was to deny the request, however that the final decision would be made at the January 9, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Vegreville Garden Inn will be notified in writing of Council's decision.

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council deny the request for cancellation of the July 2016 tax penalty on Taxroll Account 232200 in the amount of \$2,457.50 as the taxes were not paid in full by the due date.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-19 TAX PENALTY CANCELLATION ON TAXROLL 025400

A Request for Council Decision dated January 5, 2017 from Paul Casey, Corporate Services Director, stating:

The owner of the above cited property has stated that she did not receive the 2016 Tax Notice. When the owner received the Tax Arrears letter dated November 25, 2016, she inquired into the arrears amount as she had purchased the property in May 2016 and was not aware there were outstanding taxes for 2016. The 2016 Tax Levy was paid by cheque on December 6, 2016.

The 2016 Property Tax Levy was calculated on May 4, 2016 and posted on the mailing date of May 11, 2016. On May 5, 2016, Prockiw Law Office requested a tax certificate on Taxroll account 025400. The Tax Certificate did not show the 2016 levy as outstanding because the levy had not been posted yet. The Land Title change occurred on June 1, 2016.

Councillor Simpson moved that Town Council deny the request for cancellation of the July 2016 tax penalty on Taxroll 025400 in the amount of \$210.58, as there were no administrative irregularities.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-20 2017 WATER RATE INCREASE

A Request for Council Decision dated January 3, 2017 from Dale Lefebvre, Infrastructure, Planning & Development Director, stating:

The Town increases water rates following notification from the John S. Batiuk Regional Water Commission (JSBRWC) stating that they will be increasing their rates to municipalities.

On December 13, 2016, the Infrastructure, Planning & Development Department received correspondence from the JSBRWC dated December 12, 2016 notifying the Town that the Commission will increase their water rates to municipalities by \$0.04 per cubic meter, effective January 1, 2017. The rate charged will increase from \$1.45 per cubic meter to \$1.49 per cubic meter. This represents a 2.7% increase.

In previous years, Town Council has agreed to increase the rate Vegreville charges for the consumption of water by the same percentage.

The following are the current and proposed Town of Vegreville water rate consumption charges:

Current (January 1, 2016)	Proposed (January 1, 2017)
\$2.83/m ³	\$2.91/m ³

This rate adjustment is authorized by Schedule “B” of Bylaw No. 06-2010.

The 2017 Operating Budget (revenues and expenses) will be adjusted to reflect the changes in rates.

Councillor MacPhee moved that Town Council approve the Town of Vegreville charge \$2.91 per cubic meter for the consumption of water, effective January 1, 2017; and

Further that Schedule “B” of Bylaw No. 06-2016 be amended to reflect the change.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-21 OHS&E MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMMITMENT STATEMENT

A Request for Council Decision dated January 4, 2017 from Phil Rowe, Fire Services/OH&S Manager, stating:

In 2016, The Town of Vegreville committed to an overall revision of the organizations Health & Safety program to meet the needs of legislation and WCB requirements. A critical component of the program is the commitment statement. This statement outlines the organizations (Council and administration) commitment to the overall program

While there are no specific financial implications to the commitment statement itself, the program will incur costs through its implementation. Costs for the program will be identified at individual department levels.

Councillor Rudyk moved that Town Council approve the 2017 Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Management System Commitment as submitted.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-22 2017 VEGREVILLE CENTENNIAL LIBRARY OPERATING GRANT

A request for Council Decision dated January 5, 2017 from Laurie Evans, Community Services Director, stating:

As per Section 8(1) and (2) of the Libraries Act of Alberta, The Vegreville Centennial Library submitted a draft of their 2017 Budget to the Town of Vegreville. Further at the December 7, 2016 Legislative Committee meeting, members of the Library Board along with the Library Manager attended as delegates to present the 2016 Library Annual Report and 2017 operating grant request.

At their January 4, 2017 Legislative Committee meeting, Council reviewed and discussed the Library Boards report and grant request and provided direction to Administration to bring forward a Request for Council Decision to allocate and commit grant funds in the 2017 Budget for the operations of the Vegreville Centennial Library.

Council has discussed the costs associated with the building/maintenance and accounting services provided by the Town to the Library. Consensus of Council is to remove these expenses (utilizing the 2016 grant allocation of \$325,000) from the Library budget and annual operating grant allocation, estimated at \$60,000 and \$6,000 respectively. Once the removal of facility operating and accounting costs are applied, consensus of Council is to apply a 5% reduction to the Library operating grant.

Finally, Town Council proposes several amendments to the current Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the Town and Library Board. These include item #5 regarding the facility operating costs, item #6 regarding accounting services and direction to add in a description to provide the Library access to the town’s sponsorship contractor and further that any sponsorship agreements in support of Library programs, services and operations within the Library be available for their sole purpose and use.

Once approved by Town Council, the Vegreville Centennial Library grant will be included in the town’s 2017 operating budget.

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council approve an operating grant of \$246,050 to the Vegreville Centennial Library for 2017.

Carried unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL

#2017-JAN-23 FCM RESOLUTION: SITE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FEDERAL OFFICES – RURAL SUSTAINABILITY

A Request for Council Decision dated January 9, 2017 from Myron Hayduk, Mayor, stating:

On October 27, 2016, the Federal Government announced their decision to close the Citizenship and Immigration Case Processing Centre in Vegreville, effective December 2018. The closure of this facility and operations after 22 years of service will have a devastating effect of the Town of Vegreville and surrounding region.

There was no prior consultation with the Town of Vegreville, nor was an economic impact assessment completed. The only reasons for the relocation given have been “the proximity to universities, the availability of public transit and housing options, and career growth opportunities within the federal government will make it easier to recruit and retain both qualified and bilingual employees and to meet our growing needs.

The Federal Government’s decision is at odds with the Liberal party’s campaign commitment to “strengthen our communities by investing in the things that make them good places to live”.

Town Council is extremely concerned about the impacts of such a closure without consultation and a strong business case and wishes to submit a resolution to FCM at their annual conference in June 2017 to further bring awareness regarding decisions such as these by the Federal Government as being a national municipal issue.

Councillor Simpson moved that Town Council approve the submission of a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) from the Town of Vegreville regarding the site selection for Federal Offices – Rural Sustainability.

Carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR HAYDUK

Mayor Hayduk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Town of Vegreville Safety Meeting – December 15, 2016
- CAO Expectations Meeting – December 16, 2016
- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016
- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – January 4, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2017

COUNCILLOR BERRY

Councillor Berry reported and/or attended on the following:

- CAO Expectations Meeting – December 16, 2016
- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016
- Impact Vegreville Committee Meeting – December 19, 2016
- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2016
- Teleconference VRWA – Forum Planning – January 4, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – January 4, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2017

COUNCILLOR BRODZIAK

Councillor Brodziak reported and/or attended on the following:

- Family Day Planning Meeting – December 13, 2016
- CAO Expectations Meeting – December 16, 2016
- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016
- Impact Vegreville Committee Meeting – December 19, 2016
- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2016
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2016

COUNCILLOR MACPHEE

Councillor MacPhee reported and/or attended on the following:

- Town of Vegreville Safety Meeting – December 15, 2016
- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016
- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2016
- FCSS Advisory Board Meeting – January 3, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – January 4, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2017

COUNCILLOR RUDYK

Councillor Rudyk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Town of Vegreville Safety Meeting – December 15, 2016
- CAO Expectations Meeting – December 16, 2016
- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016

- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – January 4, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2017

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON

Councillor Simpson reported and/or attended on the following:

- Case Processing Centre Community Forum – December 18, 2016
- Alberta HUB Broadband Session – December 21, 2016
- Legislative Committee Meeting – December 21, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting - January 4, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – January 9, 2017

#2017-JAN-24

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council go in-camera at 8:00 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-JAN-25

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council come out of camera at 8:54 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before Council, Mayor Hayduk declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

MYRON HAYDUK
Mayor

CLIFF CRAIG
Town Manager