

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#2017-MAY-01 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

Councillor Berry moved that the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on Monday, May 8, 2017 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2017-MAY-02 REGULAR MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL – MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017

Councillor Brodziak moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on Monday, April 24, 2017 be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

#2017-MAY-03 HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN, MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES & CITIZENSHIP – LETTER TO MR. KEVIN SMOOK, REEVE OF BEAVER COUNTY

Correspondence dated February 3, 2017 from Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship to Mr. Kevin Smook, Reeve, Beaver County stating:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 21, 2016, addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable John McCallum, concerning the relocation of the workload from the Case Processing Centre (CPC) in Vegreville to Edmonton.

Canadians expect their Government to make responsible decisions on spending that will address current challenges, account for future situations, and ensure tax dollars are spent on quality services to meet expectations of clients and provide program excellence. The relocation will also save money, as the new office space will be located within the Government of Canada's existing property inventory.

The building lease for the CPC expires in February 2019. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) submitted its business requirements to Public Services and Procurement Canada in November 2015 so that work could begin on securing leasing options. These business requirements dictate the geographical boundaries for consideration of the lease renewal strategy. Vegreville will not meet these requirements. Furthermore, there have been ongoing tenant issues at the current CPC location including hundreds of service calls related to plumbing and sanitary issues (67 service calls since August 2013) and frequent breakdowns of the heating and cooling systems (131 service calls since August 2013) in the building.

In an effort to respond to increased demand in various lines of business, IRCC is relocating its CPC from Vegreville to Edmonton by December 2018.

IRCC intends to expand operations in Alberta in the coming years. In negotiating a new lease, the Department has made the difficult decision to move its operations to Edmonton, the closest major city, where 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. Currently, approximately 20% of the CPC staff commute from Edmonton to Vegreville.

All current IRCC indeterminate employees will have the opportunity to continue their employment in their current positions once the office is relocated to Edmonton. Term employees at the time of the move will be offered employment at the new office.

We recognize this relocation will have an impact on staff and are making every effort to minimize those impacts. The Department has held multiple workshops to explain the relocation process and will continue to do so. IRCC management will continue to work closely with staff throughout this transition period.

I have noted your concerns about the effect that the relocation of the CPC will have on the town residents. Approximately 42% of the current staff in Vegreville will reach retirement age in the next five years. I have noted, recruiting and retaining bilingual staff is crucial to maintaining functions and service standards at the CPC in the coming years. Over the past number of years, IRCC has used a variety of recruitment strategies at the CPC in Vegreville including:

- Student recruitment;
- Advertised opportunities open to the public across Canada;
- Casual employment; and,
- Student bridging.

To date, recruitment efforts to replace departing staff have been unsuccessful. From October 2015 to September 2016, 17% of staff at the CPC in Vegreville have left the workforce. This has posed considerable challenges to IRCC's capacity to maintain and grow its operations.

While I realize that this announcement has come as a disappointment to many people, I hope that the explanation provided will be of assistance.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated February 3, 2017 from Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship to Mr. Kevin Smook, Reeve, Beaver County be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-MAY-04 HONOURABLE AHMED HUSSEN, MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES & CITIZENSHIP – LETTER TO DEPUTY MAYOR MARIELLE BRODZIAK

Correspondence dated April 25, 2017 from Honourable Ahmed Hussen to Deputy Mayor Marielle Brodziak stating:

The office of the Prime Minister has kindly forwarded to me a copy of your letter of February 16, 2017, concerning the relocation of the workload from the Case Processing Centre (CPC) from Vegreville to Edmonton.

In an effort to respond to increased demand in various lines of business, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is relocating its CPC from Vegreville to Edmonton by December 2018. This decision allows the Department to be well-positioned to respond to current and future challenges.

This decision was difficult for IRCC management. The Department set out clear business requirements for the office:

- *The feasibility of recruiting and retaining staff to accommodate increases in immigration levels and reduce processing times;*
- *A workplace with bilingual capacity to process workloads from across the global department network;*
- *Access to post-secondary educational institutions for recruitment of staff with analytical training and skills; and*
- *Access to public transportation and rental accommodations for staff (especially students) who do not own their own vehicles or homes to ensure a renewable workforce.*

I acknowledge the concerns you raise in your letter, and I am aware of the impact that this decision will have on many CPC Vegreville staff, and on the community of Vegreville as a whole. IRCC has received feedback on this issue from many stakeholders, including elected officials at all levels of government, bargaining agents, and individual Canadians. My officials and I have taken the opportunity to meet with various stakeholders to address particular concerns, and to clarify IRCC's business requirements and the decision to relocate the CPC.

Additionally, IRCC management continues to provide staff at the CPC in Vegreville with significant support throughout this transition period.

Thank you, once again, for taking the time to write about this important matter. I realize that this announcement has come as a disappointment to many people, but I assure you that all feedback received by the Department is taken into consideration as IRCC moves forward with a view to improving the services that it provides to its clients.

Councillor Berry moved that the correspondence dated April 25, 2017 from Honourable Ahmed Hussen to Deputy Mayor Marielle Brodziak be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-MAY-05 HONOURABLE SHAYE ANDERSON, MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS – LETTER ON MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE FUNDING

Correspondence dated May 1, 2017 from Honourable Shaye Anderson stating:

Our government is committed to making life better for Albertans, and that means we need strong communities with the infrastructure and services that help deliver a high quality of life. We are also committed to working with you, our municipal partners, to ensure that happens.

Municipalities will continue to receive Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding for the next two years, while we talk about the future of the program and ways we can support priority infrastructure in Alberta's communities.

In order to continue the flow of funding, an amending MSI Memorandum of Agreement will be sent to the Chief Administrative Officer of your municipality formally extending the program.

I look forward to continuing to working with you to support essential infrastructure for your residents.

Councillor Simpson moved that the correspondence dated May 1, 2017 from Honourable Shaye Anderson be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

MEMORANDA

#2017-MAY-06 DALE LEFEBVRE, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – BROSSAU SUBDIVISION PART ONE, PHASE ONE

A Request for Council Decision dated May 5, 2017 from Dale Lefebvre, Infrastructure, Planning & Development Director stating:

At the Legislative Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, Council directed administration to contact MPE to provide an estimate to design and draft plans to the tender stage of Part One of Phase One of Brosseau Subdivision.

MPE has submitted a proposed cost of \$30,000 to complete the work.

Councillor Brodziak moved that Town Council direct administration to retain the services of MPE Engineering to design and draft the plans to the tender ready stage of Brosseau Subdivision Part One, Phase One.

Carried unanimously.

BYLAW

#2017-MAY-07 BYLAW 09-2017 – BORROWING BYLAW RCMP DETACHMENT – SECOND AND THIRD READING

Bylaw No. 09-2017 was presented to Council to incur indebtedness in the sum of \$8,000,000 by the issuance of debentures to the Alberta Capital Finance Authority for financing construction of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachment.

Councillor Berry moved that Bylaw 09-2017 be read for the second time this 8th day of May, 2017 A.D.

In Favor: Mayor Hayduk, Councillor Berry, Councillor Brodziak and Councillor Simpson

Opposed: Councillor MacPhee

Carried

Councillor Simpson moved that Bylaw No. 09-2017 be read for the third time this 8th day of May, 2017 A.D.

In Favor: Mayor Hayduk, Councillor Berry, Councillor Brodziak and Councillor Simpson

Opposed: Councillor MacPhee

Carried

#2017-MAY-08 BYLAW 13-2017 – 2017 TAXATION RATE – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

Bylaw No. 13-2017 was presented to Council to authorize the following rates of taxation to be levied against assessable property within the Town of Vegreville for the 2017 Taxation Year:

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Non-Residential</u>
Municipal (General)	7.0441	17.9862
Policing Services	0.6832	1.7444
MD Minburn Foundation	<u>0.1405</u>	<u>0.1405</u>
	7.8678	19.8711
Education	<u>2.5745</u>	<u>4.7112</u>
	10.4423	24.5823

That the following penalties be set:

15% penalty on all current taxes remaining unpaid after June 30th, 2017

15% penalty on all taxes remaining unpaid after December 31st, 2017

Councillor Brodziak moved that Bylaw No. 13-2017 be read for the first time this 8th day of May, 2017 A.D.

Carried unanimously.

Councillor Berry moved that Bylaw No. 13-2017 be read for the second time this 8th day of May, 2017 A.D.

Carried unanimously.

Councillor Simpson moved that Bylaw No. 13-2017 be given unanimous consent for third and final reading.

Carried unanimously.

Councillor Simpson moved that Bylaw No. 13-2017 be read a third and final time this 8th day of May, 2017 A.D.

Carried unanimously.

SUPPLEMENTAL**#2017-MAY-09 TOWN OF MUNDARE – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Correspondence dated May 4, 2017 from Colin Zyla, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Mundare stating:

I am pleased to inform you that Town Council believes that the School Resource Officer position is a valuable asset for our community and are in favor of continuing with the program.

The Town will commit \$3,000/year for three years starting in 2018. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, this is all we are able to commit to.

Councillor Brodziak moved that the correspondence dated May 4, 2017 from Colin Zyla, Chief Administrative Officer, be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

Sandra Ling left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Sandra Ling returned to the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

#2017-MAY-10 HONOURABLE DOUGLAS BLACK – CLOSURE OF THE VEGREVILLE CASE PROCESSING CENTRE

Correspondence dated May 8, 2017 from The Honourable Douglas Black, Q.C., Senator – Alberta to The Honourable Ahmed Hussen stating:

I am writing to you today to express my concerns over the impending closure of the Vegreville Case Processing Centre (CPC). My colleague, Senator Elaine McCoy asked you on May 2, 2017:

“Can you give us assurance that you will look for solutions to the [closure] so that 10 per cent of that community is not left without jobs, in the same way that you have supported the refugees from elsewhere in the world”

I was disappointed to hear that the Government of Canada is proceeding with the closure and putting the wants of officials in Ottawa before the needs of a long-standing Alberta community.

Just looking at the numbers, it is clear that the closure of the Vegreville CPC will have devastating effects on an Alberta community that is only beginning to see the light of day after the collapse of oil prices. The Vegreville CPC employs 280 people, many of whom have families, and it is estimated the community could lose up to 420 people if the CPC is closed.

The CPC contributes \$15.9 million to the GDP of Vegreville and it generates \$1.2 million in municipal revenues annually. These revenues made up approximately 15% of the Town’s 2016 tax assessment. Local schools are expected to lose up to 130 students from the closure which will have serious impacts on their funding and future.

The Government of Canada has committed to growing Canada’s middle class – this must include rural Albertans. In the eyes of many, it makes little sense to shuffle 280 jobs from Vegreville to Edmonton at an additional cost to taxpayers with no clear benefit as to how this move will improve efficiency or quality of outcomes at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

The Town of Vegreville has been provided a rationale from your department for the closure of the CPC. They cite concerns, such as building space, which may in the community believe can be addressed. Minister, I want to encourage you to speak with Mayor Myron Hayduk, as I have done, and learn how the community can work with your ministry to keep jobs in Vegreville and support the middle class in rural Alberta.

Councillor Simpson moved that the correspondence dated May 8, 2017 from The Honourable Douglas Black, Q.C., Senator – Alberta to The Honourable Ahmed Hussen be received and filed.

Carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

MAYOR HAYDUK

Mayor Hayduk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Land Use Committee Meeting – April 25, 2017
- Vegreville Chamber of Commerce General Meeting - State of the Town Address – April 26, 2017
- Special Meeting of Town Council – May 3, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Public Hearing – May 8, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – May 8, 2017

COUNCILLOR BERRY

Councillor Berry reported and/or attended on the following:

- Land Use Committee Meeting – April 25, 2017
- Subdivision and Appeal Board Hearing – April 26, 2017
- Vegreville Chamber of Commerce General Meeting - State of the Town Address – April 26, 2017
- Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast – April 29, 2017
- Special Meeting of Town Council – May 3, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Chill and Grill – MODEL Hamburger and Hot Dog Sale (Canada 150) – May 5, 2017
- Vegreville Visual Art Show and Sale (Canada 150) – May 5, 2017
- Public Hearing – May 8, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – May 8, 2017

COUNCILLOR BRODZIAK

Councillor Brodziak reported and/or attended on the following:

- Impact Vegreville Committee Meeting – April 11, 2017
- V-C150 Update Meeting – Canada Day Planning Meeting – April 11, 2017
- Emergency Management Table Top Exercise – April 12, 2017
- Meeting at Legislature Building with Minister Gray re: CPC Closure – April 13, 2017
- Subdivision Authority Board Meeting – April 27, 2017
- Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast – April 29, 2017
- Vegreville Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Board Meeting – May 1, 2017
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Special Meeting of Town Council – May 3, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Public Hearing – May 8, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – May 8, 2017

COUNCILLOR MACPHEE

Councillor MacPhee reported and/or attended on the following:

- Vegreville Chamber of Commerce General Meeting - State of the Town Address – April 26, 2017
- Subdivision Authority Board Meeting – April 27, 2017
- Family and Community Support Services Advisory Board Meeting – May 2, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Special Meeting of Town Council – May 3, 2017
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting – May 4, 2017
- Public Hearing – May 8, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – May 8, 2017

COUNCILLOR RUDYK

Councillor Rudyk reported and/or attended on the following:

- Absent

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON

Councillor Simpson reported and/or attended on the following:

- Subdivision and Appeal Board Hearing – April 27, 2017
- TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association Directors Board Meeting – April 28, 2017
- TransCanada Yellowhead Highway Association Board Meeting – April 28, 2017
- Legislative Committee Meeting – May 3, 2017
- Special Meeting of Town Council – May 3, 2017
- Public Hearing – May 8, 2017
- Regular Meeting of Town Council – May 8, 2017

#2017-MAY-11

Councillor Berry moved that Town Council go in-camera at 7:39 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-MAY-12

Councillor Simpson moved that Town Council come out of camera at 8:17 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-MAY-13

Councillor MacPhee moved that Town Council pay Trenex the amount of \$118,340.99 to settle the builder's lien and to pay the balance owing on the lien after Corix is paid.

Carried unanimously.

#2017-MAY-14

Councillor MacPhee moved that Town Council issue a distress warrant on the EWS Building until full payment is received.

Carried unanimously.

There being no further business to be brought before Council, Mayor Hayduk declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

MYRON HAYDUK
Mayor

CLIFF CRAIG
Town Manager