

Council Meeting Highlights – April 23, 2018

The full minutes of each Council meeting are posted online, but minutes must be approved at the following Council meeting before release, causing a delay before they can be made public.

This “Highlights” document allows ratepayers who have not attended a Council meeting to keep up-to-date on major decisions in a timely way, while waiting for full minutes to be officially approved and posted.

Highlights of the April 23, 2018 Council meeting of the RM of McKillop No. 220 were as follows:

1. Development, Building and Enforcement Bylaws

Several bylaws (available on the RM’s website) proceeded through further discussion and readings as Council works with a professional planner to:

- Clarify and strengthen existing bylaws
- Reduce the number of appeals that are lost because of inadequate bylaws created in past years
- Provide bylaw enforcement officers with priorities

The current bylaw changes provide immediate clarity of some bylaws; the long-range outcome will be a number of new bylaws in the months ahead, including public consultation prior to passage.

A nuisance abatement bylaw addresses a range of nuisances including: dilapidated buildings, unoccupied buildings, overgrown grass and weeds, untidy or unsightly property, junked vehicles, open excavations, yard maintenance, outdoor storage of materials, fences, and refrigerators and freezers.

In related decisions, Council also:

- Authorized the RM’s consultant to develop a plan for public consultations on a new Official Community Plan
- Approved the appointment of the Commissionaires as the RM’s bylaw enforcement officers

2. Sun Dale Interim Action

Council approved an operating and conveyance agreement which provides interim protection for the Sun Dale water and sewage facility until the residents reach a final decision on its future.

The new agreement provides the RM with interim control of the facility so that it can continue to operate. For the past several months, the RM has provided an operator, but the facility was owned by the developer and now – following decisions of the developer and the mortgage holder – will be in the hands of Sun Dale residents to determine its future.

The new agreement also allows the RM to collect fees for operation of the plant. Sun Dale is also in arrears for taxes.

3. Landfill

The business plan for the Landfill is still under review by the Landfill Authority.

4. Appointments

Councillor LaBatte withdrew her name from appointment to the Board of the Last Mountain Pioneer Home. She had been appointed at the previous Council meeting but was not in attendance, so her appointment was awaiting her response at the current meeting.

5. Land for the New RM Shop

Three proposals were received from landowners offering to sell land to the RM for the new maintenance shop. Administration was directed to seek more details on the proposals prior to a decision.

6. Leasing Land

Council approved leasing a parcel of primarily pastureland that has come into its possession as a result of tax arrears. A lease allows some revenue to be generated from the property until such time as the RM decides the long-term use for the property or its eventual sale.

In the meantime, the property will be tested as a possible source of gravel.

7. Complaints Against Councillors

Council dealt with a code of ethics complaint raised against Councillor Kuderewko and Councillor LaBatte. Both Councillors were asked to provide a written response by the next Council meeting.

8. Well Water Rates

Water rates for the RM's community well were approved to increase to one dollar per one hundred gallons to better reflect current market rates. The proposed increase must first be approved by the province's Local Government Committee. If approved, the increase will apply to the community well and any future similar wells.

9. Public Consultations

Council approved a resolution to direct our planning and development group to prepare a plan for public consultations regarding the completion of the zoning bylaw and the development of a new Official Community Plan.

10. Other items

These and all other matters from the April 23, 2018 Council meeting will be found in the full meeting minutes when they are approved and posted following the next Council meeting.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2018.

