

AGENDA FOR THE TOWN OF BEAVERLODGE COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS #400-10 STREET BEAVERLODGE, AB

Microsoft Teams meeting Join on your computer, mobile app or room device <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> Meeting ID: 239 718 810 409 Passcode: 4YSZRM

1.0	CALL TO ORDER:			
	Town of Beaverlodge's Legislative Meetings are being live streamed effective June 12, 2023 via Council resolution #145-2023-05-23			
2.0	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:	PP 2		
3.0	ADOPTION OF AGENDA:			
4.0	ADOPTION OF MINUTES:			
	4.1 December 11, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting Minutes	PP 3-5		
5.0	DELEGATIONS:			
	5.1 Government Frameworks – Phillip Hicks & Amy Underwood	PP 6		
6.0	OLD BUSINESS:			
7.0	NEW BUSINESS:			
	7.1 Snow Removal Policy PW-01-01 – <i>from C.O.W. Dec 11, 2023</i>	PP 7-20		
	7.2 Appointment of Auditors for 2023	PP 21		
8.0	CORRESPONDENCE:			
	8.1 Minutes from the December 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting	PP 22,23		
	8.2 Alberta Transportation & Economic Corridors – Response to Rural Bus Lines	PP 24,25		
	8.3 Wildfire Prevention Committee – Town of Hinton	PP 26,27		
	8.4 Beaverlodge Mural Foundation – Thank You Letter	PP 28		
9.0	COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS:			
	9.1 Action List	PP 29		
	9.2 Council Reports			
10.0	CLOSED SESSION:			
11.0	ADJOURNMENT:			





As long as the sun shines, grass grows and the rivers flow – we acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nation & Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land.

We are grateful to live, learn and work on the traditional territory of Treaty 8 and we make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude.



REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS 400-10 ST, BEAVERLODGE, ALBERTA

COUNCIL

Mayor Gary Rycroft

Deputy Mayor Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus

Councillor Hugh Graw

Councillor Cal Mosher

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

Councillor Cody Moulds

Councillor Ryier Hommy

STAFF

Jeff Johnston, CAO

Tina Letendre, Deputy CAO

Nichole Young, Legislative Services

1.0 CALL TO ORDER Mayor Gary Rycroft called the meeting to order.

7:00 PM

2.0 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As long as the sun shines, grass grows and the rivers flow – we acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nation and Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land. We are grateful to live, learn and work on the traditional territory of Treaty 8 and we make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#289-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council adopts the agenda with the following change:

- Addition of Closed Session Item 10.1 Legal – Grande Spirit Foundation – FOIP Section 25

4.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 November 27, 2023 – Regular Council Meeting Minutes

#290-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

CARRIED: That Council adopts the minutes of the November 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting as presented.

5.0 DELEGATIONS:

5.1 South Peace Regional Archives – Ellyn Vandekerkhove & Janice Shields

#291-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council accepts this presentation for information.

6.0 OLD BUSINESS:

7.0 NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 2023 Interim Budget

#292-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

CARRIED: That Council approve the 2024 Interim Operating Budget based on 50% of the Approved 2023 Operating Budget as detailed in Appendix 1.

*Councillor Ryier Hommy excused himself from the room, citing a conflict with New Business Item 7.2. 7:23PM

7.2 Facility & Fee Waiver - Beaverlodge Daycare - Annual Gala

#293-2023-12-11

Deputy Mayor Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus

CARRIED: That Council approves a 50% fee reduction for the annual Beaverlodge Daycare Gala.

*Councillor Ryier Hommy returned to the meeting.

7:25PM

7.3 Facility & Fee Waiver – Beaverlodge & District Chamber of Commerce Christmas Luncheon

#294-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council approves a 50% fee reduction for the Chamber Christmas Luncheon.

7.4 Facility & Fee Waiver – Beaverlodge Barracudas – Regular Season

#295-2023-12-11

Mayor Gary Rycroft

CARRIED: That Council approves a 1-year rate of \$75/hr, a 50% discount on the regular rate of \$150/hr for Barracuda's regular season practice hours for 2024.

7.5 Facility & Fee Waiver - Beaverlodge Barracudas - Annual Swim Meet

#296-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council approves a 50% fee reduction for the Barracuda's annual swim meet.

8.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – November 27, 2023

#297-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council adopts the minutes from the November 27, 2023 Committee of a Whole meeting as presented.

8.2 Peace Library System - Board Meeting Highlights Nov 25, 2023

#298-2023-12-11

Councillor Cyndi Corbett

CARRIED: That Council accepts this report for information.

9.0 COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

9.1 Action List

#299-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

CARRIED: That Council accepts the Action Item List as presented.

9.2 Council & Staff Reports

#300-2023-12-11

Councillor Hugh Graw

CARRIED: That Council accepts these Council and Staff Activity Reports for information as presented.

10.0 CLOSED SESSION

#301-2023-12-11

Deputy Mayor Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus

7:43 PM

CARRIED: That Council moves into Closed Session for Item 10.1 Legal – Grande Spirit Foundation – FOIP Section 25.

#302-2023-12-11

Councillor Hugh Graw

7:56 PM

CARRIED: That Council moves out of Closed Session.

#303-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

CARRIED: That Council accepts the Closed Session item for information.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gary Rycroft adjourned the meeting.

7:56 PM

Mayor	Gary	Rycroft

CAO Jeff Johnston





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Box 30, 400 - 10th Street Beaverlodge, AB TOH 0C0

	DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL	_			
Name of Delegates(s):	Philip Hicks				
	Amy Underwood	Amy Underwood			
Representing:	GovernmentFrameworks.com	GovernmentFrameworks.com			
Phone Number:	+1 (877) 870 0150	_+1 (877) 870 0150			
Email:	Amy@gfwcorp.com. Philip@gfwcorp	o.com			
Topic:	Forms, Automation, Records Manag	ement, & Executive Reporting			
	AT CONTROL TO THE PARTY OF THE				
Staff Familiar with topic:	Yes				
Attached Information:	PowerPoint Slide Deck				
Notes: <u>Limit</u>	presentation to 15 minutes				
Delegate Signature: Angl	loka)				
Date: 2023-12-06					
If you have materials/docume Tuesday befor Any docum	and documentations must be sent to ntation to be included in the Agenda, th re the meeting you are scheduled to app entation submitted (including this Deleg "Public Information" and will appear in	pear before Council. gate Application)			
Date and Time of Council Mee	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	08/24			
Approved to Present by: T.L. Dec 6 123					
Town of Beaverlodge's Legislative Meetings are being live streamed effective June 12, 2023 via Council resolution #145-2023-05-23					
⊠ Email town@beaverlodge.ca	Phone 780-354-2201	Website heaverlodge.ca			
Page	1 of 1 () Q	(



Policy Title: Authority Approval:	Snow Removal Policy MAYOR & COUNCIL	Policy #: PW-01-01 Resolution #: Effective Date: 2023-12-05
Distribution:	☑ Master ☑ Administration ☑ Council □ FCSS	☐ Fire Department ☐ Library ☑ Public Works ☐ Recreation

Purpose: To establish the levels of service and set priorities in regards to removing of snow from the Town's streets and sidewalks.

Policy Statement:

The Town of Beaverlodge desires to ensure that public roadways within the corporate limits of the Town of Beaverlodge are maintained in a condition that:

- 1. Maximizes public safety; and
- 2. Allows response to emergencies by Fire, Ambulance and Police Services; and
- 3. Allows access to the Town of Beaverlodge Hospital; and
- 4. Allows access to the schools; and
- 5. Allows access to essential utility services; and
- **6.** Permits reasonable vehicular access to primary highways, businesses, industry, schools, residences recreational facilities, and public services.

Therefore, the Town of Beaverlodge will undertake roadway snow plowing and snow removal operations on a priority basis.

The policy must remain flexible and serves as a guideline for snow plowing and removal operations. Operational and administrative decisions that affect snow plowing and priorities are made by the CAO or designate.

Definitions:

1. As Required

A statement which means that the level of service is not set at a pre-determined number of activity occurrences per season or year. It allows operating forces to apply field judgement and expertise to varying weather conditions.



2. Boulevard

The area between a roadway curb and a separate sidewalk or between a roadway curb and property line where there is no sidewalk.

3. Cul-de-sac

A dead-end road with a hub at the dead end to allow for vehicle 180 degree turning movements.

4. Drifting

Depositing of wind-blown snow on roadways or lanes which make the passage of vehicle difficult or impossible.

5. Monolithic Sidewalk

A sidewalk which is integral with the curb and gutter structure.

6. Rutting

The formation of troughs or ridges in excess of 5 centimeters in depth in compacted snow or ice.

7. Sanding

The application of sand-chips-salt-calcium or other mixture to a roadway surface for the purpose of improving traction, reduction of skidding and/under or reduction of ice formation. Emphasis is placed on intersections, corners, hills, school zones, playground zones and other known problem areas.

8. Snow Pack

The buildup thickness of packed snow on roadway surfaces.

9. Snow Plowing

The grading of accumulated snow from roadway surfaces to the sides or middle of a roadway.

10. Snow Removal

The loading and hauling of snow from roadway surfaces to a designated snow disposal site.

11. Temporary No Parking Signage

Temporary signage in the form of Sandwich boards, or posted signage, indicating a 24 hour parking ban for snow maintenance.

12. Windrowing

The temporary storage and accumulation of plowed snow onto boulevards, the middle of the roadway, and ditches.



Guidelines:

The Town of Beaverlodge will undertake roadway, sanding, snowplowing, and snow removal operations in the following order of priority. There may be extreme snowfall events which exceed the capacity of available manpower and equipment to carry out the work listed within the time allotted; however, in that case the order of priority will not change.

- 1. Hospital, Fire, Ambulance, Access routes
- 2. Central Business District, and Schools
- 3. Arterial and Collector Roads
- 4. Local Residential Roadways
- 5. Industrial

1. Hospital, Fire, Ambulance access routes

These are noted on attached map "Schedule A"

Snow is plowed and stored to side or middle of the roadway after each snowfall as determined by Public Works Manager or designate. The Town will remove windrows once there is potential to cause safety or drainage problems as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.

- 1.1 Sanding operations will be undertaken in the same manner and frequency as Arterial and Collector Roads.
- 1.2 The Town will endeavor to keep Fire Hydrants clear of snow at all times. Property owners are strongly encouraged to clear snow from fire hydrants on or around their property to ensure the Town can quickly gain access in the event of a fire.
- **1.3** Parking ban signage is in effect to allow for snow removal. Vehicles parked in the restricted area will be towed as per Bylaw 1010 Traffic Bylaw.

2. Central Business District, Schools

These are noted on attached map "Schedule B"



Snow is plowed and stored to side or middle of the roadway after each snowfall as determined by Public Works Manager or designate. The Town will remove windrows once there is potential to cause safety or drainage problems as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.

- **2.1** Sanding operations will be undertaken in the same manner and frequency as Arterial and Collector Roads.
- 2.2 The Town will endeavor to keep Fire Hydrants clear of snow at all times. Property owners are strongly encouraged to clear snow from fire hydrants on or around their property to ensure the Town can quickly gain access in the event of a fire.
- 2.3 Parking ban signage is in effect to allow for snow removal. Vehicles parked in the restricted area will be towed as per Bylaw 1010 Traffic Bylaw.

3. Arterial and Collector Roads

These are noted on attached map "Schedule C"

Snow is plowed and stored to side or middle of the roadway after each snowfall as determined by Public Works Manager or designate. The Town will remove windrows once they reach a height where there is potential to cause safety or drainage problems as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.

- 3.1 Snow plowing operations will generally utilize road right-of-way for snow storage as follows:
 - **3.1.1** On roads that have boulevards and/or median, snow may be plowed onto the boulevard and/or median.
 - 3.1.2 On Roads that have monolithic curb and sidewalk on 1 side only, snow may be plowed onto the opposite side or to the middle.
 - 3.1.3 On roads that have monolithic curb and sidewalk on both sides, snow may be plowed to the side that does not have a driving lane directly adjacent to the curb. Or where there is parking on both sides of the street, snow may be plowed to the middle or to the side that has fewer driveways facing the roadway.
 - 3.1.4 Snow will not be placed on municipal sidewalks.
 - **3.1.5** Plowing operations may continue on an ongoing basis after initial road plowings in order to address rutting and drifting.



- 3.1.6 Snow windrows up to 12.5 cm (5") average height of the length of the driveway of uncompacted snow may be left in front of driveways and laneway entrances. Where windrows exceed 12.5 cm in height, the Town will endeavor to open up windrows to either side as soon a reasonably possible.
- 3.1.7 Where a snow windrow is placed across designated handicap parking or any type of pedestrian crosswalk, the Town will endeavor to open up the windrow to either side within eight hours of the windrow being placed.
- 3.1.8 Where a snow windrow is placed around a parked vehicle, the town will endeavor to remove the windrow after the vehicle has been removed.
- 3.1.9 Snow windrows placed in front of private sidewalks will not be removed.
- 3.1.10 Snow clearing and sanding operations of Town of Beaverlodge arena and pool facilities parking lots will generally commence following completion of arterial and collector roadways.

4. Local Residential Roadways and Laneways

These are noted on attached map "Schedule D"

- **4.1** A "snow pack" condition will be maintained on these roadways and laneways. Once the snow pack has reached a compacted average depth that hinders drivers it will either be:
 - 4.1.1. Plowed, where there is sufficient room on boulevards, medians or park areas to store snow. Plowing will be undertaken in the same manner as Arterial, and Collector Roadways. In cul-de-sac with central park areas, the snow would be plowed onto the park areas. In cul-de-sac areas without central park areas, the snow would be plowed into the centre of the cul-de-sac and removed at the earliest opportunity.
 - **4.1.2.** Removed, where there is not sufficient room within the carriageway to store snow. Removal will be undertaken in the same manner as Arterial and Collector Roadways.
- 4.2 Removal and plowing operations would be completed on a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis. This would rotate after each snowfall so that different neighbourhoods would be completed first.



4.3 If a significant snow fall should occur during operations in a local residential neighbourhood, the remainder of the local residential neighbourhood will be completed after the Arterial and Collector and Downtown Business Districts are completed.

Areas prone to drifting snow or with steep gradients may be plowed or sanded more frequently.

4.4 Snow windrows up to 12.5 cm (5") average height of the length of the driveway of un-compacted snow may be left in front of driveways. Where windrows exceed 12.5 cm in height, the Town will endeavor to open up windrows to either side within a reasonable time period.

5. Industrial

These are noted on attached map "Schedule E"

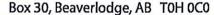
5.1 A "snow pack" condition will be maintained on these roadways and laneways. Once the snow pack has reached a compacted average depth that hinders drivers it will be plowed.

6. Temporary No Parking Signage

6.1 Anywhere within the Town of Beaverlodge other than specified routes is subject to temporary 24-hour parking ban signage in order to allow for snow plowing/removal/windrowing as required. Vehicles parked in the restricted area will be towed as per Bylaw 1010 Traffic Bylaw.

6.2 Sanding operations will be undertaken as follows:

- 6.2.1. Generally, sanding will occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in effort to have the roads sanded before the bulk of the commuter traffic leaves in the morning and returns in the evening.
- 6.2.2 Sanding between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. would be completed as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.
- 6.2.3. Sanding between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. would be completed by call out only, as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.
- 6.2.4 Sanding routes and priorities follow Arterial, Collector and Downtown Business District Roadways.
- 6.2.5 Sanding operations conducted on a seven day per week basis, as determined by the Public Works Manager or designate.





Sidewalks

The Town of Beaverlodge will undertake, sanding, snowplowing, and snow removal operations for the sidewalks identified in red in the attached "Schedule F" within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall of 10 centimeters or more. There may be extreme snowfall events which exceed the capacity of available manpower and equipment to carry out the work listed within the time allotted; however, in that case the list of priority will not change.

The Town of Beaverlodge will not be responsible for snow clearing or sanding of sidewalks adjacent to businesses, privately-owned homes, or non-Town owned facilities.

Snow Disposal Site

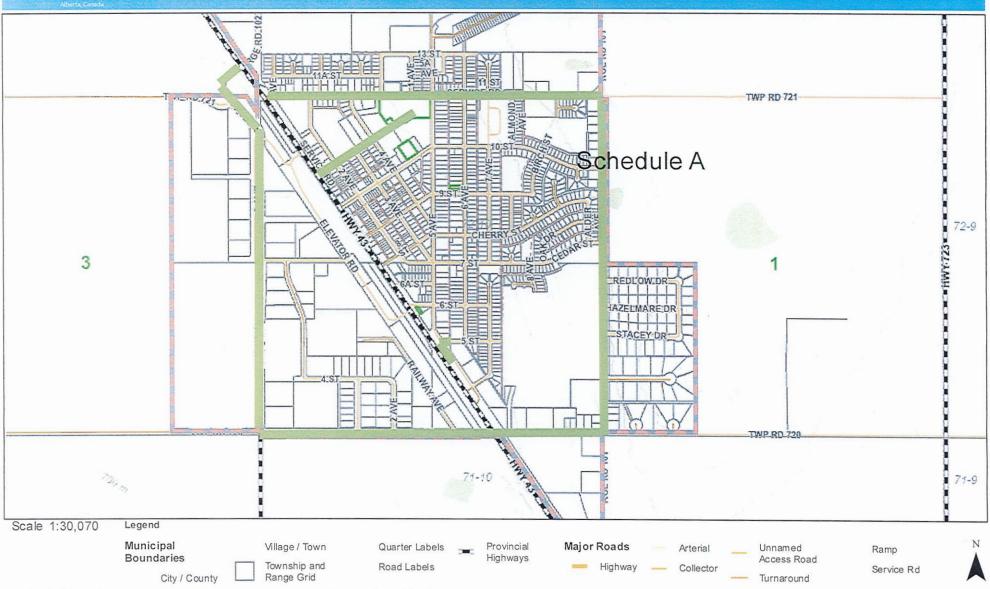
The Town has two locations for snow disposal as noted on attached map "Schedule G" The first site, marked "1", is located at Highway Ave and is for the use of Town operations only. The second location, marked "2", can be used by businesses and residents and Sports grounds. Access to these locations will be maintained by the Public Works Department, and will have the same priority as the residential plowing.

Date:	
Mayor Gany Pycroft	CAO loff laborton
Mayor Gary Rycroft	CAO Jeff Johnston



Town of Beaverlodge

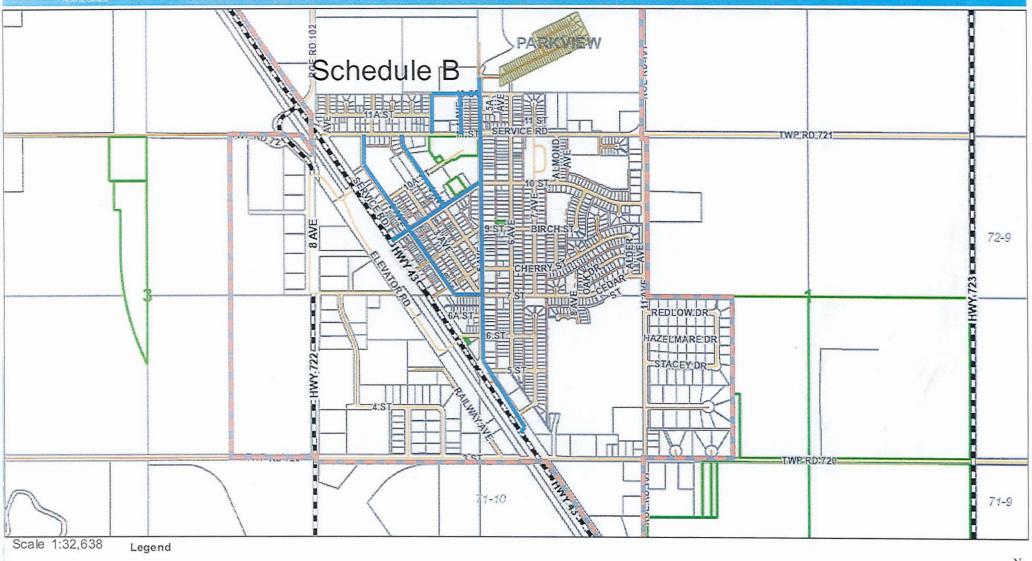
Town of Beaverlodge



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Subdivisions

Village / Town Neighbourhoods /

Manufactured

Community

Home

Municipal

Boundaries

City / County

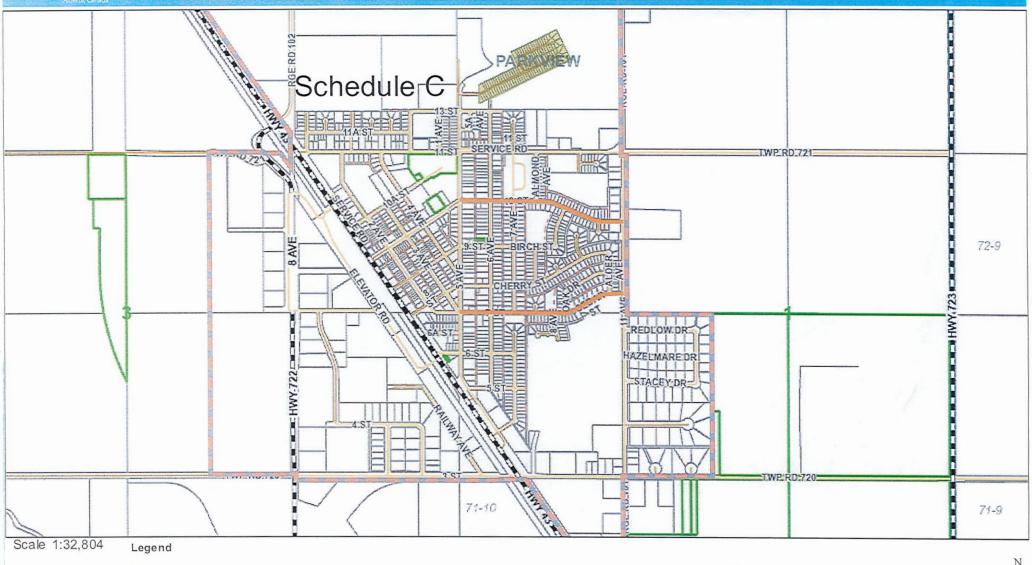
Road Labels

Provincial

Highways



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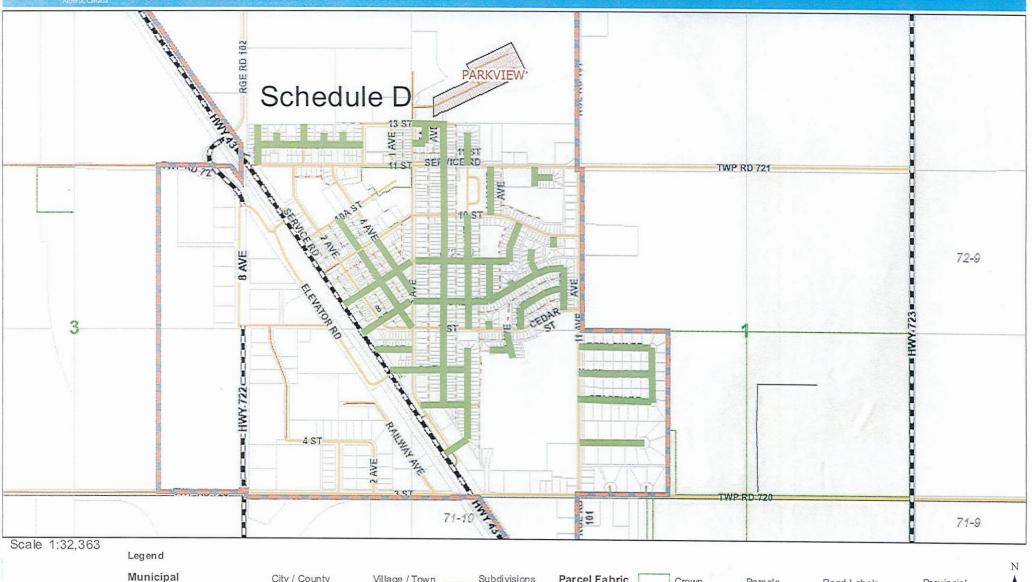
Road Labels

Provincial

Highways



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Subdivisions

and Named

Areas

Village / Town

Parcel Fabric

- Outline

Crown

Parcels

Boundaries

City / County

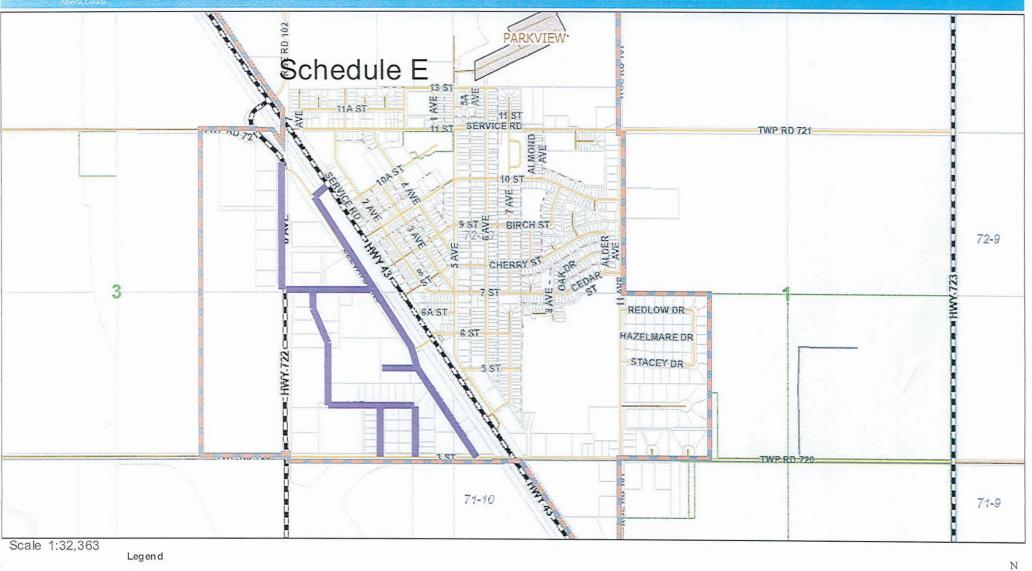
Provincial

Highways

Road Labels



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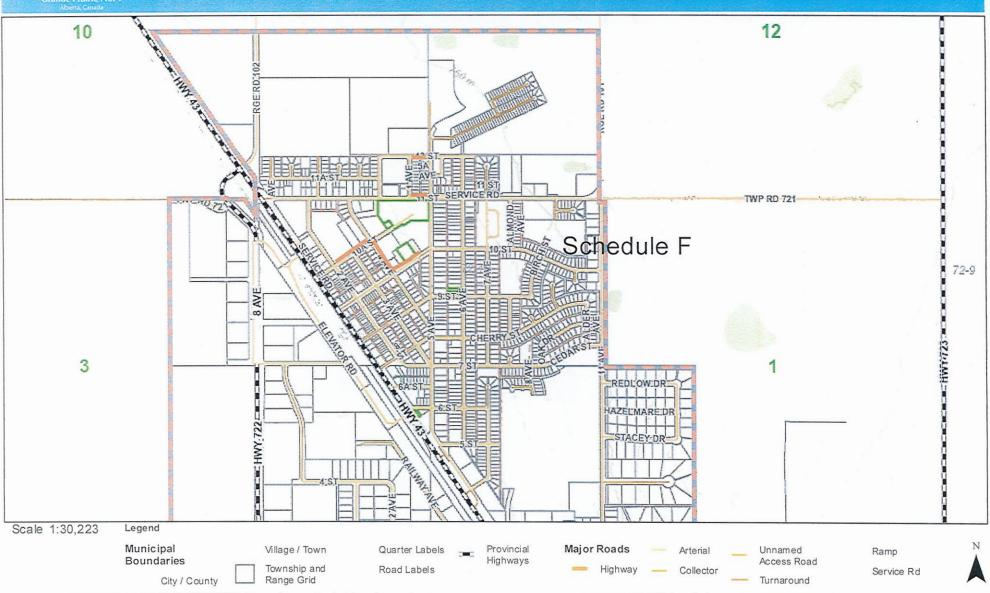
Provincial

Highways



Town of Beaverlodge

Town of Beaverlodge



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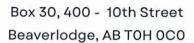


Town of Beaverlodge

Town of Beaverlodge



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Council must appoint one or more auditors for the Town.

Council Motion:

That Council appoints MNP LLP to be the Auditors for the Town of Beaverlodge for 2023.



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS 400 10 St, BEAVERLODGE DECEMBER 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

COUNCIL

Mayor Gary Rycroft

Councillor Cal Mosher Councillor Cody Moulds

Councillor Ryier Hommy

Deputy Mayor Judy Kokotilo-Bekkerus

Councillor Hugh Graw Councillor Cyndi Corbett

STAFF

Jeff Johnston, CAO

Tina Letendre, Deputy CAO

Nichole Young, Legislative Services

1.0 <u>CALL TO ORDER:</u> Mayor Gary Rycroft called meeting to order.

6:00 PM

2.0 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

As long as the sun shines, grass grows and the rivers flow – we acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nation & Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land. We are grateful to live, learn and work on the traditional territory of Treaty 8 and we make this acknowledgement as an act of reconciliation and gratitude.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

#182-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

CARRIED: That the Committee of the Whole adopts the agenda as presented.

4.0 DELEGATION:

5.0 OLD BUSINESS:

6.0 NEW BUSINESS:

6.1 Snow Removal Policy

#183-2023-12-11

Councillor Hugh Graw

CARRIED: That the Committee of the Whole recommends the Snow Removal Policy be brought to Council on January 8, 2024 for approval.

6.2 Beaverlodge FCSS - Passionate Hearts Invitation - Feb 14, 2024

#184-2023-12-11

Councillor Cal Mosher

CARRIED: That the Committee of the Whole recommends this item be tabled for the January 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

6.3 McNaught Homestead Donation Request

#185-2023-12-11

Councillor Ryier Hommy

Committee of the Whole

December 11, 2023

CARRIED: That the Committee of the Whole accepts this for information. 6.4 Town Newsletter - Council Contribution #186-2023-12-11 Mayor Gary Rycroft CARRIED: That the Committee of the Whole requests that Administration explore and investigate options to fully maximize the content of the Newsletter. 6.5 Mountview Health Complex Committee Update - Announcement Councillor Ryier Hommy #187-2023-12-11 **CARRIED:** That the Committee of the Whole accepts this for information. 6.6 Community Enhancement Committee Update #179-2023-11-27 Councillor Cody Moulds **CARRIED:** That the Committee of the Whole accepts this for information. 6.7 Economic Development Committee Update - no update at this time. 7.0 **TOPICS FOR NEXT AGENDA:** - Mountview Health Complex Committee Update - Community Enhancement Committee Update - Economic Development Committee Update **ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Gary Rycroft adjourned the meeting. 6:39 PM 8.0 Mayor Gary Rycroft

CAO Jeff Johnston



TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC CORRIDORS

Office of the Minister MLA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

December 4, 2023

AR 95123

His Worship Gary Rycroft Mayor Town of Beaverlodge Box 30, 400 - 10 Street Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0

Dear Mayor Rycroft:

Thank you for your letter regarding the challenges that rural bus support lines encounter in providing bus services to rural Albertans. As Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, I am able to provide the following information.

I applaud your dedication to assist rural Albertans in meeting their transportation needs and improve access to education, health services, and employment opportunities. Transportation and Economic Corridors launched the Rural Transit Pilot Program in 2018, following Greyhound's departure from Alberta, to improve transportation connections in rural areas where no existing services were provided. A review of the Rural Transportation Pilot Program is underway and is expected to be completed later this year. This evaluation will help us in determining next steps for rural transportation. In addition, the province has been advocating for support from the federal government for intercity bus operators. This industry is important in connecting rural and remote communities in Alberta. Since 2022, the province has been urging the federal government to consider providing greater support for this industry by expanding eligibility under the Rural Transit Solutions Fund.

The federal government has undertaken formal engagement with the provinces on the Canadian Public Transit Fund through way of engagement papers and questionnaires. The federal government provided a high-level overview of the funding approaches being considered, current status, and anticipated next steps at a meeting in the summer and will be providing further details at a meeting scheduled for the fall. There was also confirmation that \$3 billion annually has been approved by the federal cabinet, and the program parameters are in draft form. Over the next few months, the federal government will work closely with transit partners to refine program design and strengthen our collective ability to deliver high-quality and accessible public transit and active transportation for Canadians. RECEIVED

127 Legislature Building, 10800 - 97 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada Telephone 780-427-2080 Fax 780-422-2002

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In addition, the federal government launched the \$250 million Rural Transit Solutions Fund to target the development of transit solutions in rural and remote communities in 2021. This federal funding is provided over five years to support the development of locally driven transit solutions that will help people living in rural communities get to work, school, and appointments, and to visit loved ones. Funding will help rural, remote, Northern, and Indigenous communities to develop and offer new public transit options to their residents, including on demand services, publicly owned ride shares, and volunteer community carpooling. Unfortunately, this funding restricts eligibility to capital investments and planning studies and therefore excludes operating costs and the private intercity busing industry.

Please be assured that my department intends to continue working with rural municipalities to hear concerns and consider practical options to support public transportation for rural residents.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, ECA

Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors

cc: Ron Wiebe, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti



TOWN OF HINTON

December 4, 2023

DEC 0.8 2023

The Honourable Todd Loewen Minister of Forestry and Parks Members of Executive Council Executive Branch 323 Legislature Building 10800-97 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6 fp.minister@gove.ab.ca

Dear Minister Loewen.

I am writing on behalf of the Town of Hinton Mayor and Council. We commend the efforts and dedication of the Mountain Pine Beetle Control Committee in mitigating the impact of the beetle infestation in our forests. However, the rapid and severe escalation of wildfire risks demands an immediate shift in focus and strategy.

The increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires in our region present a clear and present danger to our communities, natural resources, and our way of life. We assert that transitioning from the Mountain Pine Beetle Control Committee to a Wildfire Prevention Committee is not just a prudent choice but an imperative one. We believe that by prioritizing fire prevention, we address the root cause of both the immediate and long-term threats to our beloved province.

The devastating consequences of wildfires cannot be overstated. Lives are at stake, as are the livelihoods of countless individuals and families who call this region home. The economic, ecological, and emotional toll of such disasters is immeasurable. The pine beetle infestation, though significant, pales in comparison to the potential devastation wrought by uncontrolled wildfires.

Considering recent data provided by the province showing the extent of wildfire impact across Alberta, it has become evident that communities like Fort McMurray, Edson, High Level, Banff, and Peace River, among others, are significantly affected. These communities, which fall within the top clusters of wildfire-affected areas, underscore the urgent need for a unified and collaborative approach to wildfire management and prevention.

Collaboration between high-risk communities is crucial. By sharing experiences, knowledge, and strategies, we can collectively enhance our preparedness and response to wildfires. Communities that have previously faced such disasters bring invaluable insights that can aid in developing more effective prevention and mitigation strategies. Learning from each other and supporting one another not only strengthens each community's ability to handle wildfires but also fosters a sense of solidarity and resilience across the province.

We firmly believe that the transition to a Wildfire Prevention Committee not only aligns with the broader objectives of the Alberta government but is a committed step towards safeguarding our communities and preserving the very essence of our province.

Furthermore, we implore you, as the Alberta Forest Ministry, to ensure that affected communities have a meaningful seat at the table in discussions and decisions pertaining to wildfire prevention and management. The collective expertise and experience of our communities should be valued as we work together to secure the future of Alberta's forests and the well-being of its residents.

We urgently request an opportunity to discuss this proposal further with you and your esteemed team. Your leadership in championing this crucial shift in focus would have a profound and lasting impact on the safety and prosperity of our region.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to your support in safeguarding the heart of our province.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Nissen

Mayor

cc. Fort McMurray

Fort Chipewyan

Edson

Whitecourt

High Level

Rainbow Lake

Banff

Canmore

Peace River

Manning

Grande Prairie

Beaverlodge

Slave Lake

Athabasca

High Prairie

Pincher Creek

Crowsnest Pass

Yellowhead County

Parkland County

Lac LeBish

Grande Cache

Greenview County



The Beaverlodge Mural Foundation would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support for our 2023 murals

BPOE Elks Town of Beaverlodge Northgate Electric County of Grande Prairie Parks and Recreation Beaverlodge Home **Building Centre Prairie Signs** Philip J. Currie **Dinosaur Museum** McNaught Homestead **Preservation Society ACE Hardware** Beaverlodge Art Club Beaverlodge Regional High School Art Club

Beaverlodge **Dental Centre** Petals on Main **Town & Country News** Astrid Noga Pat Wearmouth Catherine Nychka Don Albright Sam Kitt Michelle Forrester Roger Harcourt Helen Teichroeb Suzanne Sandboe Brent and Susan Calvert

Item Number	Subject	Requested On	People Responsible	Item Notes	Status	Target Date of Completion
1	10A St & Highway 43 (Subway Intersection)	22-Jun-20	CAO/Admin	Intersection has been surveyed - 2023 capital plan. Only \$50K in current budget, rest will be deferred to 2023 due to higher than expected pricing.	ON HOLD	8/1/2023
2	Recreation Centre Rate Review	27-Sep-21	CAO/Admin	CAO has received the rates and will review and bring to next Council meeting.	In progress	9/30/2023
3	Grande Prairie & District Catholic School Board	26-Oct-20	CAO/Admin	Sent Draft Joint Use Partnership Agreement to GPDCSD	In progress	9/30/2023
4	Community Bus Policy	8-May-23	Admin	Review and update this policy and it's fees and charges.	In Progress	12/31/2023
5	Main Street Sign	23-Oct-23	Admin	Proceed with updating the Main Street Sign - adding reflective paint on letters and arrow	In progress	
6	Amend Bylaw #1003	14-Nov-23	Admin	Amend Bylaw #1003 - Fire Department Bylaw to reflect the signing of the Fire Services Agreement with the County of Grande Prairie	In progress	
7	Dog Waste Signs	14-Nov-23	Admin	Obtain and post signs	Completed	
8	Manhole Power	14-Nov-23	Admin	Investigate what running power to the manhole in the center of 10th St and 2nd Ave would look like	In progress	
9	Town Newsletter	11-Dec-23	Admin	Explore options to schedule and plan Council's contribution.		

Current:

Monday, January 8, 2024