

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE NO. 23**

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETINGS**

**Held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at the  
High Level Rural Hall, High Level, Alberta**

**AGENDA**

**PRESENT:**

Bill Neufeld	Reeve
Betty Bateman	Councillor
John Driedger	Councillor
Pat Kulscar	Councillor
Greg Newman	Councillor
Joe Peters	Councillor
Frank Rosenberger	Councillor
Wayne Thiessen	Councillor
Willie Wieler	Councillor

**ABSENT:**

Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
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**ALSO PRESENT:**

Harvey Prockiw	Chief Administrative Officer
Eva Schmidt	Executive Assistant
Marco Braat	Superintendent of Utilities/Parks and Playgrounds
Rita Bueckert	Acting Manager of Road Operations - Administration
Paul Driedger	Director of Planning, Development, Community and Emergency Services
Chris Kelland	Agricultural Fieldman
Floyd Lafferty	Acting Manager of Road Operations – Field
Sheldon Robb	Director of Enforcement Services
Dianne Pawlik	Administrative Assistant
Approximately 16 ratepayers	

**CALL TO ORDER**

**1. a) Call to Order**

Councillor Kulscar called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

**1. b) Introductions**

Council and staff introductions were made.

**ELECT CHAIR**

**2. Chairperson Nominations**

Councillor Kulscar asked for nominations for Chairperson for the meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> call for nominations: Debbie Brewster nominated Elaine Dextrose.  
Elaine Dextrose accepted.

2<sup>nd</sup> call for nominations: There were no further nominations.

3<sup>rd</sup> call for nominations: There were no further nomination.

Elaine Dextrose took the Chair.

**AGENDA:**

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

**MOTION RP99-06**

**MOVED** by Darryl Quist

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES:**

**4. Adoption of the Minutes from the 1999 Ratepayers Meeting**

The Chair gave the ratepayers some time to read through the Minutes of the 1999 Ratepayers meeting.

**MOTION RP99-07**

**MOVED** by Les Brewster

That the Minutes of the 1999 High Level Rural Ratepayers meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**INFORMATION  
ITEMS:**

**5. Information Items:**

Chief Administrative Officer, Harvey Prockiw, presented the equalized assessment, mill rates, long term debt and where the debt is, expenses per capita, salaries per capita, reserves as compared with other rural municipalities in Alberta. The CAO also presented average mill rates compared with other villages and towns in Alberta with similar population than the hamlets within the M.D. of Mackenzie No. 23. The capital projects approved for 2000 were presented.

How much money is the provincial government paying for the Zama road.

Who is going to be held accountable for the \$800,000 we have to pay into the Zama road. Is the engineering firm going to be taken to task on the mistake being made on the Zama road.

Does the municipality have an association and where do they stand on this. Can the official administrator been taken to task on this.

Harvey Prockiw advised the ratepayers that they can take this up with the Minister of Municipal Affairs but it is beyond the scope of this Council.

Could someone talk to legal counsel asking what can be done as a course of action. The CAO stated that this item will be put on the next Council agenda.

The Chair suggested that the results be put in the MD newsletter.

The CAO went on to discuss the plebiscite stating that Council hired a consultant to compare the costs and revenues of each township.

Why are you asking two questions on the plebiscite, not just one? Councillor Kulscar stated that if the second option is chosen the M.D. of Mackenzie No. 23 would be a specialized municipality.

The public discussed

Councillor Wieler stated that a meeting was held in late winter in Fort Vermilion and those people did not want the municipality to stay status quo.

Will the Minister see the results of each polling station. Harvey Prockiw answered that all the results by polling station will be submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS: 6. Council Reports**

Wayne Thiessen reported that he was that he is new on Council since the October 1999 election and is serving on the Agricultural Service Board. It has been a steep learning curve to come on Council at this time with a lot of difficult decisions to be made.

Bill Neufeld stated that Sandra Cross is the Official Administrator, Ward 9 has good representation on Council. The results of the plebiscite will be forwarded to the Minister.

Betty Bateman reported stated that she had been on Council for 20 years, drainage project in Zama, first phase of the Zama road, Zama Rec board, Hutch Lake Committee, Hutch Lake Task Force, Special Places 2000, Regional landfill, Tri-Council Task force.

Frank Rosenberger, Rec Board, Water and Sewer Task Force, Tourism Committee, reported on plebiscite. We were asked for a decision and why we came up with the boundary was to keep the municipalities viable, is not in favour of any division but there are people that do want a division. Very important plebiscite.

Pat Kulscar Hutch Lake Task Force, HL private side, Assessment Review Board, High Level Recreation, alternate for Subdivision and Development Appeal Board, Tri- Council task force to come up with a revenue sharing. Committee of the Whole meetings and

Chair the Amin, Council and Personnel. This Council is going to two regular meetings a month to be held the first and third Tuesday of the month. Encourage the ratepayers to phone her and express their concerns.

John Driedger reported on Mackenzie Housing, Highway 88

Willie Wieler LC Recreation Society, Highway 88, this Council is working well together for the betterment of the entire municipality and not turf protecting. Wants to keep in mind that he wants to serve the entire MD

Greg Newman Mustus Lake Road Society, ASB,

Joe Peters stated that he farms and logs, Vet Advisory Board.

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

#### **COFFEE BREAK**

Chairperson reconvened the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

#### **QUESTIONS**

#### **7. Question Period**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **8. Adjournment**

Question: Councillor expenses meals set without receipts and unlimited with receipts, is concerned with the latter.

Answer: The purpose of having no limits is to take into consideration seminars that have high meal rates.

Question: What are they doing the traffic count on the heliport road

An: The province granted money \$40,000 to do a road study, Agra was hired to do a count on questionable roads to go into a study and be incorporated into the five year capital plan.

Q: a couple of years ago did you not do a study

A: in 1998 a road study was done and we are now following up on that.

A: this is 100% provincially funded.

Q: dust control is

A dust control must be paid for

Q: last summer the Council was dismissed by Bryan Clark, what authority did he have to do that.

A: Bill Neufeld said he had asked for the information and was told he could FOIP it but that it would be fought all the way. A councillor in Nova Scotia were given \$2,000 in severance package for defamation of character.

Q: Frank Rosenberger not in favour of the split but would be in favour of changing Council

A: not in favour split but is in favour of Council staying the way it is our Council is working very well now. If we stay the way we are there will be two thirds voting.

Q: Would Council have the authority to stop the plebiscite before it goes to vote.

A: If enough people would try to stop this vote we could probably stop it, but it would have to be a majority

A: the MO states that if we don't

Q: the newsletter was not received

A: a quick poll was taken and it showed that half the people did not

Q: will council stop the plebiscite for this time

A: Council factored in that the plebiscite would be held soon after the ratepayers meetings, and then with summer holidays, did not want to wait until September

Q: not enough information coming forward

A: if we hear the same comments over the next two meetings, agree that the plebiscite should be postponed. But would hate to see an extension, this has gone on for a number of years would like to put the issue to rest.

Q: are the tri-council meeting and the MARC to no effect, why can't we put them aside and decide for ourselves, is this being shoved down the Council's throat,

A: when we first motion any restructuring would be done internally, following that we will be looking at cost sharing or revenue sharing.

Q: can we not tell the tri-council that the plebiscite be postponed

A: the only reason we set the date now is that do you want the issue fresh in people's minds

A: this municipality is put on hold until this decision is made and that was part of the consideration to put this issue to rest.

Q: wasting another year, this line will be there forever

A:

Q: how many people want to divide the MD

A: approximately half of the people

Q: there has not been taken into account the well abandoned in the Zama field, the revenues are not taken into account

A: there is a lot of uncertainties, farmers, major pulp mill are shut down, villagers and towns are shrinking, it is impossible to factor that in

A: Sharing revenue is not an answer

Chair summarized that revisiting the boundary issue is Council willing to address that. Must look at the future of the revenue. Wells are being capped up to 10% per year. Production is predicted to maintain a level field.

Comment: what brought this on was the way we were treated by Council.

**MOTION 00-**

**MOVED** by Shirley Reclou

That the meeting be adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

**CARRIED**

These minutes were adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Assistant