

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE NO. 23

ANNUAL RATEPAYERS MEETING

ZAMA COMMUNITY HALL

April 14, 1997

PRESENT:

Reuben Derksen	Reeve
Betty Bateman	Deputy Reeve
Elmer Derksen	Councillor
Bill Fedeyko	Councillor
Bill Neufeld	Councillor
Jake L. Peters	Councillor
Frank Rosenberger	Councillor
Walter Sarapuk	Councillor
Reg Scarfe	Councillor

ALSO PRESENT:

Dennis Litke	Chief Administrative Officer
Eva Schmidt	Recording Secretary
John Maine	Manager of Corporate Services
Roger Borchert	Manager of Public Works
Gerald Loewen	Financial Consultant
Paul Driedger	Development Officer
Kevin Smith	Development Officer
Chris Kelland	Agricultural Fieldman
George Commanda	Utility Officer
12 Ratepayers	

CALL TO ORDER:

1 a) Call to Order

Councillor Bateman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Daryl Zielsdorf had set up a video camera and Councillor Bateman asked if the Zama ratepayers were in favor or opposed to having a video camera at the meeting.

The consensus of the Zama ratepayers was that the video camera could stay.

1 b) Introductions

All Council members and M.D. staff introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

2 a) Election of a Chair for this Meeting

Councillor Bateman called for nominations for a chairperson for this meeting.

1st call: Jim Bateman nominated Gordon Shewfelt.
Gordon Shewfelt declined.

2nd call: George Commanda nominated Jacquie Scoular.
Jacquie Scoular accepted.

3rd call: There were no other nominations.

MOTION RP97-01

MOVED by Douglas Scott that nominations cease.

CARRIED

Councillor Bateman declared Jacquie Scoular elected as Chairperson by acclamation.

Jacquie Scoular took the Chair.

Adoption of the Agenda

Jacquie Scoular asked if there were any additions to be made to the agenda.

Dennis Litke, Manager, pointed out that the Public Works Manager's report should be added between item 4c) and 4d).

MOTION RP97-02

MOVED by Douglas Scott that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

MINUTES

3. Minutes of 1996 Ratepayers Meeting

Chairperson, Jacquie Scoular, asked if there were any errors or omissions from the 1996 Ratepayers Meeting Minutes, there were none.

3 b) Adoption of Minutes

MOTION RP97-03

MOVED by Jim Bateman that the Minutes of the 1996 Zama Ratepayers Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

REPORTS

4 Annual Reports

4 a) Municipal District Report - Reuben Derksen, Reeve

Reeve Derksen read the Municipal District Report noting the beginning of construction of the Zama access road, the agreement made with the Town of High Level for the operation of the High Level Airport and the agreement made with the Province for the Municipal District to operate the Tompkins Landing Ferry. The Reeve reported that a Development Appeal Board Hearing had been held in regard to a liquor store in La Crete, this matter appears to have been stalled at this time, a meeting was held in Zama regarding the development of lots advising that the lots would have to be presold before development would take place and to date no lots have been presold. Reeve Derksen reported on road construction and flood control projects, paving project in the hamlets of La Crete and Fort Vermilion, and the success of the brush control project.

MOTION RP97-04

MOVED by Reeve Derksen that the Municipal District Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4 b) Council Member Reports

The Chair asked Council members to present their individual reports.

Councillor Bateman reported on the construction of the first phase of the Zama access road and stated that the second phase is well on it's way, the blueprints are presently with Alberta Transportation and Utilities. Construction on the second phase of the Zama access road is scheduled to commence on June 15, 1997. An inspection was done on the first phase of the Zama Water Treatment Plant upgrade and construction of the second phase should begin shortly. The Zama Airstrip was part of the brush control project which was funded from infrastructure money.

None of the other Councillors presented reports but said they would answer any questions during the question period.

4 c) Manager's Report - Dennis Litke, C.A.O.

Manager Litke read the Manager's report noting the change in administration in 1996, closure of the High Level office, Wadlin Lake campground, reduced time spent "winging" winter roads, and the Amateur Sport Grant that was distributed to the various recreation boards.

MOTION RP97-05

MOVED by Jim Bateman that the Manager's report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4 **Public Works Report - Roger Borchert**

Roger Borchert read the 1996 Public Works Report noting the modifications to the utility systems, waste management, drainage and flood control projects, Tompkins Landing Ferry, Tompkins Landing Ice Crossing, road construction, and capital equipment purchases.

MOTION RP97-06

MOVED by Douglas Scott that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4 d) **Planning & Development Report**
Kevin Smith / Paul Driedger, Development Officers

Paul Driedger gave the Protective Services report noting Zama's new members on the fire and ambulance department and the purchase of an almost new ambulance. The E-911 service is expected to be in operation in late summer or fall of 1997.

Development Officer, Paul Driedger, read the Planning and Development Report, noting development permit applications and appeals and subdivision applications and appeals.

MOTION RP97-07

MOVED by Jim Bateman that the Protective Services report and the Planning and Development Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4 e) **Agricultural Service Board Report**
Chris Kelland Agricultural Fieldman

Chris Kelland read the Agricultural Service Board Report noting the members of the Board, Training and Awareness, Pest Control, Agricultural Sustainability, Diversification and Marketing, and Support Services.

MOTION RP97-08

MOVED by Douglas Scott that the Agricultural Service Board report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4 f) **Financial Report - Gerald Loewen, Financial Consultant**
1995 Audited Financial Statement
1996 Draft Financial Statement

Gerald Loewen presented the 1995 Audited Financial Statement and the 1996 draft Financial Statement.

MOTION RP97-09

MOVED by Jim Bateman that the Financial report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Snowplow Flags for Seniors**

Roger Borchert explained the portion of the Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23 Bylaw 065/96 pertaining to the Senior and Handicapped Snowplow Flag service, and requested public input during question period.

6. **Proposed Bylaw 053/96 - To Regulate and Set Business**
License Fees for Non Resident Hawkers and Peddlers Engaged in
any Business in the Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23

Manager Litke explained that the proposed Bylaw 053/96 - to regulate and set business license fees for non-resident hawkers and peddlers engaged in any business in the Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23, is being brought forward for public input during question period.

7. **Annual General Ratepayer's Meeting Format**

The Reeve explained that the issue of changing the format of the Annual Ratepayers meeting to an open house format was discussed at the Council level and was being brought forward for public input during question period.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS

6. **Question Period**
Questions and discussion on all reports are welcomed

7. **Annual General Ratepayer's Meeting Format**

Q: Would the same meeting format be universal throughout the M.D.?

A: Each community can dictate the format of their ratepayers meeting.

Q: Would the reports still be read?

A: If that is what the ratepayers prefer.

The consensus of the Zama ratepayers was that the present format of the Annual Ratepayers meeting be kept together with an open house later on in the meeting.

5. **Snowplow Flags for Seniors**

Q: Who authorizes the senior/handicapped snowplow flag program?

A: The Councillor of the ward in which the senior or handicapped person resides.

Q: Could the program be made available in Zama?

A: No, this is a rural program but the hamlets could have a bobcat clear the snow ridge left by graders.

6. **Proposed Bylaw 053/96 - To Regulate and Set Business License Fees for Non Resident Hawkens and Peddlers Engaged in any Business in the Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23**

Q: Who will enforce the Hawkens and Peddlers Bylaw, are you going to hire enforcement officers?

A: The M.D. might have to hire enforcement officers or it might be enforced by current M.D. staff.

Q: Is there a problem with Hawkens and Peddlers within the municipality?

A: It is a problem in the other hamlets within the M.D.

Q: Does the bylaw have to be enforced throughout the M.D.

A: No, the Bylaw could specify certain areas where it would be enforced.

Q: The Bylaw would anger ratepayers who are making purchases from the hawkens and peddlers.

A: The store owners are required to pay taxes, the way it is now the peddlers pay nothing.

Q: If the Bylaw is put in place, the M.D. is going to be the one to gain not the store.

A: Some peddlers have already said they would be willing to buy the license.

Q: Do the local shoppers not support the local stores?

A: This is what happened in Zama, let the consumer dictate.

Q: If the other communities need the Bylaw then pass it but don't include Zama.

A: The bylaw is not geared to discourage hawkers and peddlers it only ensures that they have to pay something too, just like the businesses are paying taxes.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: Do the different plants and camps established in the M.D. pay taxes?

A: They pay big taxes, oil is the biggest tax base in the M.D. We don't try to discourage industry but the smaller transient companies work for other larger companies that are paying a large amount of taxes.

Q: What percentage or how much revenue is coming from the oilfield?

A: Around 71% of tax revenue is generated from the oilfields.

Q: The ferry cost came under budget, how much under budget?

A: We don't have the exact figures but it was under budget and because of that we asked the provincial government to allow us to use that money for maintenance.

Q: When you were operating the ferry 2/3 of the day were the employees paid for the full day?

A: No, just for the time they worked.

Q: Regarding the Agricultural Service Board report on pests, are ravens becoming a pest?

A: The raven is classified as a nuisance not a pest.

Q: Zama has a lot of sloughs around town and the M.D. should spray insecticides.

A: Nobody in the M.D. has a license to spray insecticides.

Q: When they put our gas lines in they said the ditches would be put back to their original state, that was not done.

A: The gas contractor has an obligation to return the ditches to their original state. The M.D. can help but cannot go into a full fledged clean up. You can seed your own grass, it is too costly for the M.D. to do it all. If you have a seeded ditch, the companies that dig them up will take more care. If they damage grassed ditches they have to re-seed them.

Q: The water puddles around the fire hydrants are a hazard because they are not draining properly.

A: The Public Works Department is looking into it, the build up of water around the fire hydrants is a problem.

Q: Are there similar dollars in the budget for the Zama ditches this year than were spent on Beach Road last year?

A: There is money in the budget for the ditches on the south side of Beach Road, we will try and do a few more ditches each year.

Q: When you do a Water Treatment Plant inspection do you get a per diem?

A: No, not when I'm in the community.

Q: Regarding the office move from High Level to Fort Vermilion, was there any cost associated with breaking the lease.

A: There was no penalty as the lease was up anyway.

Q: When the contract on the Zama access road is finished from last year will they continue this year and will the access to Highway 35 be done early on in the year.

A: The contractor will just continue this year were they left off last year and, yes, the turn off will be completed.

Q: Will the transfer bins be set up again when the road construction is finished.

A: Council will review the need for the bins.

Q: I would like some clarification on the motion from last years minutes to have a dumpster supplied.

A: We only took over the road last fall therefore we have not been able to supply the dumpster yet. The M.D. is concerned about the type of waste that would be dropped off since we have found pails of oil in that place. There is no policing of that area.

Q: Who is responsible for the garbage on the side of the road?

A: The M.D. becomes responsible but you can help by policing it yourselves.

Q: Where the motion from last year reviewed by Council?

A: Yes, Council reviews the motions made at these meetings.

Q: Some of the Zama residents would like to have a turn out at the meadows.

A: This is a decision made by the Minister of Environment.

Q: What are the policy guidelines for Council to go in camera?

A: Council can go in camera to discuss confidential items such as staff issues, unions, etc.

Q: Why does Council go into camera to discuss the Garden River Road?

A: It depends on the issue, if any action is taken it has to be done out of camera. Council can go into camera when discussing sensitive information.

Q: Why don't you restrict the in camera session?

A: When Council is in camera no motions are made. The in camera meetings you are referring to were budget meetings.

Q: I suggest you just go into camera for the confidential items and not for a long time.

Q: Is there information that can be given out as to the reason of going in camera? Is there some procedure in your meetings to discuss in camera?

A: If there is any business done it will be done out of camera.

Q: In camera is becoming more popular, is it a method to keep the public uninformed? The School Division did this very effectively and the whole thing blew up.

A: If Council goes in camera it is not to cover up anything and very often a number of items are discussed.

The Manager referred the public to section 217 of the Municipal Government Act.

A ratepayer quoted section 216 of the Municipal Government Act.

Manager Litke quoted section 197 of the Municipal Government Act.

Q: Would the remainder of the agenda be tabled to the next meeting if the in camera section takes too long?

A: Yes, it would.

Q: When can we expect the reservoir at the Water Treatment Plant to be completed.

A: Probably November the extra reservoir is the prime construction.

Q: The Zama roadside turnout would that not be nice to have it?

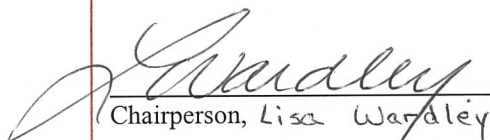
The Chairperson stated that she does consider that as an issue since it is only a half hour drive.

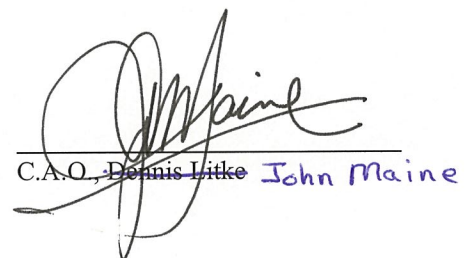
ADJOURNMENT

7. Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

These minutes were adopted this 8th day of June, 1998.


Chairperson, Lisa Wardley


C.A.O., Dennis Litke John Maine