

**MACKENZIE COUNTY  
BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 16, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

**Fort Vermilion Council Chambers  
Fort Vermilion, AB**

**PRESENT:**

Josh Knelsen	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
Jacque Bateman	Councillor (virtual)
Peter F. Braun	Councillor (virtual)
Cameron Cardinal	Councillor (virtual, joined the meeting in person at 12:40 p.m.)
David Driedger	Councillor
Eric Jorgensen	Councillor (virtual)
Anthony Peters	Councillor
Ernest Peters	Councillor
Lisa Wardley	Councillor (virtual)

**REGRETS:**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Carol Gabriel	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Recording Secretary
Jennifer Batt	Director of Finance
Don Roberts	Director of Community Services
Byron Peters	Director of Planning & Development (virtual)
Fred Wiebe	Director of Utilities (virtual)
Grant Smith	Agricultural Fieldman
Willie Schmidt	Fleet Maintenance Manager (virtual)
Caitlin Smith	Manager of Planning & Development (virtual)

**ALSO PRESENT:**

- Corey Keith, Keith and Associates (virtual)
- Trevor Pizzey, President, anCeres Processing Solutions (virtual)
- Amanda Schutz, Creative Director, Curio Studios (virtual)
- Andrew O'Rourke, General Manager, Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) (virtual)

Minutes of the Budget Council meeting for Mackenzie County held on December 16, 2020 in the Council Chambers at the Fort Vermilion County Office.

**CALL TO ORDER:            1. a) Call to Order**

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Reeve Knelsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**AGENDA:**

**2. a) Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION 20-12-794**

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the agenda be approved with the following additions:  
10.e) Minimum Tax Bylaw

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES FROM  
PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**3. a) Minutes of the December 9, 2020 Budget Council Meeting**

**MOTION 20-12-795**

**MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That the minutes of the December 9, 2020 Budget Council Meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS:**

**4. a) CARES Project – Mackenzie Regional Agricultural Investment Attraction Plan Progress**

**MOTION 20-12-796**

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the CARES project (Mackenzie Regional Agricultural Investment Attraction Plan) update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**TENDERS:**

**5. a) None**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**6. a) None**

**GENERAL REPORTS:**

**7. a) None**

**AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES:**

**8. a) None**

**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES:**

**9. a) None**

**FINANCE:**

**10. e) Minimum Tax Bylaw (ADDITION)**

**MOTION 20-12-797**

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

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Requires Unanimous

That administration bring back the agricultural lease tax rolls annually for Council review.

**DEFEATED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 11:24 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Councillor Cardinal joined the meeting in person at 12:40 p.m.

**MOTION 20-12-798**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That a minimum farm tax be set at \$50.00 for grazing leases.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 20-12-799**  
Requires Unanimous

**MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That the County lobby the provincial government (Red Tape Reduction) to consolidate grazing leases into a single tax roll to assist the province and the municipality to reduce red tape.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**FINANCE:**

**10. a) Bylaw 1194-20 Fee Schedule**

**MOTION 20-12-800**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor A. Peters

That second reading be given to Bylaw 1194-20 being the Fee Schedule for Mackenzie County as AMENDED.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 20-12-801**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

That third and final reading be given to Bylaw 1194-20 being the Fee Schedule for Mackenzie County.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 20-12-802**

**MOVED** by Councillor Cardinal

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That administration develop a Policy for the reporting of fuel flowage charges at airports.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. b) Beaver First Nation – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program**

**MOTION 20-12-803**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Bateman

That the Beaver First Nation – Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program be received for information.

**CARRIED**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

**FINANCE:**

**10. c) Review 2020 Carry Forward and 2021 Capital Projects**

**MOTION 20-12-804**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the 2021 Capital Budget be approved with the following funding sources:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Funding</b>
<i>Gas Tax Fund</i>	\$705,000
<i>Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI)</i>	\$2,329,500
<i>Other Sources</i>	\$52,000
<i>General Capital Reserve</i>	\$76,700
<i>Road Reserve</i>	\$260,000
<i>Municipal Reserve</i>	\$55,955
<i>Recreation Reserve</i>	\$0
	<b>\$3,479,155</b>

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 20-12-805**

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That administration request that the province waive/reimburse fees associated with the River Search & Rescue Access Plan approvals.

**CARRIED**

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**MOTION 20-12-806**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That administration investigate implementing a Local Improvement on the 101 Avenue Asphalt project in the Hamlet of La Crete.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION 20-12-807**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Wardley

That the 2020 carry forward capital projects be incorporated into the 2021 Capital Budget.

**CARRIED**

**FINANCE:**

**10. d) Draft 2021 Operating Budget**

**MOTION 20-12-808**  
Requires 2/3

**MOVED** by Councillor Braun

That the 2021 Operating Budget be approved, including Tracking Sheet changes #5, and that the deficit in the amount of \$326,465, be funded from General Operating Reserve Surplus and that administration bring forward a policy review at each Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**OPERATIONS:**

**11. a) None**

**UTILITIES:**

**12. a) None**

**PLANNING &  
DEVELOPMENT:**

**13. a) None**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

**14. a) None**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
REPORTS:**

**15. a) None**

**INFORMATION/  
CORRESPONDENCE:**

**16. a) None**

Reeve Knelsen recessed the meeting at 4:08 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

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**CLOSED MEETING: 17. a) Closed Meeting**

**MOTION 20-12-809** **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That Council move into a closed meeting to discuss the Town of High Level Regional Service Sharing Agreement at 4:28 p.m. (FOIP, Div. 2, Part 1, s. 21, 24, 25)

**CARRIED**

The following individuals were present during the closed meeting discussion. (MGA Section 602.08(1)(6))

- All Councillors Present
- Carol Gabriel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Jennifer Batt, Director of Finance
- Don Roberts, Director of Community Services
- Byron Peters, Director of Planning & Development
- Caitlin Smith, Manager of Planning & Development
- Fred Wiebe, Director of Utilities
- Willie Schmidt, Fleet Maintenance Manager

**MOTION 20-12-810** **MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That Council move out of a closed meeting at 5:34 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**CLOSED MEETING: 17. a) Town of High Level Regional Service Sharing Agreement**

**MOTION 20-12-811** **MOVED** by Councillor Driedger

That Mackenzie County proceed with the Town of High Level Regional Service Sharing Agreement negotiations as discussed.

**CARRIED**

**NOTICE OF MOTION: 18. a) None**

**NEXT MEETING DATE: 19. a) Next Meeting Date**

Regular Council Meeting  
January 12, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

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Fort Vermilion Council Chambers

**ADJOURNMENT: 20. a) Adjournment**

**MOTION 20-12-812 MOVED** by Councillor Jorgensen

That the Budget Council meeting be adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

**CARRIED**

These minutes were approved by Council on January 12, 2021.

(original signed)

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Joshua Knelsen  
Reeve

(original signed)

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Lenard Racher  
Chief Administrative Officer

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