

**MACKENZIE COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL (BUDGET) MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 24, 2010
12:00 p.m.**

**Council Chambers
Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

PRESENT:

Bill Neufeld	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
Jacque Bateman	Councillor
Peter F. Braun	Councillor
Dicky Driedger	Councillor
John W. Driedger	Councillor
Elmer Derksen	Councillor
Odell Flett	Councillor
Eric Jorgensen	Councillor
Lisa Wardley	Councillor

ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION:

William (Bill) Kostiw	Chief Administrative Officer
Joulia Whittleton	Director of Corporate Services
John Klassen	Director of Operations (South)
Al Hoggan	Director of Operations (North)
Marion Krahn	Supervisor of Planning

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the public

Minutes of the Special Council (Budget) meeting for Mackenzie County held on November 24, 2010 at the Council Chambers in Fort Vermilion, Alberta.

CALL TO ORDER: 1. a) Call to Order

Reeve Neufeld called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

AGENDA: 2. a) Adoption of Agenda

MOTION 10-11-1032 MOVED by Deputy Reeve Sarapuk

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
PREVIOUS MINUTES: 3. a) None**

DELEGATIONS: 4. a) None

BUSINESS: 5. a) 2010 Operating Budget Documents

Joulia Whittleton provided highlights regarding the 2011 operating budget draft.

The following budget documents were reviewed:

1. Assessment and municipal levy projection

J. Whittleton, Director of Corporate Services stated that a 6.99% decrease is projected in municipal assessment which translates to an 8% decrease in municipal tax levy revenue (using 2010 municipal rates).

2. 2011 Operating Budget

J. Whittleton, Director of Corporate Services provided highlights of the assumptions that were made during the draft budget preparation:

- Municipal tax revenue is calculated using 2010 tax rates.
- Level of service remains status quo.
- Level of staff remains status quo.
- Wages and salaries for staff are calculated at the negotiated increase as per the Collective Agreement.
- The Legislative Department budget reflects changes in honorariums as per the approved bylaw.
- Grants to local governments reflect the estimated amounts as per the signed agreements with the Towns of High Level and Rainbow Lake.
- Gravel will be crushed for a three-year supply.
- Grants to other organizations budgets include same amounts as in 2010 for comparative purposes and will be adjusted subsequent to the applications review and approval by Council.

The 2011 operating budget is projected to increase by 6%.

The 2011 Draft Budget draft statement of operations was reviewed; long term debt schedule was reviewed; the projected restricted surplus (reserves) balance was reviewed and discussed.

3. Water Rate Review

J. Whittleton, Director of Corporate Services presented the water and sewer rate calculations based on the projected 2011 figures

(consumptions, operating expenses, long-term debt payments). The calculations of break-even rates and 75% recovery rates were reviewed and discussed.

S/Sgt. Tom Love, RCMP joined the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and provided an update on the enhanced policing program. S/Sgt. Love left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

The Reeve recessed the meeting at 2:50 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

MOTION 10-11-1033

MOVED by Councilor Bateman

That administration brings a draft Water & Sewer Services Bylaw with a 14% increase in the consumption rates (from \$2.13 to \$2.43 for treated water rate and from \$1.49 to \$1.70 for raw water rate).

CARRIED

4. Grants to Other Organizations

A summary of the requested grants was presented.

Council discussed providing a 2% increase for the Mackenzie Regional Library Board, 2.5% increase in the operating grants to the local recreation boards, and distribution of the FCSS grant proportionate to the provincial grant increase (inclusive of the County's share as required by the province).

Review of the other non-profit groups' requests was tabled to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Special Council (Budget) Meeting
Monday, December 13, 2010
1:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Fort Vermilion, AB

ADJOURNMENT:

16. a) Adjournment

MOTION 10-11-1034

MOVED by Councillor J. Driedger

That the Special Council meeting be adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

CARRIED

These minutes were approved by Council on December 14, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.

(original signed)

Bill Neufeld
Reeve

(original signed)

William Kostiw
Chief Administrative Officer