

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE NO. 23
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Seminar Room, Fort Vermilion School Division Central Office
Fort Vermilion, Alberta**

Friday, December 8, 2000

PRESENT:

Bill Neufeld	Reeve
Walter Sarapuk	Deputy Reeve
John Driedger	Councillor
Pat Kulscar	Councillor
Greg Newman	Councillor
Joe Peters	Councillor
Frank Rosenberger	Councillor
Wayne Thiessen	Councillor
Willie Wieler	Councillor (arrived 2:58 p.m.)

ABSENT:

Betty Bateman	Councillor
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ALSO PRESENT:

Harvey Prockiw	Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Landiuk	Director of Corporate Services
Paul Driedger	Director of Planning and Emergency Services
Chris Kelland	Director of Agricultural Services
Bill Landiuk	Director of Corporate Services
Ivan Perich	Director of Operational Services
Twila Olson	Public Works Administrative Officer
Linda Lavoie	Accounts Payable

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

Reeve Neufeld called the Council meeting to order at 9:24 a.m.

AGENDA: 2. a) **Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION 00-717 **MOVED** by Councillor Rosenberger

That the agenda be adopted as read.

CARRIED

3. a) Appointment of Chairperson

Reeve Neufeld turned over the Chair to the Chief Administrative Officer.

YEAR 2001 BUDGET

Administration was asked to provide a list of the funding that was given to FCSS per community in 2000.

MOTION 00-718 MOVED by Councillor Kulscar

That the Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre be funded \$5,000.

CARRIED

A curator for the Fort Vermilion Heritage Centre was removed from the budget.

The Fort Vermilion Children's Festival request for \$500 remained in the budget.

The Fort Vermilion Senior's Club will receive the \$2,500 operating and \$15,000 capital funding they requested.

A grant for the High Level Cemetery would be factored into the cost sharing agreement.

MOTION 00-719 MOVED by Councillor Thiessen

That the Fort Vermilion Board of Trade and the La Crete Chamber of Commerce each be funded \$15,000.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-720 MOVED by Councillor Kulscar

That the High Level Chamber of Commerce be funded \$4,000.

CARRIED

Upon discussion the \$500 cemetery grants remain as is.

10:10 a.m. Councillor Kulscar declared a pecuniary interest as she is the president of the Northwest Alberta Resource Society and left the meeting room.

The Northwest Alberta Resource Society funding request was discussed.

10:19 a.m. Councillor Kulscar was called back to provide more information on the organization then left the room again.

MOTION 00-721 **MOVED** by Councillor Newman

That the Northwest Alberta Resource Society be funded \$7,000.

CARRIED

10:20 a.m. Councillor Kulscar reentered the meeting.

10:20 a.m. **Break**

10:26 a.m. **Reconvene**

MOTION 00-722 **MOVED** by Councillor Thiessen

That the Old Bay House funding request for \$10,000 capital not be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-723 **MOVED** by Councillor Newman

That a student bursary be given for \$500 for each high school within the Mackenzie Region.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-724 MOVED by Councillor Driedger

That the playground equipment from Wadlin Lake be given to the Blue Hills Community School.

DEFEATED

A suggestion was made that the Blue Hills Community School be asked to contact other groups and get help and advise on how they were able to fund their own playground equipment.

MOTION 00-725 MOVED by Councillor Newman that Council give consideration to go to an in camera session at 10:58 a.m. to discuss issues under Section 23 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-726 MOVED by Councillor Thiessen to come out of in camera at 11:06 a.m.

CARRIED

DELEGATION: **3. Caribou Mountains Special Places 2000**

Reeve Neufeld welcomed Mr. David Coutts, MLA Livingstone-Macleod, and Mr. Tom Mill, Manager Special Places to the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Mr. Coutts informed Council that the Minister of Environment had requested that he attend this meeting with Council to discuss the process of the Special Places program as well as Council's position regarding the Caribou Mountains Special Places 2000. The Special Places program was slated to end a year ago and now are hoping to wind up by December 31, 2000.

Mr. Coutts indicated that the intent was that a wildland area has access for hunters, trappers, and guiding and outfitting via designated routes. The oil and gas and pipeline sector have assured the government that there are no dispositions in the area

and they support the Special Places designation. A Wildland Management Committee would be established for the area comprised of all stakeholder representation. This is working in other areas of the province and is important for future generations.

Reeve Neufeld informed the delegation that the nominated area was too large, there was no quorum at the final meeting of the Caribou Special Places 2000 Committee yet the minutes were amended at that meeting, and there was no vote held to adopt the recommendations.

Councillor Thiessen pointed out that the nominated area abuts the Wood Buffalo National Park which is already a very large protected area.

Mr. Dave Coutts stated that the province wants to ensure preservation through a local stakeholder advisory board or a local management committee. The M.D. of Mackenzie would have total input into how the area is managed. This is a made in Alberta program.

CAO, Harvey Prockiw, pointed out that there are politics involved. Little Red River Cree Nation is requesting a portion of the Municipal District be changed to an Improvement District, they already have a Memorandum of Understanding for the area and have requested to sit on the M.D. Council. Industry has to vote according to the wishes of Little Red River Cree Nation.

Mr. Coutts asked what happens if the M.D. does nothing about the designation and it remains status quo, is the M.D. in a better position to manage the area than an advisory board would be.

Councillor Newman stated that if the province allows other stakeholders to manage the area the local people and industry are under more pressure to conform to the mindset of certain groups.

Councillor Rosenberger pointed out that the M.D. cannot justify giving away 10% of their land mass to a Special Places project.

Councillor Newman asked where else in the province is a municipality being asked to give up such a large potential assessment area from the tax base.

Tom Mill agreed that the Caribou Mountains site is the largest in the province being about 6,000 square kilometers. The next largest site is 5,000 square kilometers. Other large sites Mr. Mill listed were 1,700 and 1,200 square kilometers. Mr. Mill pointed out that the Caribou Mountains site has the potential of being the crown jewel. Mr. Mill stated that traditional uses such as hunting, fishing and trapping would not be affected and there are no oil and gas dispositions in the nominated site and no new mining dispositions. Minister Jonson is asking Council to reconsider.

Reeve Neufeld stated that the oil, gas and timber industries must agree with the First Nations or they get boycotted. It does not make sense to set aside major potential gas fields when natural gas prices are rising.

Mr. Coutts informed Council that in five years the government could change the Act to allow access to resources if new technology becomes available. In 10 years the Act will be reviewed and can be changed at that time.

Members of the public raised concerns regarding limited access to the Caribou Mountains. Trappers, hunters, guides and outfitters rely on seismic lines for access. Deals were made between Paramount and Little Red River Cree Nation, the Memorandum of Understanding gives Little Red River Cree Nation management in the area.

Tom Mill stated that the Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement to work together with the department and ensuring that First Nations have input.

Councillor Newman asked why are there others on the committee if the department wants only First Nations input.

Tom Mill stated that the government wants more than one view, they want to know that the M.D. and industry are involved. Mr. Mill assured Council that no land claims are being negotiated with Little Red River Cree Nation nor is there any application for a land claim.

Councillor Kulscar asked about the comment made on traditional uses and regarding changes made to the Act also, how can resources be found if no exploration is allowed.

Councillor Thiessen expressed concern regarding increasing timber rights under the Memorandum of Understanding. The Cooperative Management Board restricts usage.

Dave Coutts answered that traditional uses are things like hunting, trapping, etc., if cut lines have been traditionally used then state that those routes must be maintained. The M.D. has a once in a life time opportunity to protect an area and control it. No other protected places policy will be implemented by this government. This gives the M.D. more clout against outside pressures.

Councillor Kulscar pointed out that the process did not work. Too many committee members were controlled by one section.

Tom Mills stated that traditional use means no heavy industry but can be something that people want. A Wildland Park can still take in aircraft according to a management plan. The Act will be opened for review every 10 years and the Minister is looking to municipalities for advice on how the review should take place.

Dave Coutts wrapped up by stating that the M.D. of Mackenzie established a local committee but did not endorse the recommendations of that committee. Mr. Coutts will advise the Minister of the concerns raised at this meeting. It is important for Council to discuss this issue and write a letter to the Minister whether or not the M.D. would establish a Special Places area with a committee where the M.D. is in control. If the M.D. decides they still do not want the Special Place the Minister will have to decide where to go from here.

Regarding Wolverine Special Places, Mr. Coutts informed Council that after the Minister received their letter of concern he has been asked to slow down the process and they will be negotiating directly with the M.D. Mr. Coutts and Mr. Mill will come up to meet with Council in the new year.

Reeve Neufeld thanked Mr. David Coutts and Mr. Tom Mill for their presentation and they left the Council table at 12:42 p.m.

Reeve Neufeld recessed the meeting at 12:42 p.m.

Reeve Neufeld reconvened the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

MOTION 00-727 MOVED by Councillor Peters

Whereas eliminating petroleum and mineral exploration and activity is not a feasible option, and

Whereas eliminating 10% of the Municipal District of Mackenzie's land mass from the future tax base is not appropriate, and

Whereas Council would be receptive to areas that are moderate in size, and

Whereas the nominated area is adjacent to one of the largest parks in the world, and

Whereas the area is within the Memorandum of Understanding which is controlled by Little Red River Cree Nation which is increasing political tension and division within the region, and

Whereas the local committee accepted the final recommendation where only five members were present and no formal vote was made, and

Whereas if there are no resources in the nominated area it will remain remote and preserved because of the lack of access, and

Whereas the control of the local committee and the control of the management board has been dominated by one special interest group whereas the control should be unbiased and in the hands of the local people, and

Whereas it is not reasonable that the contribution of the Municipal District of Mackenzie be such a large percentage of the total special places designation in the province, and

Whereas the majority of the ten members of the Municipal District of Mackenzie Council did not sit on the local committee, now

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Municipal District of Mackenzie No. 23 reaffirms the position that the

Caribou Mountains not be designated as a Special Places
2000 site nor a Wildland Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2:58 p.m.

Councillor Wieler entered the meeting.

The Blue Hills School playground was removed from the 2001
budget.

MOTION 00-728 MOVED by Councillor Newman

That the High Level Rural Hall Society be given a \$5,000 grant.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-729 MOVED by Councillor Neufeld

That the Mighty Peace Fish and Game be funded \$6,000.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-730 MOVED by Councillor Peters

That the Fort Vermilion Resource Centre not receive funding.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-731 MOVED by Councillor Thiessen

That the Fort Vermilion Recreation Board be given an operating
grant of \$120,000 and that the Board take on the responsibility of
the bridge campground, as per their request.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-732 **MOVED** by Councillor Kulscar

That a matching capital grant to a maximum of \$30,000 be provided to the Fort Vermilion Recreation Board.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-733 **MOVED** by Councillor Thiessen

That the Rocky Lane Recreation Society not be funded and they be asked to approach the Fort Vermilion Recreation Society for funding.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-734 **MOVED** by Councillor Newman

That the La Crete Recreation Board receive \$148,500 for their operating grant.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-735 **MOVED** by Councillor Kulscar

That a matching capital grant to a maximum of \$30,000 be provided to the La Crete Recreation Board.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-736 **MOVED** by Councillor Rosenberger

That the Zama Recreation Board be given \$50,000 for their operating grant.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-737 MOVED by Councillor Kulscar

That a matching capital grant to a maximum of \$30,000 be provided to the Zama Recreation Board.

CARRIED

MOTION 00-738 MOVED by Councillor Wieler

That the Mackenzie Library Board be given funding of \$52,000.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued with regards to the beautification of the municipality. It was suggested that due to the increases given to the Fort Vermilion Board of Trade and the La Crete Chamber of Commerce, that these two organizations would be advised that this is now their responsibility.

MOTION 00-739 MOVED by Councillor Kulscar

That an amount of \$1,000 per hamlet be spent by the municipality for the beautification of each of the municipal office grounds in La Crete, Fort Vermilion and Zama.

CARRIED

Item #10

Fort Vermilion Airport Overlay

The pavement overlay proposal for the Fort Vermilion Airport was discussed and will be carried over to the 2001 Capital Budget.

MOTION 00-740 MOVED by Councillor Driedger

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

CARRIED

These minutes were adopted this _____ day of _____, 2000.

Bill Neufeld, Reeve

Harvey Prockiw, CAO

Approved:

Sandra Cross, Official Administrator