

NORTH RED DEER RIVER WATER SERVICES COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2020

In Attendance: Chair Ken Wigmore, Lacombe County Councillor
Councillor Mark Matejka, Ponoka County
Mayor Richard Poole, Town of Blackfalds
Mayor Grant Creasey, City of Lacombe
Mayor Rick Bonnett, Town of Ponoka
Jordan Thompson, Acting NRDRWSC Administrator
Denise Bellabono, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Tim Timmons, County Manager, Lacombe County
Albert Frootman, CAO, Town of Ponoka
Preston Weran, Director of Infrastructure, Town of Blackfalds
Matthew Goudy, CAO, City of Lacombe
Amber Mitchell, Engineering Services Manager, City of Lacombe
Angela Smith, Regional Utilities Foreman, City of Lacombe

Regrets: Myron Thompson, CAO, Town of Blackfalds
Mauricio Reyes, Senior Manager of Financial Services, City of Lacombe
Charlie Cutforth, CAO, Ponoka County

1. Call to Order:

Chair Wigmore called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

2. Adoption of the Agenda:

MOVED by Mayor Creasey that the agenda for the Special Meeting on February 24, 2020, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Adoption of Minutes

4. Presentation

5. Reports

6. Correspondence

6.1 Letter from the Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations and MLA for Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin

The Special Meeting of February 24, 2020 was set with the intentions of having the Minister attend to discuss the status on the Four First Nations position on the buy in of the waterline extension. The attached correspondence from Minister Wilson, identified Chief Standingontheroad coordinating a meeting between the four Chiefs of Maskwacis and the Commission, on March 12, 2020. The official invitation has not been received by the Commission or the Minister to date. Once the meeting has been confirmed, the Minister communicated his wishes to attend and for the Commission to contact his office for the details of his attendance.

MOVED by Mayor Creasey that the Commission directs Administration to confirm with Chief Standingontheroad and the office of the Minister of Indigenous Relations for the meeting between the four Chiefs of Maskwacis and the Commission on March 12, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Old Business

7.1 Board Decision on Water Line Extension

- Chair Wigmore confirmed that the Waterline Extension Feasibility Study Summary with the North Red Deer River Water Services Commission (NRDRWSC) First Nation Feasibility Study – FINAL REPORT, from the regular Commission meeting held December 9, 2020 was forwarded to the province.
- Administrator Thompson presented options for the next steps for the extension of the Commission's waterline in regards to the following:
 - the coordinating of the meeting on March 12, 2020
 - direction on the Commission's wishes to proceed with the business planning, which would ratify the capital buy in point and the rate impact of the additional infrastructure system. Administration would be able to work within the Facilitated Water Line Protocol Development Grant from Municipal Affairs (\$50,000) to complete the financial model and procure a facilitator as described.
 - direction to proceed with the next steps outlined in the Administration's December 9th Report
- Stantec's cost estimate of \$2 million does not include investigations on the First Nations land as they have not received approval to access the land to complete a thorough feasibility study, as a result they not been able to verify the existing water supply system, current demands, and future projections. Based on engineering assumptions, our contractor has determined that Ermineskin Cree Nation must connect and draw at least 800m³/day at the onset to ensure the water remains potable at their border. Less reliable water demand would require additional infrastructure, such as a chloramine booster, which is estimated to cost between \$0.25 million - \$1 million.
- The Commission discussed the rate implications for adding the First Nations. The system has been oversized with the intentions of adding more customers/members at some point, which should decrease the rates of the current rate payers who have already paid for the oversizing through user fees. However the study indicates rates will rise.

- Concerns from the Commission were brought forward in the need for stable water demand within each community, and if the Province is willing to commit to funding a chloramine booster on the regional system should the daily volume at the community level fall below minimum safe standards.

MOVED by Mayor Bonnett that the Commission direct Administration to find out the cost of the 2020 buy in and to utilize the funds from the grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Mayor Creasey that the Commission is prepared to supply a water system and the transmission line to the First Nations without impacting current rate payers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Mayor Creasey that the Commission direct Administration to proceed with the development of the financial model funded by the Facilitated Water Line Protocol Development grant from Municipal Affairs subject to the outcome of the March 12, 2020 meeting with the Four First Nations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. New Business

9. In Camera

10. Next Meeting:

Monday, April 9, 2019 at 10:00 am in the City of Lacombe Council Chambers.

11. Adjournment:

MOVED by Mayor Poole to adjourn this Meeting at 10:11 am.

CARRIED

Original Signed
Chairperson

Original Signed
Administrator