



## Council Notes April 27, 2021

### Delegation- BDO Canada LLP- 2020 Financial Statements

*Agenda Item 3.1; YouTube Livestream: [42:39](#); [5:19:04](#)*

Delegations from BDO Canada LLP present Council with a high-level overview of Kneehill County's audited Financial Statements from 2020.

### Municipal Energy Champions Program

*Agenda Item 4.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:01:06](#)*

The Municipal Energy Champions program provides free capacity-building support to municipalities for developing, managing, and implementing energy management initiatives. Kneehill County is one of nine municipalities selected to participate in this program for 2021 and will incorporate findings from the program to reduce energy costs at the County's various buildings and facilities.

**Decision:**

Council accepted the Municipal Energy Champions Program participation report as information. View the presentation live on our [YouTube Channel](#).

### Gravel Crushing Report

*Agenda Item 4.2; YouTube Livestream: [1:12:05](#)*

In the 2021 Operating Budget, Council approved \$700,000 for Gravel Crushing at the Torrington Gravel pit. The accepted bid for gravel crushing following the Tender process was lower than anticipated and will now allow the County to crush and stockpile approximately 238,000 tonnes of gravel, (88 000 more tonnes than estimated) within budget.

**Decision:**

Council received the Transportation Report on gravel crushing operations for information.

### Cost Sharing for the Development of Undeveloped Road Allowance Rge Rd 22-4

*Agenda Item 4.3; YouTube Livestream: [1:22:13](#)*

In June 2017, Ryan Furst applied for a cost-share road development agreement to upgrade Range Road 22-4, to access the sub-divided parcel situated out of NW 16-28-22-W4M. At the time of the application, Kneehill County policy allowed consideration for cost sharing (50%) of a road upgrade when a development permit was applied for, which Council approved. The developer spent \$13,000 to develop the road.

**Decision:**

Council approved the 50% cost sharing with owner/developer Ryan Furst in the amount of \$6,500 for the development for the undeveloped road allowance on Rge Rd 22-4. Funds to come from the operating budget.

### Resident Engagement Results- Three Hills East Water

*Agenda Item 5.2.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:50:18](#) (Part 1); [0:36](#) (Part 2)*

At the October 13, 2020 Council meeting, Council directed administration to engage with the residents within a defined area east of Three Hills to gauge the interest in a municipal water supply system. Kneehill County developed and distributed a survey to these residents, giving the option for additional comments and feedback regarding a potential water system in the area. Of the 79 surveys mailed out, 37 were returned. View the survey results live on our [Youtube Channel](#).

**Decision:**

Council directed administration to explore other water delivery options for Three Hills East residents.

## Orkney Water Co-Op

Agenda Item 5.2.2; YouTube Livestream: [26:12](#)

The Orkney Water Co-op has approached Kneehill County to explore assuming ownership and operation of their small groundwater system serving 11 metered connections in the southeast of the County. County administration met with the Co-op and drafted a proposal to take over the system and the Co-op has responded with some concerns, largely regarding the proposed restricted water flow.

### Decision:

Council directed administration to continue the exploration of assuming ownership and operation of the Orkney Water Co-op under the supported guidance of Council to restrict flow at all connections.

## Policy 14-2 Compensation for Crop and Land Damages

Agenda Item 5.2.3; YouTube Livestream: [59:13](#)

Administration recommended that Council rescind Policy 14-1, Compensation for Crop and Land Damages, as Policy 13-18, Land Agreements, already makes provision for this compensation. Once Policy 14-2 is rescinded, Policy 13-18 will become the guiding policy in place.

### Decision:

Council deleted Policy 14-1, Compensation for Crop and Land Damages.

## 2020 Audited Financial Statements

Agenda Item 6.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:02:39](#)

The County is required by the MGA to prepare annual Financial Statements following accounting principles for municipal governments. The financial statements also require an auditor's report, which was completed by Kneehill County's appointed auditor, BDO of Red Deer.

These statements provide information on the County's financial position and reflect the previous approvals and direction of Council. The overall financial position of the County as presented in these statements for December 31, 2020, is positive and reflects Council and Administration's ongoing focus on prudent financial management.

### Decision:

Council accepted the 2020 Audited Financial Statements as presented. View the statements in the [Council Package](#).

## Quarterly Financial Reports

Agenda Item 6.2; YouTube Livestream: [1:10:46](#)

The Quarterly Financial Reports are intended to inform Council of financial transactions to-date and how these expenditures, revenues and other financial indicators compare to the annual operating budget and plan that Council had previously approved. At the end of the first quarter (as of March 31, 2021) there are no significant variances to report. Operations & services offered to the public are on track despite ongoing COVID restrictions.

### Decision:

Council received the Quarterly Financial Reporting as of March 31, 2021 for information.

View in the Council Package:

- [Variance Report](#)
- [Appendix A- Variance by Function](#)
- [Appendix B- Variance by Department](#)

## Local Improvement Amendments

Agenda Item 6.3; YouTube Livestream: [1:17:57](#)

To apply the special benefitting tax levy for water service areas, a water riser bylaw was written detailing the roll numbers affected. When new rolls numbers are assigned to each area due to subdivisions, these bylaws require amending to include the new roll number and to delete the old one.

### Decision:

Council passed Bylaw 1839- Selkirk Water Service Area Project, Bylaw 1837- Grainger/Hesketh Water Service Area Project, and Bylaw 1838- Sunnyslope Pressure Water Service Area Project.

## Water Service Area Special Tax Bylaw 1835

*Agenda Item 6.4; YouTube Livestream: [1:25:18](#)*

In 2006, a Water Service Area Tax was created to help fund the construction costs for water services to County residents. In 2021, this levy will contribute \$977,330 to the Water WSA Reserve which will ensure future funding of infrastructure to maintain, replace and create major system upgrades.

### **Decision:**

Council gave first, second and third reading to Bylaw 1835, passing the bylaw for the 2021 Water Service Area Special Tax.

## 2021 Trochu Recreation Area Special Tax Bylaw 1836

*Agenda Item 6.5; YouTube Livestream: [2:27:19](#)*

Each year Council approves a levy to be charged against certain properties within a given area as a recreation tax. This tax is collected and forwarded to the Town of Trochu as payment at year end, funding 50% of the costs to operate their pool facility (per their report).

### **Decision:**

Council gave first, second & third reading to Bylaw 1836, passing the bylaw for the 2021 Trochu Recreation Area Special Tax.

## 2021 Tax Rate Bylaw

*Agenda Item 6.6; YouTube Livestream: [2:30:57](#)*

At the onset of the 2021 budget deliberations the County was facing \$1,900,000 in new financial pressures. During the budgeting process Council and administration were able to manage the shortfall down to \$1,354,500 by finding cost efficiencies across the organization. To manage the remaining shortfall, a modest tax increase was recommended to prevent disruption of County and community services. Tax rates remain competitive with other municipalities and are below the provincial average for residential and farmland. View the full report in the [Council package](#).

### **Decision:**

Council gives first and second reading to Bylaw 1834, 2021 Tax Rates. As the Bylaw has not received third reading, it has not been passed.

## Policy 3-16, Organizational Chart

*Agenda Item 6.7; YouTube Livestream: [2:42:47](#)*

Administration brings the County's Organizational Chart to Council for approval each year as per Policy 3.16. Going forward, administration is recommending that the organizational chart be presented for approval at the same time as the annual budget deliberations, instead of in a separate policy.

### **Decision:**

Council accepted the Organizational Chart for information, and rescinded Policy 3.16, Organizational Chart for the Municipality.

## Community Grants to Non-Profit Organizations Policy 15-3, Round 1

*Agenda Item 8.1; YouTube Livestream: [2:48:57](#)*

Kneehill County provides funding twice a year for non-profits organizations who meet policy eligibility requirements. The Community Grant application deadline for Round One was March 3, 2021.

**Decision:** Council approved Round One Community Grant funding to the following non-profit organizations:

- Acme & District Golf Course:
  - \$2,500 for upgrades to their Clubhouse.
- Parkview Lodge of Carbon:
  - \$6,000 for outside doors and a storage shed.

## Road Ban Exemption Request

*Agenda Item 8.2; YouTube Livestream: [2:51:15](#)*

The County issues road bans on certain roads each year to protect the infrastructure from damage during spring thaw. Administration received a road-ban exemption request for Rge Rd 24-0, as the 75% ban negatively impacts the ratepayer's seed-hauling business during this time. Rge Rd 24-0 has always been a banned road in the spring, and the ban will be removed May 14, 2021.

**Decision:**

Council received the Road Ban Exemption request for information.

## Council and Committee Reports

*Agenda Item 10.0; YouTube Livestream: [3:07:20](#)*

Council and Committee Reports includes Community Futures Wildrose.

**Decision:**

Received as presented.

NEXT Council Meeting: May 11, 2021, at 8:30 am in Council Chambers  
1600, 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta.  
Agendas are available at [www.kneehillcounty.com](http://www.kneehillcounty.com)