



## Council Notes March 22, 2022

### Road Ban Exemption Policy

*Agenda Item 4.1; YouTube Livestream: [17:23](#)*

Road bans are implemented in the County prior to the spring melt and are put in place to protect the road infrastructure from being compromised or damaged when they are particularly vulnerable. At the [February 8, 2022, Council meeting](#), Council approved allowing Kneehill County's CAO or designate to grant road ban exemptions on a case-by-case basis, when requested, guided by the existing Traffic Control Bylaw and a [Road Ban Exemption policy](#), which administration has created for Council's review.

**Decision:**

Council approved the Road Ban Exemption Policy as presented. This policy allows users to apply for exceptions to a road weight restriction (road ban) placed on a municipal road.

### Tax Payment Plan Request

*Agenda Item 6.1; YouTube Livestream: [19:22](#)*

The last few years, Council has agreed to several payment plans with Kneehill County's industrial partners to support their cash flow issues during the economic downturn, Covid pandemic and low gas prices. After extensive discussion, Long Run Exploration Ltd. has agreed to enter a Tax Payment Plan for their tax arrears, which will be paid back monthly over the next twelve months.

**Decision:**

Council agreed to enter into a Tax Agreement Payment Plan with Long Run Exploration Ltd. for payment of \$336,307.56 in tax arrears over 12-months, and voids 2021 and 2022 penalties as part of the agreement.

### 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Approval

*Agenda Item 6.2; YouTube Livestream: [34:33](#)*

The County is required under the Municipal Government Act (MGA) to approve Operating and Capital budgets that are both balanced and fully funded. The budgeting process allows Kneehill County to prioritize projects, programs and service levels based on anticipated revenue and expenses.

Administration presented Council with the 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Approval report, including current budget challenges and pressures, key investments, and ratepayer impacts. [View the reports in the Council Package.](#)

**Decision:**

Based on the report, which was compiled following extensive deliberation throughout the budget process, Council:

1. Amended Appendix A (Property Taxes) with an increase of \$250,000 from \$23, 761,496 to \$24,011,496.
2. Amended Appendix A (Contributions to Reserve) with an increase of \$250,000 from \$7,085,463 to \$7,335,463
3. Amended Appendix B Contributions to Reserve (Infrastructure) with an increase of \$250,000 from \$600,000 to \$850,000.
4. Approved the 2022 Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,142,305 as detailed in the amended [Appendix A.](#)
5. Approved transfers from reserves and contributions to reserves as detailed in the amended [Appendix B.](#)
6. Approved the 2022 Capital Budget and funding sources in the amount of \$5,230,332 as detailed in [Appendix D.](#)
7. Authorized the creation of an Infrastructure Reserve.
8. Amended the Flat Maintenance Rate related to water connections to \$60.00 bimonthly effective May 1, 2022, and that the Master Rates Bylaw be amended accordingly.
9. Received the report for information. [View in the Council Package.](#)

## Policy 3-22 Former Elected Official Waiting Period to Serve as Member-at-Large

Agenda Item 7.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:33:21](#)

As part of Council's ongoing review of current policies, Council Policy 3-22 was presented for Council's review. This policy stipulates that former Councillors must wait one year after their term before they serve as a member-at-large (member of the public) on Kneehill County boards and commissions. No changes to the policy were recommended.

### **Decision:**

Council approved Policy 3-22, Former Elected Official Waiting Period to Serve as Member at Large, as presented.

## Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition Book

Agenda Item 7.2; YouTube Livestream: [1:35:17](#)

A request was made from the Alberta/Northwest Territory Command of the Royal Canadian Legion for Kneehill County to assist with their Annual Military Service Recognition Book with an Advertisement/Support Message. Council has provided support every year since 2008, through the purchase of a business card size advertisement.

### **Decision:**

Council provided support to the Annual Alberta/Northwest Territory Royal Canadian Legion "Military Service Recognition Book" with the purchase of a business card size advertisement at a cost of \$315.00.

## Ratepayer Evening

Agenda Item 7.3; YouTube Livestream: [1:37:07](#)

Kneehill County's annual Discovery Fair "Ratepayer Evenings" were cancelled in both 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and gathering restrictions in place. Now that gathering restrictions have been lifted, these events can be held in 2022. Administration recommended hosting two events in June, one in Torrington, and one in Carbon, and changing the name from "Discovery Fair" to "Ratepayer Evening" to help clarify the purpose of the events—providing opportunity for residents and ratepayers to ask questions, give feedback and engage with Kneehill County Council and staff.

### **Decision:**

Council directed administration to organize Ratepayer Evenings in Torrington and Carbon in June of 2022.

## Economic Development Conference

Agenda Item 7.4; YouTube Livestream: [1:47:53](#)

As a representative for Community Futures Wildrose, Councillor Christie has asked permission to attend the Economic Development Conference being held in Kananaskis from April 6 to April 8, 2022.

### **Decision:**

Council approved Councillor Christie's attendance to the 2022 Economic Development Conference.

## AUMA Energy Audit Proposed Projects

Agenda Item 7.5; YouTube Livestream: [1:17:28](#)

AUMA, in partnership with TRANE, completed a preliminary energy audit for Kneehill County's administration building, Family and Community Support Services building, Maintenance Shop, Ron Gorr Memorial Arena, and Trochu Fire Hall in November of 2021. The findings were presented to the [Committee of the Whole in January of 2022](#) by the AM (formerly AUMA) as information. Administration has identified some of the proposed projects in the audit as potentially beneficial in reducing utility costs and the maintenance required by facilities staff and is seeking direction from Council for proceeding further with cost investigation and/or potential partnerships with other municipalities for these projects.

### **Decision:**

Council requested administration to provide additional information on the potentially beneficial projects identified through the AUMA energy audit.

## Office Closure

Agenda Item 7.6; YouTube Livestream: [2:40:46](#) - *Addition to the Agenda*

Administration requested Council's permission to close both the County office and shop for one day in 2022 to allow all staff to participate in a day of training and team building.

### **Decision:**

Council authorizes administration to close the County office for one day to facilitate staff training and directs administration to advertise the closure to the public in advance.

## Council & Committee Reports

Agenda Item 9.0; YouTube Livestream: [1:50:50](#)

Council and Committee Reports includes Community Futures Wildrose, Kneehill Housing, Kneehill Regional FCSS and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) convention.

### **Decision:**

Council received the Council and Committee Reports for information as presented.

## Closed Session

Agenda Item 11.0; YouTube Livestream: [26:20](#); [2:44:36](#)

Council moved the Meeting into Closed Session (Advice from Officials, Section 24, FOIPP).

NEXT Council Meeting: April 12, 2022, 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)