



Council Notes January 24, 2023

Kneehill County Transfer Sites- Overview

Agenda Item 4.1 YouTube Livestream: [22:55](#)

Administration gave an overview of the waste and recycling services Kneehill County offers at our Transfer Stations. Residents can recycle paper and newsprint, scrap metal, wire, tires, white metal, electronics, and more at various [locations throughout the County](#). Kneehill County also belongs to the Drumheller and District Solid Waste Association, giving County residents access to the [Drumheller Landfill](#) and their extensive waste and recycling services.

Decision:

Council received the Kneehill County Transfer Sites Overview presentation for information.

Starland County/Kneehill County Intermunicipal Development Plan

Agenda Item 5.1.1; YouTube Livestream: [51:46](#)

In 2018, amendments to the Municipal Government Act came into effect including the requirement for all municipalities who share a boundary to work together to adopt an Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). Originally Starland County and Kneehill County agreed to be exempt from the requirement to have an IDP, however, due to the potential increase for proposed development on marginal lands, it was determined that a regional approach to this plan area would be beneficial. A Draft Plan was created with input from each municipality, and a Public Hearing regarding the Draft IDP was held on December 13, 2022.

Decision:

Council gave Second and Third Reading to adopt Bylaw 1869, Starland County and Kneehill County Intermunicipal Development Plan.

2023 BMO Farm Family Award

Agenda Item 5.2.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:05:30](#)

The Calgary Stampede Farm Family award is given out each year to recognize those families that ensure the agriculture industry, and their respective rural communities, continue to thrive. Farm family units must be active in primary agriculture, have agriculture as the main source of income, be active in community involvement, and have members residing on the farm. At the January 9th Ag Service Board Meeting, the Board recommended the Lemay family be nominated for this award.

Decision:

Council nominated Lemay Agribusiness Ltd. (Mike & Suzanne Lemay) to receive the 2023 BMO Calgary Stampede Farm Family Award, and approved Deputy Reeve King's attendance to the event.

Appointment of Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief of Torrington Fire

Agenda Item 5.3.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:09:48](#)

Per Fire Services Bylaw 1770, Kneehill County Council must appoint the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief for the District Fire Department (Torrington) every two years.

Decision:

Council appointed Jason Michielsen as Torrington Fire Chief and Derek Benedict as Torrington Deputy Fire Chief for a 2-year term to January 31, 2025.

Overview of Oil and Gas Tax Arrears

Agenda Item 6.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:38:56](#)

Administration provided Council with a report detailing current oil and gas tax arrears, steps admin has taken to collect arrears, and results of past collections. Read the full report in the [Council Package](#) (Item 6.1).

Decision:

Council received the Overview of Oil and Gas Tax Arrears report for information.

Tax Cancellation- Trident Exploration

Agenda Item 6.2; YouTube Livestream: [1:54:06](#)

Despite exhaustive efforts from administration, Kneehill County is unable to collect tax arrears owed by Trident Exploration due to insolvency of the company. Administration is requesting that Council cancel these arrears, totaling \$4,913,262.83.

Decision:

Council moved to expense and cancel the amount of \$4,913,262.83 on Trident Exploration tax rolls, as this amount is no longer collectible.

Tax Cancellation

Agenda Item 6.3; YouTube Livestream: [2:05:51](#)

Administration requested the tax cancellations for two properties in Kneehill County:

- Bleriot Ferry: This property qualifies for the Grants in Place of Taxes program, which was reduced in 2019. The amount left owing is \$311.19.
- Torrington Post Office: This property has not been taxed in prior years; an error discovered by administration. As the post office lease doesn't charge the lessee for taxes, admin is requesting a tax cancellation for 2022 in the amount of \$1,029.19. This property may qualify for the Grants in Lieu of Taxes program going forward (to be determined). If not, the tax levy will be included in future lease negotiations.

Decision:

Council approved the cancellation of taxes on these rolls, for a combined total of \$1,340.38.

Renewable Energy- Information and Lobby Efforts

Agenda Item 7.1; YouTube Livestream: [2:15:56](#)

Kneehill County is one of several areas in the province that are seeing increased attention from renewable energy developers, primarily in wind and solar. When Kneehill County receives calls from landowners considering these developments on their land, the Planning Department directs them to [resources provided by the Farmers' Advocacy Officer](#). Administration is suggesting Kneehill County prepare their own materials to share with residents to help them make an informed decision regarding these developments.

Decision:

Council directed Administration to prepare an information package for landowners considering or affected by renewable energy development on their land.

Community Grant Application- Trochu Ag Society

Agenda Item 7.2; YouTube Livestream: [3:28:29](#)

Kneehill County received a request from Trochu Ag Society for funding in the amount of \$17,500.00, to help them qualify for a CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program) grant. If approved, the CFEP grant will allow the Trochu Ag Society to upgrade their bleachers.

Decision:

Council provided funding to the Trochu Ag Society through the Community Grant program, in the amount of \$17,500.00, for the purchase of new bleachers.

Closed Session

Agenda Item 11.0; YouTube Livestream: [3:52:45](#); [5:44:02](#)

Council moved the meeting into Closed Session. (Personnel (FOIP- Section 17))

• Motion from Closed Session:

Council approved the hiring of a fourth Community Peace Officer Level 1 Position

NEXT Council Meeting: February 14, 2023, at 8:30 am in Council Chambers
1600, 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta.
Agendas are available at www.kneehillcounty.com