



Council Notes March 28, 2023

Renewable Energy Information Session

Agenda Item 5.1.1; YouTube Livestream: [33:54](#)

At the February 28, 2023, Council meeting, Council directed administration to organize an educational event on renewable energy to ensure landowners in the County have the information and tools necessary to make an informed decision if they are considering leasing their land for a renewable energy project.

Decision:

Council set the Renewable Energy Information Session for residents on June 12 or 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm (location to be determined.)

Level of Service Policy

Agenda Item 5.3.1; YouTube Livestream: [40:52](#)

The proposed Policy identifies the Level of Service Council has set for fire services within the County's jurisdiction by any of the fire departments in the region, defining operational expectations on levels of response, equipment, training, safety standards and liability mitigation. Approval of the draft will allow administration to engage with partner municipalities regarding the policy.

Decision:

Council approved the draft Fire Level of Service Policy 4-01, in principle.

Kneehill Medical Clinic Lease

Agenda Item 5.5; YouTube Livestream: [1:32:25](#)

During negotiations for a renewed lease agreement between Kneehill County and the Kneehill Medical Clinic, administration discovered that the Clinic does not qualify for Tax Exempt status, as previously thought. The estimated taxes of \$91,623 are due in 2024, but the current rent the Clinic pays (\$9 ft² per annum or \$7500 per month) is short \$1,623 to cover these taxes. To legally enter into a lease agreement with the Clinic, administration is required to either reapproach the clinic with an increased rate of \$9.24 ft² per annum or \$7700 per month, or to pass a tax exemption bylaw under section 364 of the MGA for "Community Family Medicine Clinic." Administration has received a legal opinion that the Tax Exemption Bylaw route is the best route available to ensure the family medical clinic can continue benefiting from the taxation exemption.

Decision:

Council gave first reading to Bylaw 1882, a Bylaw to provide tax exemption for Community Family Medical Clinics within Kneehill County, and accepted the [Kneehill Medical Clinic Contract presentation](#) for information.

Local Improvement Bylaw Amendments

Agenda Item 6.1; YouTube Livestream: [3:09:32](#)

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 Water Service Area Project Bylaws 1876- Grainger/Hesketh, 1877- Selkirk, and 1878- Sunnyslope Pressure, which were updated due to subdivision activity.

2023 Operating and Capital Budget Approval

Agenda Item 6.2; YouTube Livestream: [3:18:28](#)

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. The municipality's annual budget routinely consists of two components:

- The Operating Budget for day-to-day expenditures (e.g. salaries, wages, benefits, heat, electric, and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure, etc.).
- The Capital Budget for the purchase and financing of assets or improvement of existing infrastructure (e.g., roads, water and wastewater facilities, county facilities and major projects, etc.)

Administration presented Council with the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget Approval report, including current budget challenges and pressures, key investments, and ratepayer impacts, compiled following months of thorough deliberation.

Budget 2023 Schedule:

- Previously:
 - Setting the Stage and New Projects, Council Meeting (February 14, 2023)
 - Budget Book & Budget Deliberation, Committee of the Whole Meeting (February 21, 2023)
 - Response to Council Questions & Information Requests, Council Meeting (February 28, 2023)
 - Budget Discussions Continued, Council Meeting (March 14, 2023)
- **Now: Budget Adoption, Council Meeting (March 28, 2023)**

Decision:

Council approved the 2023 Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,644,444.00, approved the transfers and contributions to reserves, and approved the 2023 Capital Budget and funding sources of \$10,490,853.00.

View the reports in the Council Package:

Budget Approval RFD: <http://ow.ly/mh7g50Nt7pk>

Budget by Function: <http://ow.ly/7hGt50Nt7pl>

Reserves and Grants: <http://ow.ly/ZPkj50Nt7pi>

Operating Projects: <http://ow.ly/pOIH50Nt7pj>

Capital Projects: <http://ow.ly/s1rV50Nt7pm>

NEWS RELEASE: [Kneehill County Council Approves Budget 2023](#)

Bylaw 1875- Repeal of Obsolete Bylaws

Agenda Item 7.1; YouTube Livestream: [3:50:10](#)

To provide good governance, Kneehill County administration has been actively reviewing the database to ensure all County Bylaws are in order and comply with current legislation. The review has discovered many obsolete or redundant bylaws that need to be cleared from County records. [View the list in the Council Package.](#)

Decision:

Council gave three readings to Bylaw 1875 to repeal obsolete, redundant, and outdated bylaws.

Bylaw 1879- Council Code of Conduct

Agenda Item 7.2; YouTube Livestream: [3:54:22](#)

Council must review and update the [Code of Conduct Bylaw](#) at least once every four years. Once passed, all Council members will sign an updated Statement of Code of Conduct.

Decision:

Council approved Bylaw 1879, Council Code of Conduct, as amended.

Village of Carbon Library

Agenda Item 7.3; YouTube Livestream: [5:02:25](#)

Administration received a request from the Village of Carbon for a donation of \$5,000 to the Carbon Library.

Decision:

Council denied the Village of Carbon's library funding request, as Kneehill County already supports the Carbon Library through the Marigold Library System.

Rural Hall Policy- Mt. Vernon Community Association

Agenda Item 7.4; YouTube Livestream: [5:06:51](#)

The Mount Vernon Community Association has requested to move up to a Level B from a Level C in the Rural Community Hall policy as renovations to their hall facility have increased their number of bookings per year.

Decision:

Council increased the Mt. Vernon Community Association from Funding Level C to Funding Level B in Policy 15-13, Rural Community Halls (an additional \$1223.02 per year). Funding levels are determined by facility usage.

Council and Committee Reports

Agenda Item 9.0; YouTube Livestream: [5:10:41](#)

Council and Committee Reports include KRFCSS, Trochu Housing, Kneehill Emergency Management Association, RMA Convention, and the Police Advisory Committee.

Decision:

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

Closed Session

Agenda Item 11.0; YouTube Livestream: [1:01:11](#), [5:26:35](#)

Council moved the meeting into Closed Session.

- Business Interest of a Third Party (FOIP- Section 16)
- Advice from Officials (FOIP- Section 24)

NEXT Council Meeting: April 11, 2023, at 8:30 am in Council Chambers
1600, 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta.
Agendas are available at www.kneehillcounty.com