

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF BRAZEAU COUNTY, HELD IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN BRAZEAU COUNTY ON MONDAY 2022 04 04

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve B. Guyon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

B. Guyon, Reeve
R. Swap, Councillor
D. Wiltse, Councillor
D. Ekstrom, Councillor
C. Brooks, Councillor
A. Heinrich, Councillor
K. Westerlund, Councillor
S. McKerry, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
T. Scharfl, Executive Assistant
J. Grainger, Customer Service/Administrative Assistant
C. Swap, General Manager of Finance

ADDITION TO AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Addition to and Adoption of Agenda

225/22-04-04 Moved by D. Wiltse to approve the agenda with additions:
3. d) Twp 474 Update - D. Ekstrom
3. e) RR 74 south to Twp 484 and 800 m east on RR 74 - D. Wiltse
3. f) Twp 494 and RR 91 - R. Swap
3. g) Twp 492 RR 70 - 65 - A. Heinrich

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPERATING BUDGET

Operating Budget

S. McKerry provided an overview of changes from interim budget and the status of the reserve accounts.

226/22-04-04 Moved by D. Ekstrom that Council receive information from the public today.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC INPUT

Avalie Peck and Perry May submitted a petition for the commercial tax rebate as received in the past. She commented that business is getting better, but the sudden increase in utilities bills is difficult and asked for approval for the 30% commercial tax rebate. Perry May said his power bill has increased \$1200 monthly regardless of the energy improvements he has made to his facilities. They mentioned that residents and business are appreciative of the rebate, but things have not gotten better only worse.

Brent Hodgson remarked on Council's budget process and commended the County for reducing operating costs. He expressed that it is a huge problem for the citizens funding all levels of government as taxes never end.

Shari McPherson commented that for the smaller companies still sitting on empty buildings, the rebate is very helpful.

227/22-04-04 Moved by C. Brooks to add Rebate Request to the agenda.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

228/22-04-04 Moved by R. Swap to move the Rebate Request ahead on the agenda.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

TAX REBATE

S. McKerry reported that the current rebate is funded from operating with the shortfall of \$200,000 coming from reserves.

A. Heinrich and C. Brooks suggested reducing the rebate percentage.

Reeve B. Guyon called for a break at 10:10 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:17 a.m.

229/22-04-04 Moved by R. Swap to take \$200,000 from Buildings Unrestricted Reserve to fund the 30% rebate for 2022

D. Ekstrom offered a friendly amendment:

"for the municipal portion of the property tax for classes 202, 203, 252, 253, 202D, 203D and 253D (commercial rebate classes) and residential/farmland, if the taxes are paid in full by June 30, 2022"

R. Swap accepted the amendment.

230/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich to amend motion 229/22-04-04 to read *"20% rebate."*

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich

C. Brooks

K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

D. Wiltse

R. Swap

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

DEFEATED

VOTE ON MOTION 229/22-04-04

IN FAVOUR

D. Wiltse
R. Swap
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

C. Brooks
A. Heinrich

CARRIED

231/22-04-04

Moved by D. Wiltse to lower the tax rebate percentage next year 5-10%.

IN FAVOUR

D. Wiltse
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

C. Brooks
B. Guyon
R. Swap
A. Heinrich

DEFEATED

**DISCUSSION
ITEMS**

Transfer of Skid Steer

S. McKerry presented a request to retain the decommissioned skid steer within the fleet.

232/22-04-04

Moved by D. Ekstrom to direct Administration to provide a current equipment inventory to Council including age and hours.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

233/22-04-04

Moved by D. Ekstrom to approve the recommendations by Administration *"to the transfer of EQP-0077 (skid steer) to a reserve fleet asset and amend the 2021 approved funding of M96 skid steer replacement to increase the amount withdrawn from Equipment Restricted Reserve from \$69,800 to \$74,527."*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposed Fee Increase

S. McKerry presented a request to increase road use, approach, pipeline and overweight permitting fees.

234/22-04-04 Moved by D. Ekstrom to approve staff recommendation that overweight permits continue to go through RoaData and no administration fees will be charged by Brazeau County.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

235/22-04-04 Moved by K. Westerlund that our Aggregate Levies reflect the current provincial guidelines at \$0.40/tonne.

IN FAVOUR

- A. Heinrich
- D. Wiltse
- R. Swap
- D. Ekstrom
- C. Brooks
- K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

- B. Guyon

CARRIED

236/22-04-04 Moved by K. Westerlund to implement \$150.00 administrative fee for all road use agreements.

IN FAVOUR

- C. Brooks
- A. Heinrich
- D. Ekstrom
- K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

- B. Guyon
- R. Swap
- D. Wiltse

CARRIED

237/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich to implement a \$100.00 oilfield access/approach agreement fee.

IN FAVOUR

- A. Heinrich
- D. Wiltse
- D. Ekstrom
- C. Brooks
- K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

R. Swap
B. Guyon

CARRIED

238/22-04-04

Moved by A. Heinrich to implement an administrative fee of \$150.00 for oilfield pipeline crossing agreements.

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich
D. Wiltse
D. Ekstrom
C. Brooks
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

R. Swap
B. Guyon

CARRIED

Reeve B. Guyon declared pecuniary interested and left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.
Deputy Reeve D. Wiltse assumed the chair.

Willey West Automatic Barrier Gate

S. McKerry presented a request to remove project LAIM-0027 Vehicle Barrier Gate from the 2022 Capital Budget.

239/22-04-04

Moved by D. Ekstrom to remove LAIM-0027 Vehicle Barrier Gate from the 2022 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deputy Reeve D. Wiltse called for a break at 10:56 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:03 and Reeve B. Guyon resumed the chair.

Twp 474 Update

D. Ekstrom asked Council what he could do with the Twp 474 project, realizing Council was still waiting on information from Public Works and if they would consider factoring in the \$268,000.00 in the 2022 budget. Council decided to wait until all the information comes forward from Public Works.

240/22-04-04

Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the Twp 474 discussion for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RR 74 south to Twp 484 and 800 m east on RR 74

D. Wiltse requested costs for project ROAD 170 (RR 74 south to Twp 484 and 800 m east on Twp 484). A. Saltesz estimated \$500,000 - \$600,000 for completion of the project without including a wetlands assessment.

241/22-04-04 Moved by D. Wiltse to reallocate the \$50,000.00 funds that were removed to do the water study for this road out of the road reserve fund.

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich
D. Wiltse
R. Swap
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

C. Brooks

CARRIED

Twp 494 and RR 91

R. Swap requested information on the project and will bring forward to another meeting.

Twp 492 from RR 70 - 65

A. Heinrich commented that this project is already in the budget.

242/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich to add Reserve Allocation to the agenda item 3. i).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reserve Allocation

243/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich to allocate \$500,000.00 from Engineered Structures Reserve to Equipment Reserves.

IN FAVOUR

A. Heinrich
C. Brooks
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

D. Wiltse
R. Swap
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom

DEFEATED

**FINAL BUDGET
APPROVAL**

Approval of 2022 Budget

244/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich to approve the 2022 Operating Final Budget as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

245/22-04-04 Moved by D. Wiltse to approve the 2022 Capital Final Budget as amended.

IN FAVOUR

D. Wiltse
R. Swap
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
K. Westerlund

OPPOSED

A. Heinrich
C. Brooks

CARRIED

246/22-04-04 Moved by K. Westerlund to cancel the April 8, 2022 Council Budget Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

247/22-04-04 Moved by A. Heinrich that the Council Budget Meeting of April 4, 2022 adjourn at 11:56 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Reeve



Executive Assistant