

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF GRANDE CACHE HELD ON TUESDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2006 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PROVINCIAL BUILDING, GRANDE CACHE, ALBERTA

**Present**

L. Krewusik	Mayor
G. Frentz	Deputy Mayor
P. Bailey	Councillor
V. Beland	Councillor
T. Coray	Councillor
J. Dube	Councillor
T. McCormick	Councillor
D. Dukart	Municipal Administrator
S. Wells	Director of Finance
V. Wiseman	Recording Secretary

**Call to Order**

Mayor Krewusik called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Open Session**

No members of the public were in attendance for the Open Session.

**Additions to Agenda**

The following addition was made to the Agenda:

11.3 Municipal Drug Strategies Workshop

**Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No.  
001-06

Motion by Councilor Bailey to adopt the Agenda as amended.

Carried

**Adoption of Minutes**

Regular Meeting  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Motion No.  
002-06

Motion by Councilor Dube to adopt the Minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Regular meeting of Council as presented.

Carried

Regular Meeting  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Motion No.  
003-06

Motion by Councilor Beland to adopt the Minutes of the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Regular meeting of Council as presented.

Carried

**Business Arising From Minutes**

Councilor Beland inquired if any further information was received on behalf of Farnell Properties, regarding the Caveat on their land purchase. Mr. D. Dukart reported no further information had been received.

Mayor Krewusik asked for clarification on Community Futures funding. Councilor Frentz explained that communities could apply for up to \$30,000 individually or \$60,000 if in partnership with other communities.

The money is available for local governments to perform studies, which would lead to economic growth for the area.

Councilor Bailey questioned if this money could be used to fund electrical studies in conjunction with Foothills Forest Products. Councilor Frentz advised the money is not available for private enterprise. Mayor Krewusik noted it would be a good idea for Mr. Joe Ceresa, from Foothills to be invited back to Council to speak in regards to the current situation at the mill, any future plans, etc.

Mayor Krewusik asked about the lights at the Waschuk camp. Councilor Frentz noted they had not been moved (to discuss with Sgt. Art Hopkins later in the meeting).

**Delegations**

None present.

**Committee Reports**

Motion No.  
004-06

Motion by Councilor Bailey to accept Committee Reports, numbered 7.1-7.8.

Carried

**Business Arising from  
Committee Reports**

Councilor Frentz had a question in regard to the Northern Alberta Mayors' & Reeves' Caucus meeting of October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Does the province contribute financially to our local tourism center, and if no, can they direct us to not display tourism information from other provinces? Mr. Dukart noted this policy deals with the provincial tourism centers, not our local one.

Councilor Beland asked if Grande Cache was getting a new ambulance building, listed on Page 04 (budget item) of the Peace Country Health Board Highlights, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Councilor Dube noted the last meeting was the end of October, the next is scheduled for February and she will have more information at that time.

*Mr. S. Wells entered the meeting at 9:12 a.m.*

Mayor Krewusik congratulated Councilor Frentz on being elected President/Chairperson to the West Yellowhead Community Futures Development Corporation at their meeting December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

**New Business**

None.

**Financial Reports**

Payment of Accounts  
Dated  
December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Council was provided with a listing of payroll and accounts payable cheques numbered 20052976 through 20053222, totaling \$347,945.05.

Motion No.  
005-06

Motion by Councilor Frentz to accept the payment of accounts as presented.

Carried

Monthly Cash  
Statement  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005

Motion No.  
006-06

Motion by Councilor Frentz to approve July's monthly cash statement as presented.

Carried

**Correspondence-  
Items for Action**

Evergreens Foundation  
Housing Initiative

Mayor Krewusik noted at a meeting back in November, the Evergreens Board had a discussion with respect to the lack of affordable housing in the Evergreens area. The Alberta Government has approved an additional \$50,000,000 to be used for affordable housing in Alberta, bringing the total funds available to \$140,000,000. The Foundation's idea is to apply for grant dollars to cover four-thirty suite apartments in Grande Cache, Jasper, Edson and Hinton. The project would be initiated, organized and managed by the Evergreens Foundation, fifty percent of the costs would be mortgaged. The units would be self-sustaining. The question they are asking us as a municipality is, is this something the Foundation should pursue? Also, the second page of the letter states, "Conversely, if we find ourselves in a financial predicament in the future due to uncontrollable and unforeseen reasons, would the Town of Grande Cache support a shortfall?" Councilor Beland noted that Council could not afford to turn down an opportunity like this to build affordable housing in our community. Mayor Krewusik explained if there was a financial predicament, the cost would be shared by all communities.

Councilor Bailey noted not all communities will be getting affordable housing. Banff and Canmore are having a real problem. He suggested by acting on this affordable housing initiative now, we could help to divert the problem if Grande Cache continues to grow. Fort McMurray land deals are now including some units designated for low-cost housing; this could be used as a bargaining tool for Grande Cache as well.

Mayor Krewusik stated it is the expectation that the municipality will provide the land on which to build. There is enough land available behind the lodge for them to expand and to build a 30 unit building.

Motion No.  
007-06

Motion by Councilor Frentz to support the Evergreens Foundation in their Affordable Housing Initiative.

Carried Unanimously

AUMA Request  
For Support Letter  
Federal-Provincial  
Agreement on the  
New Deal

Motion No.  
008-06

Motion by Councilor Beland to send a letter to our M.P. requesting that the funding for infrastructure debt and intergovernmental partnership continue no matter the outcome of the election.

Carried

**Municipal Drug  
Strategies Workshop**

This workshop is being planned by the City of Leduc for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. Sgt. Ian Sanderson, RCMP K-Division will be doing a presentation on the production of methamphetamine and activities of clandestine labs within Alberta.

Motion No.  
009-06

Motion by Councilor Frentz to approve expenses of any Councilor who wishes to attend.

Carried

**Correspondence-  
Items for Information**

Motion No.  
010-06

Motion by Councilor McCormick to accept Items numbered 12.1 - 12.25 for information.

Carried

Councilor Beland asked if we were taking advantage of training money outlined in Item 12.2 (Alberta Municipal Affairs, Re: Ground Search and Rescue Training). Mr. Dukart informed Councilor Beland that Mr. Bill Evans was following through with this.

Councilor Bailey, with respect to Item 12.3 (M.L.A. Ivan Strang, Re: Highway 40), has a concern with wide loads on the highway at night. They are not marked well, no pilot trucks, and are very hard to see.

Councilor Coray noted he had received a letter from Mr. Strang regarding oversized loads. It appears industry is putting pressure on government to get permits issued quicker, they are complaining that it takes too long. They are talking about out-sourcing this function of government. Councilor Coray feels this is not the way to go.

Mayor Krewusik noted April is the month when the budget surplus is allocated. Hopefully, there will be positive news for Highway 40.

Councilor McCormick noted the lines are not visible on the section of highway down to the Blue Bridge. Mayor Krewusik suggested a letter be sent regarding the problem to Alberta Transportation.

**Correspondence-  
Not bound in  
Package**

None.

**Other Business**

**Monthly Department  
Reports**

Motion 011-06

Motion by Councilor Beland to accept the monthly department reports as presented.

Carried

**Action Log**

Item 62 (Staff Recruitment): Mr. Dukart noted two candidates have been shortlisted for the Community Development Officer position.

Item 40 (Trail Development): A company who donated \$500 to trail development contacted Councilor Bailey, they hadn't received any feedback. Councilor Bailey noted in future, if anyone donates money, we

should follow up with them. Recognize the donation and inform them how their money was spent.

Item 58 (Website Update): Councilor Frentz asked if Council should look at an outside party to update and maintain our website. Mayor Krewusik noted this would be top priority for the new Community Development Officer. Mr. S. Wells noted the new CDO would administer the site, with direction from Mr. Wells and other staff members.

Guest:  
Sgt. Art Hopkins  
R.C.M.P.

Item 60 (Enhanced Policing Agreement): Sgt. Art Hopkins was in attendance to discuss the Enhanced Policing Agreement with the RCMP and other issues. Sgt. Hopkins noted it was a challenging year, only two members currently in Grande Cache were here at the end of 2004. The rest all came on board in 2005.

The Detachment rolled over to a new computer system, PROS, this has reduced the effectiveness of policing. They are still working out the bugs. At this time, they are unable to tell if there's been an increase in traffic tickets as this information was lost with the new system. Sgt. Hopkins believes there's been an increase in DUI charges, with 90% of offences occurring in town. Again, stats are unavailable. He noted anytime there is an incident regarding out of town workers, the company is notified. The companies seem to be following through with disciplining the offenders.

Sgt. Hopkins checked out the lights at the Waschuk camp. While the lights are very bright, they are not pointed directly at the highway, they are on a 45-degree angle. He advised changing the lights could jeopardize the safety of the camp; people needed to use caution going through this section of highway.

Traffic is a big concern. Sgt. Louis Kuntz was in town last week requesting feedback on the traffic services program. Sgt. Kuntz stated someone from the traffic section should be in town at least once/week. The last time someone was here was October. Sgt. Kuntz has promised to address the issue in the next few days.

Drugs are a problem in Grande Cache, as they are in most places. There has been an increase of drug charges in the past year, there is not a whole lot of deterrent. As far as meth, it's ongoing, people who sell are coming and going continually. Sgt. Hopkins believes it will probably get worse. Mayor Krewusik stated this underscores the importance of an AADAC worker in Grande Cache. Sgt. Hopkins has no knowledge of any meth labs in our area, the drug seems to be coming to town from Hinton and Edmonton.

Sgt. Hopkins received the Enhanced Policing Agreement, he modified it with his changes and forwarded it to Mr. Dukart, who was waiting on information from Ivan Strang, M.L.A. Sgt. Hopkins noted other communities are hiring Members to come in and to carry out specific duties. Sgt. Hopkins would prefer a general duty Member. His superiors are willing to support the rank of Corporal if that individual is doing the same job as everyone else. If just assigned to specific duties, they will not support the rank.

Mayor Krewusik thanked Sgt. Hopkins for his report and noted it was important to proceed with the Enhanced Policing Agreement as quickly as possible.

Recess

Recess called at 10:25 a.m. by Mayor Krewusik.

Reconvened

Reconvened at 10:36 a.m. by Mayor Krewusik.

## Round Table

Councilor Coray noted our community sign in Edson is not lit like the others. Mr. Dukart will look into the possibility/expense of lighting our sign.

Councilor Beland stated the town should look at decorating the trees around the Provincial Building next Christmas. Mayor Krewusik asked that this be put on the Agenda for October 2006.

Councilor Dube asked Councilor McCormick to take the idea of establishing a Big Brother/Big Sister arm in Grande Cache to the FCSS Board for feedback.

Councilor Dube noticed an increase of quads in the back alleys traveling at a fast rate of speed. Mr. Dukart will check with the By-Law Officer to see what is being done to address this issue.

Mary Sibbald appeared at the end of the Council meeting to express her concerns with the newspaper article regarding the Town's decision to hold off on the Recreation Centre expansion. She felt that kind of decision needed to include input from the public. Mayor Krewusik assured her they are planning to involve the community in the decision making process. The plan that was in place did not address the long-term needs.

A new committee, a Committee of the Whole, was formed. The first meeting is planned for January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to devise an action plan, and to decide how the public will be involved, etc. The idea of a plebiscite has already been discussed. The heating and mechanical upgrades must take place, we have grant dollars that have to be spent within a certain time frame to offset some of these costs.

Councilor Frentz noted that the Town of Grande Cache can only service a debt load of \$7,000,000. An effort will definitely be made to keep the community involved.

## Adjournment

Motion No.  
012-06

Motion by Councilor Beland that this Regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Carried

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Mayor

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Municipal Administrator