

**Minutes: FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NOBLEFORD HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 906 HIGHWAY AVENUE, NOBLEFORD on February 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm**

Council Mayor Don McDowell, Councillor Don Holinaty, Councillor Marguerite Wobick, Councillor Pete Pelley, Councillor Don Vincent

Staff Kirk Hofman, Chief Administrative Officer; Lisa Wiebe, Recording Secretary

Call to Order Mayor McDowell called meeting to order at 6:27 pm

Gallery None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
February 16, 2016 Agenda  
#45-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to accept the amended agenda for the February 16, 2016 regular council meeting adding 7.3 *Electricity contract option*. CARRIED

*Noble Central Grad Class presentation and request for use of Complex for Grad 2016 will be made at a future meeting.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
February 2, 2016 Minutes  
#46-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 regular Council Meeting. CARRIED

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Accounts Payable for Ratification  
#47-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to approve the Accounts Payable ratification in the amount of \$37,997.66. CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Alberta Municipal Affairs, Financial Indicators**

The report compares Nobleford to all Alberta municipalities, excluding large cities. Nobleford rates very positive relative to other municipalities.

**#48-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to receive as information the Financial Indicator Graphs from Alberta Municipal Affairs. CARRIED

**CAO Education, EDA Conference April 6-8**

CAO has never attended the Economic Developers Conference before but would like to. This will take place in Kananaskis at the Delta resort April 6-8, 2016. The registration fee of \$575, plus 3 nights' accommodation, meals, mileage and expenses, will cost approximately \$1200 - \$1500.

**#49-2016**


MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to support the CAO attending the EDA Conference in Kananaskis on April 6-8 CARRIED

**Energy Assessment, Electricity & Gas Assessment**

The Village of Nobleford was approached by an energy consulting firm, DNE Resources, who reviewed the village's energy and natural gas usage to find better rates. The current electricity contract expires February of 2017 so this is an opportunity to enter into a new contract (starting at expiration of the current contract) with a different provider that would better meet the needs of the village. A large benefit would be that the variance allowance on usage would go from 10% to 25%, which would reduce the amount of overage (increased fees). Also recommended would be to look into a natural gas-powered generator for pumping water, especially during the high usage months. There is no contract for natural gas usage at this time. Perhaps look into entering the offered contract but ask for it to start in February of 2017.

**#50-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to enter into a 5-year electricity contract with Direct Energy Business Services to start in February of 2017 at a rate of \$0.06796/kwh, as presented by DNE Resources. CARRIED



**REPORTS**

**CAO written Report:** Water repair Rubie Crescent, 2" water line tie into 8" main on Industrial 14 st, WTP compressor repair. Lethbridge County open house at complex at no charge. Southern Alberta Water services is being fine \$100 for operating without a business license in Nobleford, business owner, and RCMP will be meeting to discuss issues.

**Mayor's Written Report:** Feb 4/16. Badlands meeting. Badlands is having some internal issues. The new chair, Mayor of Brooks Barry Morishita, should provide stability...I hope.  
 Feb 5/16. Mayors and Reeves. Presentation by Dr. Linda Vennard, Commissioner, CRTC.  
 Worst presentation in history. Room almost went to sleep.  
 Fibre optic now regulated by the CRTC.  
 Highway 3 Twinning Committee asking for money. Nobleford to pay \$250.00 per annum???  
 Lethbridge warning communities they supply with water...rationing possible in 2016.  
 Federal Environmental Conference Feb 24/26 at the Lethbridge Lodge.  
 City of Olds fiber optic system, 1 gig up, 1 down. WOW!  
 MLA report...73,000 jobs lost in 2015. 23,000 more in Jan of 2016.

**Councillors' Written Reports**

**M.W. written report:** NONE

**P.P. written report:** NONE – Signed up for ORRSC, <sup>thru</sup> 4 day Assessment course, March 7 and 10

**D.V. written report:** NONE

**D.H. written report:** Feb 10 - attended FCSS board meeting. Invitations to All Councils meeting in Taber on April 6 has been sent. Still no clear answers from the province re additional funding money that has been promised. we are moving forward using last years budget numbers pending confirmation of additional money. we have recvd this year's 1st quarter payment. Expected 357,000 but only received 297,000. Feb 19th we will be conducting 6 interviews for the FCSS director's position. Next mtg will be March 9. please let me know if there are any concerns to be brought forward. Thx

**#51-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to receive the CAO, Mayor, and Councillors' reports.

CARRIED

**INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

**City of Lethbridge's Dispatch Integration, Support for ACP Grant**

Nobleford's fire chief supported the City of Lethbridge's Dispatch Integration project.

**#52-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to support the City of Lethbridge's efforts in designing new technology for the emergency dispatch agreement and support their application for an Alberta Community Partnership Grant, and to provide the City of Lethbridge with a letter of support.

CARRIED

**RCMP Stats**

**#53-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to receive the RCMP stats as information and request additional clarification from attending officer at a future meeting.

CARRIED

**Meeting dates, Regular Council meeting are at 6:30 pm.**

**21 regular Council meetings in 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays**

- Mar 1 6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting, with MP Harder
- Mar 15 6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
- April 5 6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
- Apr 19 YPM audit presentation
- May 3 and May 17
- June 7 and June 21
- July 5
- Aug 16
- Sept 6 and Sept 20
- Oct 4 and Oct 18
- Nov 8 and Nov 22
- Dec 6

**#54-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to accept the meeting dates.

CARRIED

**In Camera – 7:56 pm  
Land and Business license issues  
#55-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to go in camera to discuss land development. Mayor McDowell invited the CAO and recording secretary to stay in attendance.

CARRIED

**Out of Camera – 8:08 pm  
#56-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to go out of camera.

CARRIED

**DELEGATIONS**

**Noble Central School, Graduating Class, POSTPONED**

Delegation postponed until next meeting. They will be asking for use of the complex for graduation free of charge. Suggested was to consider asking the class to do something for the village in return.

**Nobleford Fire Chief, Ryan Wagner, 8:10 pm**

Early in year but busy with 22 calls so far. Policy updates still in process. Draft will be submitted once it's ready. Department currently has approximately 20 members. Fire chief is doing administration paperwork due to a sudden leave of absence of one of the members.

Training going well, good attendance. Upcoming is a farm life course in Vauxhall and CP rail safety course (Crude by Rail) in Colorado, funded by CP. Only 40 students allowed per class, very fortunate to get in. Plan is to host some courses here during the upcoming year. Lethbridge doing a large training event soon, spectators are welcome. Training ground keeps getting trashed, usually takes a few hours to clean up and get it ready to use if they need it. The department is consider using grassy area behind fire hall to store items, until funding is available for a fence around the training ground. They would like to build some props but they need to be in a contained area so a fence along Railway Avenue would be needed to secure the proposed site. The cost would come out of the department's training budget.

**#57-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to support the fire department erecting a fence along west boundary of fire hall along Railway Avenue within the restrictions established by the Village.

CARRIED

There is a new program by AHS called Medical First Responder (MFR) aimed at addressing inconsistencies among fire departments and catering to each department as they need it. Coaldale just finished the process and Coalhurst and Nobleford have enrolled. With this program, Nobleford would fall under a medical director the liability on calls would not be solely on the department. Benefits being that with 60% of Nobleford's calls being medical, extra training would be available and changes in standards would be passed down to the rural department. The department would be able to utilize the MFR's skills and benefit many. Nobleford is currently not required to have EMTs or EMRs because of the vicinity of Picture Butte and they do not have to be certified by the Alberta College of Paramedics. But if needed, the members that are EMTs would be able to provide services at an EMT level because they are backed by MFR. MFR is not mandatory but is offered for those interested. No cost and no changes to operation of department other than minor form updates; recertification will be annually online. AHS support for rural fire departments is increasing and this program would help build provincial standards. Physical competency requirements are not established yet, there might be a minimal cost associated. Additional information available online.

With the recent cattle liner roll-overs that department responded to, it became apparent that the department is under-equipped to deal with cattle. Government put out trailers with equipment for this at various locations, the closest one being in Fort Macleod. At the first roll-over here, there were 30-40 loose cattle. At the second incident, all the cattle stayed in the trailer. A request was made to Fort Macleod department for their fencing gates and trailer which arrived in about 30 minutes and proved very effective. Getting the cattle out of the trailer is not the hard part, caring for them afterward is and the fencing and trailer helps with that, having equipment like gates that can be chained together to pen in the cattle. The goal is to keep the cattle alive and healthy. The fire department has been asked why they don't have a trailer such as the one in Fort Macleod. It was noted that over the many years Fort Macleod has had the fencing/gates/trailer, they have never used it until the Nobleford incident. The likelihood of the government being willing to relocate the trailer in Fort Macleod may be an option. A handful of people want to donate the funds to create a similar set-up for Nobleford and District Emergency Services. Even if the trailer and all equipment is funded and gifted to the fire departments, the challenge is using it as part of Nobleford and District Emergency Services capital and operations. One possibility might be to have the association take ownership of it to avoid county involvement. Those donating funds want to see it here so the department is trying to find a way to keep it here. Department has 2 trucks that could pull it and a place to store it. Some training would be required.

Council stated that Nobleford has no need for a fencing/gate/trailer in Nobleford. These incidents occur outside Nobleford and this may be a Lethbridge County issue that they may choose to consider. County would have to consider issues relating to capital costs, operating costs, training, liability costs, building and storage costs. Even if the equipment is gifted to the Fire Fighters society, the Village may choose to not accept it for ownership and use of the Nobleford and District Emergency Services. Maybe the area cattle feedlot operators would accept responsibility for such a service including fencing/gates/trailer.

*For now, continue to call on Fort MacLeod as needed. Nobleford will forward its position to the County.*

The vehicle extrication tools mentioned in December 2015 have not been purchased yet and the fire chief would like to continue pushing for the rechargeable battery operated tools. Hydraulic tools with the pump would cost the same as the battery operated ones. Benefits of battery operated tools are huge; there are lots of challenges with the current hydraulic setup. The cost is a factor causing resistance by the county so possibly look into only getting 2 of the 3 tools originally quoted, to lower the cost. Power of battery operated ones are very comparable to hydraulic. The fire Chief will get 2 new quotes and provide them to CAO.

The fire chief met with Picture Butte and Coalhurst department chiefs to discuss the current situation with Lethbridge County Admin. The county (according to news reports) is considering putting a fire department in the Picture Butte shop and are calling it regionalization, thinking they can operate this with the funds currently being spent and dependent on having a volunteer basis. The fire department has concerns around how this would impact Nobleford. Response time would be dramatically increased if a County fire department was located in Picture Butte. The fire chief's main concern is how to keep providing the same level of service to Nobleford and area community and is unsure if the county would want to consider Nobleford as responder if this occurs. Fire Chief is expecting County consultant to discuss issues with department

Council stated that the fire chief and CAO are not allowed to meet with the consultant unless the consultant is present at a regular council meeting at which time the Village will present its position including a written statement. Council also stated they are willing to send CAO and or Mayor to any Fire Department meeting to reassure the fire department that Council and Administrations share their concerns and are in discussions with the County and other Municipalities.

The fire chief received an email about a presentation regarding county cams but it was canceled. Council suggested to have a joint meeting with Municipalities that have current agreements with the County and that only CAO's attend, not the support staff of administration. Topic of discussion will be issues related to Lethbridge County emergency services. Coaldale, Picture Butte, Coalhurst, Lethbridge County and Nobleford would be attending the meeting.

*Fire chief to do a write-up for the next newsletter regarding the training they are doing including the CPR course.*

**Joint Emergency Services Meeting  
#58-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to support circulating an invitation to Coalhurst, Coaldale, Picture Butte, and Lethbridge County for a meeting with Mayor's/Reeve and respective Councillors, including the CAOs, (not Administration support staff), to discuss emergency services and that the Nobleford Mayor and CAO prepare a brief presentation for council for this anticipated meeting.

**CP Rail** CARRIED

An email was sent to CP regarding some old rail ties and possibly doing a controlled burn to clean up the area at the turnout to Nobleford that can't be mowed. CP sent someone to clean up the rail ties and the name of a contact regarding the burn. *The fire chief will do an evaluation to see if a burn is possible and have discussions with CPR representatives Rocky Zachuck, and Craig L.*

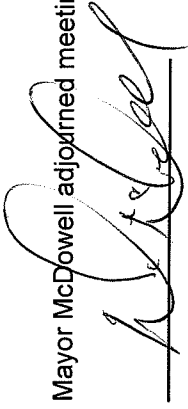
**#59-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to send an e-mail letter to CP contact, Bill Scarf, thanking CP Rail for clean-up of the rail ties along Railway Avenue.

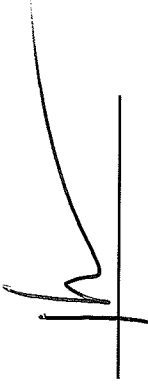
CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McDowell adjourned meeting at 9:30 pm



Mayor



Administrator