

Minutes: FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF NOBLEFORD HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 906 HIGHWAY AVENUE, NOBLEFORD on January 21, 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

Gallery None

Call to Order Mayor McDowell called meeting to order at 6:31 pm

Open floor to citizens, Mayor stated that citizen statements will be recorded and welcomed **Magdalena Thim & son, Klaus Thim** in attendance, reported that:

- Neighbor has dog, barks all day. From 7 am to 7-10pm. She to neighbour across street on Sep 19 and together talked to dog owner, who was surprised at dog barking but dog continued barking during the conversation and the owner did not tell dog to be quiet. No change since then. Tried phoning the dog catcher and played phone tag with her since September. Dog catchers she's been out here; talked to her just before New Years and she recommended keeping track of when dog barks but that's not very easy. Kept track for a couple days. Expected return phone call and that's not happening. The barking needs to stop. Neighbours say they don't hear the dog. Live at 717 centennial, dog is at 713 centennial. Boxer dog, outdoors mostly but has a dog door to go inside if it wants. Owners are not home during the day for the most part (except weekends). Don't talk to the neighbours. Moving is not an option.
- Does dog bark when owners are home? Yes. Said they thought of kennel training it but no change has happened. Dogs do bark but this is too much.
- Klaus's room is right by the dog, it's annoying to constantly hear it in the background.
- Filed complaint form with Village on October 9, what good is the form? Is the dog allowed to bark? Is this just okay?

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA
January 21, 2016 Agenda
#13-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to accept the agenda for the January 21, 2016 regular council meeting with the addition of the dog barking complaint from Magdalena Thim.

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
January 5, 2016 Minutes
#14-2016**

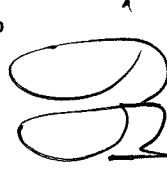
MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lethbridge County

- Mayor and CAO met with Reeve and CAO of Lethbridge County to discuss manure, and learned of a potential per-head tax on cattle which should help address issues with manure. The County is fine with Nobleford's deal with Feedlots directly and has no opposition to NRCB including Nobleford / feed lot operators conditions or agreements in NRCB licence approvals, Reeve and CAO will recommend to council that the outstanding \$18,000 fire hall rent for 2014 be paid. Regarding FD, AB transportation billing, the county recognizes Nobleford has a valid concern with having 2 vehicles belonging solely to the village and the volume of calls being attended. Nobleford will not be invoicing AB Transportation for MVC calls until County and Village come to a mutual agreement on how to pay Nobleford for its attendance at MVC. This will be discussed further once the fire hall rent is paid. There are challenges regarding Lethbridge County's fire rescue administrator and support staff, along with the new consultant they've hired. Doesn't seem they are doing much that is actually helping the fire departments but the county doesn't see a problem. For example, the CAM GPS: the fire departments don't see the use of it but the county pushes it even though the expense doesn't seem worth what it offers. Nobleford may be seen as rocking the boat but other fire departments are too. Nobleford has loaned Coalhurst one of its trucks (which has no involvement with the county). Council reviewed the draft letter regarding County and consultant perusing regionalization issues;



DRAFT: In January 2016 Lethbridge County stated that their expenditures for fire and rescue as well as Disaster management cannot be sustained and that they are hiring a consultant to suggest perusing: 1) regionalization of fire and rescue services with the four Municipalities of Nobleford, Picture Butte, Coalhurst and Coaldale within the County. They also want to have a, 2) regional disaster management plan. These are two separate issues. Both have been studied and then evaluated and the County seems to be the only player in the game that sees regionalization of the various municipalities that operate fire and rescue department's fire and rescue services as a benefit. The County does not operate a fire and rescue department but does identify 4 administrative personnel plus consultants to manage their affairs. Nobleford will receive approximately \$111,000 for 2016 operating from the County for a 20 member department (similar to other departments). 70% of the fire and rescue calls Nobleford respond to are in the County. Capital expenditures like fire trucks and buildings are in addition to operating and may vary each year. The financial contribution ratio is based on need and use and has created efficiencies. Sharing purchases of fire trucks has proven cost effective for both parties. Nobleford does not support the long term equipment and vehicle replacement schedules, proposed by the County and suggests less bureaucracy and simply more practical care and maintenance and conservative purchasing. At times it seems discussions with the county intended to improve efficiency and effectiveness result in frustration and costly wastes of time.

The County's contribution to operation costs of Nobleford, Picture Butte, Coalhurst and Coaldale are probably about 1/3 of the County's 2016 reported 1.5 million dollar budget (note the significant increase in budgets of the past 5 years). It's certainly not the 4 municipalities operating costs that are burdening the County that now increase a meager 2% per year. Fact is that these 4 municipalities save the County thousands of dollars and provide service that could not be attainable by the County by itself. Regionalization of these 4 municipalities, fire and rescue service, is unreasonable and will only create more bureaucracy more cost and most likely less service. The County's involvement, or lack of involvement will not change the service delivered to the County by each department, this is proven.

As for a regional disaster management plan, there is no need for another complicated county bureaucratic process; a simple coordination of each other's emergency (disaster) response plan will suffice. Any disaster that happens in Nobleford will include Lethbridge County and possibly other municipalities included in our mutual aid agreements. Alberta Government, Alberta Emergency Management Agency, (AEMA) already has a new computer program in place called Community Emergency Management programs (CEMP) that allows coordination options to take place.

Council agreed that this draft states the Village situation quite well and will be discussed at future meetings.

- Fire Chief would like to attend Council meeting for 1 hour to update council on policies, new training, etc. Canadian Pacific Railway, CPR, has approved to pay for 2 people from Nobleford FD to go to Colorado for railway disaster training, 2 people from Coalhurst also attending.

#15-2016

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to receive as information the update on communications with Lethbridge County regarding manure stock piling, outstanding fire hall rent, MVC billing to Alberta Transportation, and concerns identified in draft position letter with the Lethbridge County Emergency Services, and to invite the Fire Chief to make presentation at February council meeting.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

Accounts Payable for Ratification #16-2016

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to approve the Accounts Payable ratification in the amount of \$48,850.29.

CARRIED

Subdivision Reserve Transfers, \$527,826.07 #17-2016

MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to ratify the audit transfers of \$527,826.07 to balance the subdivision reserve expenditures.

Report Date 15/01/2016 11:27 AM
 Village of Nobleford
 GL Journal Entry Posting Audit Trail
 For the Period Ended 31/12/2015
 Batch # 2015-00499 - Trfr to Reserves
 Page 1

Tr #	Account #/Description Source	Date	Transaction Description	Project Code/Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
1	2-66-000-400 - Tr To Subdivision Reserve	31/12/2015	Trfr to Subdivision Reserve 4-66-708		430,188.00	
2	4-66-000-708 - Subdivision Reserve	31/12/2015	Trfr to Subdivision Reserve			430,188.00
3	4-66-000-708 - Subdivision Reserve	31/12/2015	Trfr to Subdivision Reserve			
4	5-66-000-708 - Tr. Fr. Subdivision reserve	31/12/2015	Trfr from Subdivision Reserve 4-66-708		97,638.07	
	k12/kh2	31/12/2015	Trfr from Subdivision Reserve			97,638.07

Total Debits: 527,826.07
 Total Credits: 527,826.07
 Difference: 0.00

Total Non Ledger: 0.00

CARRIED

**Budgetary Control Report
#18-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Wobick to receive as information the December 31, 2015 budgetary control report.

2016 budget will be on the Feb 2, agenda.

CARRIED

**ATB MasterCard Statement
#19-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Vincent to receive as information the ATB MasterCard Statement.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

2016 Tax Bylaw, Non-Residential Minimum Levy

Minimum tax levy was put in place for non-residential properties of \$480 per parcel. A loop hole has been identified. It is possible for property owners to amalgamate multiple parcels into 1 parcel, resulting in a potential avoidance of the intended tax levy. Suggestion to change the tax bylaw to have a minimum levy of \$480 or \$.120 per square meter, whichever is more (there are 4046 sq m in acres). Council discussed fair taxation and agreed that a revision is appropriate.

**2016 Tax Bylaw, Non-Residential Minimum Levy
#20-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to approve the 2016 tax bylaw section regarding minimum levy on non-residential parcels to read \$480 per parcel or \$.120 per square meter, whichever is more.

CARRIED

2016 Municipal Tax Minimum Levy

In 2013, the decision was made to reduce the mill rate by 1% each year until a tax-free year in 2018. In 2012, the residential mill rate was 1.4 (meaning that each \$100,000 of residential property value would be taxed \$140.00). The mill rate objectives for future years being: 2013 =1.38, 2014=1.37, 2015=1.35, **2016=1.34**, 2017=1.33, 2018=0. Those objectives have been significantly surpassed with the 2015 single family, R1, R2, residential mill rate being .39 (meaning that each \$100,000 of residential property value was taxed \$39.00). This does not cover the cost to collect taxes, which is estimated at \$75 per property. In 2015 the median municipal portion of property tax for single family dwelling homes in Nobleford was \$101 on a \$260,000 valued property. CAO present examples:

All the following options maintain Councils 2013 tax reduction parameters:

- 1- An increase of minimum levy to \$120, would impact dwellings with assessed value under \$310,000, at a minimum of \$1.00 to a maximum of \$85. 415
- 2- An increase of minimum levy to \$100, would impact dwellings with assessed value under \$260,000, at a minimum of \$1.00 to a maximum of \$65. 348
- 3- An increase of minimum levy to \$75, would impact dwellings with assessed value under \$193,000, at a minimum of \$1.00 to a maximum of \$40. 258
- 4- An increase of minimum levy to \$200, would impact dwellings with assessed value under \$500,000, at a minimum of \$1.00 to a maximum of \$165. 670

For 2018, there will be a 0.00 residential mill rate and no minimum levy. Property owners still pay the School tax and senior housing tax that the Village collects for the Province. Since 2008 Nobleford has been recognized as having the lowest tax rates in Alberta and nearly highest asset value.

**2016 Municipal Tax Minimum Levy
#21-2016**

MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to approve the 2016 tax bylaw section regarding minimum levy on residential parcels of \$100.00 (one hundred dollars) and shall be applicable to all Residential parcels

CARRIED

Dog Concern

Complaint was filed by Mrs. Thiim as she stated in October 2016 (presented to Mayor and Council for viewing). Dog catcher was informed and has responded to Thiims, visited Nobleford and has seen the dog twice, dog barks a few times at first sight but it doesn't do so for long and does not respond negatively to prompting. Dog owner is willing to meet with their neighbor, if someone else is there.

Concerns that Mrs. Thiim says the dog catcher hasn't responded will be discussed with dog catcher. Since October VON staff have been trying to observe the dog, VON staff saw the dog on the deck earlier in the day, January 21, 2016, approached it and whistled at it, and it did not bark in response. When VON staff moved towards the dog, it ran away.

CAO has visited the property 3 times and still never seen the dog. There have been no other complaints against the dog. The position of each property back yard deck exposes each exterior deck directly to each other. Dog owners are often not home during the day and dog runs in back yard. At this point the Dog catcher feels that there is no evidence to levy a fine. Village bylaws are not being contravened. The Thiims complaint is valid to them and merits consideration in the interest of neighborly citizenship. Once the minutes are ratified, this is public record and CAO will present minutes to the dog owner, Thiims, and dog catcher in an effort to improve the situation.

#22-2016

MOVED BY Councillor Holinaty to receive as information the complaint regarding a barking dog and that the CAO follow-up with dog catcher and dog owner and report back at a February meeting.

CARRIED

REPORTS

CAO written Report:

January 21, 2016 CAO Hofman report to Council.

1- Good Morning Kirk, January 10, 2016. A young lady that works for Lethbridge Health Services and attends to shut ins stopped in the Village on Saturday late afternoon to pick up a pop or something at the store, she kept her car running and had her dog with her, picture below. She was no more than 5 minutes and her dog was gone when she came out. They took the collar off the dog and threw it back in her vehicle. Is there any chance that you could notify your Public Service guys so they can keep an eye out for the dog? He is a very friendly Shepherd/Pitbull cross, only a year old. She is totally beside herself, which I totally understand. Your help in this is appreciated, it has been reported to the RCMP, as well as CTV Lethbridge. It is also all over the Facebook and people are looking for him.

Thanks, Trudy Smith P.S. Rumors have it that Pitbulls have disappeared from Nobleford before, I sure hope not.

CAO ; this has been reported to Dog catcher and staff, poster put up and discussion with RCMP.

2- AXIA , My discussion with Jason from AXIA Jan11 states plans are to have AXIA fiber optic in service to Nobleford in February 2016. I am working with the school and AXIA regarding AXIA sponsoring one of the teams in coordination with the kick off event/ news release.

3- Public Works should be getting cleaned up and organized, See attached photos of 2015 before and 2016 now. Tour is available.

4- Public works training in water and waste water certification is set for Cody in Lethbridge April 18-19 and May 25-26, Logan in Banff March 22 to 25.

5- FCSS extends appreciation;

Hello Everyone,

A big Thank You for letting us use the complex last night. We had 11 dads come out with their 17 children. One Opa came. We had such a wonderful time. Great comments about the evening were recorded. We ordered 9 pizzas from Eddies. At the end of the evening every child went home with a big bag of lego and big smiles. Dads learned how important they are to the wellbeing of their children. It was so wonderful to see dads pulling their children around the gym on blankets and making connections with other dads. We hope to continue these events. The next one is in the works, something about dads and trucks and tractors. A hands on event. I will keep you posted. These events are being brought to our community by the Early Years Connection Project, formally known as the EC Mapping. Cynthia Chisholm is the Co-ordinator. All the best to you and your families in the New Year.

Brenda Rathwell, 403-320-1931 Parenting and Family Coach,
Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services

6- Museum building electrical permit was issued to electrician Jim Van Egmond electric January 8, 2016, work has started.

7- PW employee was called for consideration for Jury duty starting January 11, 2016. CUPE agreement stated Nobleford pays salary while he is serving. I have been in discussion with CUPE and Cody and on December 30, 2015 sent the following letter to ;

Deputy Sheriff Judicial Center of Lethbridge

I have received a copy of the December 16, 2015 letter you sent to Cody Hofman denying his request to be exempt from Jury duty commencing on Monday, 11th day of January 2016. Cody was hired by the Village of Nobleford on October 15, 2015 and is under 6 months probation until April 15, 2016, at which time I will consider the option to offer him full time employment. Cody is one of two employees in Noblefords Public Works Department. If Cody is absent from his job, there is no one to cover his duties and I would be hiring another person to do his work. I am in discussion with CUPE regarding Noblefords obligation to pay Cody while sitting as a juror, considering this probationary period.

Mayor's NO Written Report:-- verbal report: attended Mayors & Reeves meeting on Jan 8th.

-Had meeting on Jan 21, 2016 with CAO and Picture Butte NRC representatives as they are looking at possibly renting the complex on Sundays to hold services for approximately 400 people. Would need to look at traffic control and storing an electric organ, bibles, hymnals, etc. They also discussed the annexed land and plan for development.

-MP Rachael Harder sent a letter expressing a desire to meet with council. If she is not able to attend one of the regular council meetings then possibly move the March 1 meeting to March 3 to accommodate her.

Councillors' Written Reports

M.W. NO written report: None

P.P. NO written report: None – ORRSC is discussing Assessment Review Board and doing some training March 7 – 10 and Councillor Pelley may be interested, there would be no cost to Nobleford. In the past Nobleford chose not to participate in training considering there have not been any assessment appeals filed in over 10 years and with the tax regime planned for the future, appeals are not anticipated and training in other areas may prioritize over this. Councillor Pelley may present information to be included in next Council meeting package. Councillor Pelley questioned budget line items include in 2016 budget draft approved in Nov 2015, Mayor indicated that these items could be further discussed during budget discussions.

D.V. NO written report: None – commented that Council had voted to have no franchise fee but yet a small amount shows up on gas/electric utility bills, so it was explained that this is the property tax. They have been asked change the description to accurately reflect what it is.

D.H. written report email Jan 17: No subdivision appeal board business.

- Jan 13 2016 - Fcss board meeting. Advertisements have been posted for the Directors position (Brett Drewry retiring). to date we have received 4 responses. the cutoff of date is January 27th
- the selection committee is Cathy Needham , Merrill Harris and Don Holinaty.
- there is an all council meeting planned for April 6 2016 in Taber. invitations will be forwarded thru cao.

- Brett reported that there is considerable confusion regarding the additional funding the province has promised. we'll have to wait until the bureaucrats sort it out know the impact on FCSS budgets.

Mayor McDowell left council chambers at 9:15 pm; Deputy Mayor Wobick assumed the chair.

CAO reminded Council to that REPORTS, to be emailed to admin@nobleford.ca the Thursday prior to meeting to be included in meeting package. Bylaw #595, 2, a and b.

#23-2016

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

CARRIED

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

21 regular Council meetings in 2016, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Feb. 2, 2016	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
Feb. 16, 2016	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
Mar 1	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
Mar 15	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
April 5	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
Apr 19	6:30 pm, Regular Council Meeting
May 3 and May 17	YPM audit presentation
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	

#24-2016

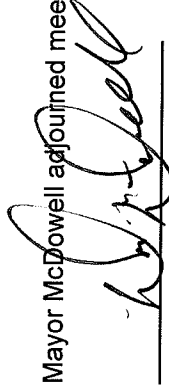
MOVED BY Councillor Pelley to accept the meeting dates.

CARRIED

McDowell returned to council chambers at 9:17 pm and assumed the chair.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McDowell adjourned meeting at 9:17 pm



Mayor



Administrator