



## Council Notes February 9, 2021

### Public Hearing- Keiver's Lake Road Closure

*Agenda Item 3.1; YouTube Livestream: [1:54:38](#)*

Keiver's Lake Campground is comprised of two separate titles, and some improvements which are located on an undeveloped road allowance. In April 2020, Council directed Administration to pursue the road closure and consolidation of the undeveloped road allowance within the Keiver's Lake Campground into one title, bringing the property into compliance with the County's planning and development policies.

The next step in the Road Closure process was to hold a Public Hearing to allow for public comments and feedback.

**Decision:**

No written submissions or feedback were received at the Public Hearing.

### Delegation- Great Plains MDF

*Agenda Item 3.2 & 9.1; YouTube Livestream: [4:52:28](#); [6:19:04](#)*

Great Plains MDF presented Council with information regarding their plans to develop a facility in Kneehill County that will produce MDF (medium density fiberboard) from wheat and barley straw. Watch the full presentation on our [YouTube channel](#).

**Decision:**

Council received the presentation as information.

### Highway 27, Torrington Speed Reduction

*Agenda Item 4.1; YouTube Livestream: [24:56](#)*

Administration received an email from Alberta Transportation requesting a letter of support from Kneehill County for the speed limit to be reduced on Highway 27 in the Torrington area. Currently, the speed limit on the Highway is 100 km/hr up to the corporate limits of the hamlet of Torrington, where the speed drops to 50 km/hr. There is no transition zone in place, which would help motorists slow down and help alleviate some safety concerns.

**Decision:**

Council moved to write a letter of support to Alberta Transportation to reduce the speed limit on Hwy 27 in the Torrington region with a "transition zone" of 70km/hr, to help motorists slowdown before entering corporate limits of 50 km/hr.

### Orkney Water Co-op

*Agenda Item 5.2.1; YouTube Livestream: [32:50](#)*

A representative of the Orkney Water Co-op contacted Kneehill County in regards to the County assuming the operation and ownership of their water system, which services a small area of residences in the southeast. If Kneehill County were to become owners of the system, there would be some costs associated with the operation, including some recommended upgrades and required utility personnel.

**Decision:**

Council directed Administration to explore with the Orkney Water Co-op a plan for Kneehill County to possibly assume ownership and operation of the system.

## Campground Fee Adjustment

Agenda Item 5.3.1; YouTube Livestream: [2:28:27](#)

Kneehill County campground booking fees have not been adjusted since 2018. Adjusting the booking fees in 2021 would keep the County in a similar range to other campgrounds in the region, based on the services offered.

**Decision:** Council approved the amended Campground fee adjustments, which were changed in the Master Rates Bylaw prior to final reading.

- All Serviced Sites- \$35
- Unserviced- Keiver's Lake- \$25
- Unserviced- Other Campgrounds (Torrington, Bracconier Dam, Swalwell Dam)- \$20
- Tenting- Keiver's Lake- \$25
- Tenting- Other Campgrounds (Torrington, Bracconier Dam, Swalwell Dam) - \$20

## Horseshoe Canyon Pay-Parking

Agenda Item 5.3.2; YouTube Livestream: [2:42:55](#)

Administration is recommending that Council consider a Pay-Parking Pilot project at Horseshoe Canyon in 2021, based on the success of a similar pay-parking pilot conducted by the Town of Drumheller at the Hoodoos in 2019 and 2020. The pilot project at the Canyon would provide a trial season to assess any site-specific challenges (ie. traffic flow, parking attendant location, safety concerns), before moving forward with more permanent infrastructure on site. Based on Drumheller's reports, the project will cost approximately \$40,000 annually to operate (2 seasonal staff, signage, handout and marketing material, internet/phone), and bring in \$40,000 in revenue (charging \$2 a car.)

**Decision:**

Council approved \$2/vehicle for pay parking fees at Horseshoe Canyon in Master Rates Bylaw 1831 & directs administration to include \$40,000 in both the 2021 Operating Expense & 2021 Operating Revenue Budgets for a pay parking pilot project at Horseshoe Canyon.

## Emergency Communications System Upgrade Project Change Request

Agenda Item 5.4.1; YouTube Livestream: [2:54:48](#)

Assessments of the Emergency Communications System in 2019 showed areas of poor coverage in all of the fire districts, and countywide problems with communications on fire scenes, potentially putting first responders at risk. In June of 2020, Council approved the recommended option for a "Digital Emergency Communications System with AFRRCS option" to improve the existing system, increasing the budget for the project from \$310,000 to \$960,250-- however, additional assessments completed recently discovered further issues within the tower system. Administration is now recommending changing the project from "Digital with AFRRCS option" to "AFFRCS" only. (AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System) is a two-way radio network for first responders in municipal, provincial and First Nations agencies across the province.) The change to AFFRCS will allow for better communications coverage County-wide, alleviate issues with towers, and will increase the project budget by another \$17,750.00.

**Decision:**

- Council changed the scope of the emergency communications upgrade project to AFRRCS instead of Digital System with AFRRCS, cancelling the existing agreement with the project contractor.
- Council amended Project B1943 in the 2021 Capital Budget from \$960,250 to \$978,000, with additional funds of \$17,750 to come from Contingency Funds.
- Council moved to have Administration review the ICF Fire Agreements to ensure whether a clarification/Memorandum of Understanding is needed with all contracted municipalities in regards to the communications system.

## Master Rates Bylaw 1831

*Agenda Item 7.1; YouTube Livestream: [5:47:04](#)*

Kneehill County's Master Rates Bylaw establishes rates, fees, and charges for various County operations, products, permits, and services, reviewed annually and updated each year. View a list of proposed amendments and changes to fees for 2021 in the [Council Package](#).

### **Decision:**

Council gave third reading to the bylaw, passing Master Rates Bylaw 1831.

## Town of Trochu/Trochu Housing Corporation Request

*Agenda Item 7.2; YouTube Livestream: [57:50](#); [2:15:49](#)*

Trochu Housing Corporation has requested Kneehill County's support to provide financial backing to the Town of Trochu as they borrow \$20 million dollars to finance the construction of their Seniors Supportive Living Facility project.

### **Decision:**

Council moved that Kneehill County commit to proceed with the appropriate legislative steps prescribed in the MGA of Alberta that will allow for the implementation of the bylaw(s) required to be able to provide financial backing, in the form of Security, to the Town of Trochu for the borrowing of up to \$20 Million, for a period of time not to exceed four (4) years.

The understanding is that the provided Security, if appropriate bylaws are passed, will support the Town of Trochu in obtaining interim (bridge) project financing during the construction of the Trochu Senior's Supportive Living Facility.

The following conditions apply:

1. The Town of Trochu and Kneehill County must meet all legislated requirements with respect to borrowing and extending debt limits and provision of the Security.
2. Capital grant funding of \$19 Million must be approved.
3. Trochu Housing Corporation is required to validate sales of a minimum of 90% of the 24 Life Lease Units prior to the commencement of construction.
4. The Security provided by Kneehill County will be available for four (4) years from the date the Town of Trochu and Kneehill County sign the necessary intermunicipal agreements.
5. The Town of Trochu shall be responsible for any costs incurred by Kneehill County associated with the development, implementation and maintenance of the Security.
6. Guarantee by the Town of Trochu and Trochu Housing Corporation that no other financial or material commitments beyond the Security to be requested of Kneehill County.
7. Commitment by the Town of Trochu and Trochu Housing Corporation that there will be no future request to Kneehill County for financial support or requisitions to operate the Trochu Senior's Supportive Living Facility.
8. Prior to any further project design or construction, the Town of Trochu must engage their residents/ratepayers in an Open House/Information Forum on the project and receive a favorable response. As part of the public engagement, the Town of Trochu will provide formal recognition that should the Town of Trochu become unviable, any and all debts incurred by the Town, will be the responsibility of the properties/ratepayers within the current Town of Trochu limits to repay.
9. Town of Trochu will allow Kneehill County to appoint a Board Member to the Trochu Housing Corporation Board for the period of the build and during any time period that the Kneehill County Security is in effect.
10. Should any project asset be required to change ownership or be liquidated, Kneehill County's Security will terminate, and Kneehill County will be reimbursed for any outstanding amounts, prior to and as part of the change.
11. The Town of Trochu will ensure that the necessary insurance coverage is in place during all parts of construction and commissioning of the building.
12. The Town of Trochu will indemnify the County for all aspects of the project.
13. If the Town of Trochu fails to meet the above conditions, and the required agreements between Kneehill County and the Town of Trochu are not finalized prior to the October 2021 municipal election, this agreement will then have to be reaffirmed by the Kneehill County Council elected at that time.

## Doctor Retention and Recruitment Committee Terms of Reference

*Agenda Item 8.1; YouTube Livestream: [5:54:10](#)*

Council had previously submitted the redrafting of the Doctor Recruitment and Retention Task Force Terms of Reference as a desired project with the Kneehill Regional Partnership, however, a proposed Terms of Reference was recently approved in principle and forwarded to the Task Force for discussion at an upcoming meeting. Rather than approve a Terms of Reference already created, Council feels it is better to approach and determine the Terms of Reference together through the Partnership.

### **Decision:**

Council reaffirmed its position that a redraft of the Doctor Recruitment and Retention Task Force Terms of Reference be conducted by the Kneehill Regional Partnership through the Partnership process.

## Xplornet Letter of Support Request

*Agenda Item 8.2; YouTube Livestream: [6:01:09](#)*

Xplornet is an internet provider in the County requesting a letter of support as they apply to the Universal Broadband Fund, which would grant them the potential for increased service to the Torrington, Wimborne and Sunnyslope area, including possible “Fiber to the Home” and significant 5G upgrades to the Xplornet towers servicing the County.

### **Decision:**

Council directed administration to provide a letter of support for Xplornet regarding their application to the Universal Broadband Fund.

## Cancellation of February 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

*Agenda Item 8.3; YouTube Livestream: [6:05:36](#)*

As there were no agenda topics scheduled for the COW meeting on February 16, 2021, Administration recommended that the meeting date be cancelled.

### **Decision:**

Council cancelled the Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for February 16, 2021.

## RMA District 2 Questions

*Agenda Item 8.4; YouTube Livestream: [6:07:28](#)*

The Rural Municipalities of Alberta Director for District 2 has contacted member municipalities seeking input on the top three to five issues municipalities are currently facing, which will likely be used for guidance to inform RMA directions and decision making.

### **Decision:**

Council responded to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, outlining the top issues, in no priority, facing Kneehill County as: lack of consultation from the Province regarding changes to municipalities, continued downloading of Provincial costs to municipalities, a lack of enforcement mechanism to ensure payment of Oil & Gas taxes, non-payment of Oil & Gas Industry taxes, and Rural Crime.

## Council and Committee Reports

*Agenda Item 10.0; YouTube Livestream: [6:20:04](#)*

Council and Committee reports include Community Futures Wildrose.

### **Decision:**

Council received the Council and Committee Reports for information.

## Closed Session

*Agenda Item 12.0; YouTube Livestream: [6:25:40](#)*

Council moved the meeting into Closed Session: Third Party Business Interest (FOIP, Section 16 & 25)

NEXT Council Meeting: February 23, 2021, at 8:30 am in Council Chambers  
1600, 2nd Street NE, Three Hills, Alberta.  
Agendas are available at [www.kneehillcounty.com](http://www.kneehillcounty.com)

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