

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present: Mayor J. Hunter

Councillors S. Hurley, G. Majeran & D. Richards

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg
Director of Finance & Administration G. Switenky

Press (2)

Absent: Councillors A. Campbell, L. Thorogood & R. Peeples

Call to Order: Mayor J. Hunter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1/2. **Agenda Additions/Approval:**

Motion 06:12:01 Moved by Councillor Richards to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. **Confirmation of Minutes:**

(a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on November 21, 2006

Motion 06:12:02 Moved by Councillor Hurley that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on November 21, 2006 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Business Arising from the November 21, 2006 Minutes

(i) None

4. **Citizen's Forum:** (a) None

5. **Delegations:** (a) Concerned Bus Drivers re: Residential Parking of School Buses

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

(b) 7:30 P.M. – Sgt. Kevin Picard re: New Staff Introductions

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

6. **Administration:** (a) Memo re: Interim Operating Budget 2007

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg explained that an Interim Operating Budget is required by the *Municipal Government Act* to provide legal expenditure authority until the 2007 Operating Budget and Mill Rate Bylaw is adopted in March/April 2007.

Council and Senior Administration held an operating budget session on November 28th, 2006 where Council reviewed the financial impacts on three consecutive years of organizational activities 2007 – 2009. Administration has adjusted and recalculated the forecasts as directed and requires Council to adopt an Interim Operating Budget for the year 2007.

Motion 06:12:03

Moved by Councillor Majeran that the Town of Stettler Council adopt, per Section 242(2) of the *Municipal Government Act*, the adjusted First Draft 2007 Operating Budget Estimates totaling \$11,696,220 as an Interim Operating Budget for that part of 2007 prior to the Operating Budget being adopted by Council.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) Memo re: Jaws of Life

Town Council reviewed a memorandum from Mark Dennis, Regional Fire Chief regarding the replacement of Jaws of Life equipment. The replacement of this equipment was approved in the 2006 Capital Budget (\$37,000) subject to concurrence with the County of Stettler.

Administration is recommending accepting the low bid from Shadow Hawk Inc. at a cost of \$37,000. It was noted that Shadow Hawk has serviced the current Fire Department Jaws of Life equipment in the past with good results. The Town's Purchasing Policy requires this amount and type of expenditure to be approved by Council.

Further it was stated that the County of Stettler intends on purchasing the Town's share of the old rescue truck and equipment and moving this equipment to Byemoor as part of a regional rescue/protection plan.

Motion 06:12:04

Moved by Councillor Richards that the Town of Stettler Council accept the low bid from Shadow Hawk Inc. at a cost of \$37,000 for the replacement of Jaws of Life equipment.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(c) Stettler & District Handibus Society 2007 Budget

Town Council reviewed correspondence and statements of financial position/activities from the Stettler & District Handibus Society requesting that the Town continue to financially assist their operations by allocating an unconditional provincial grant from Transportation estimated at \$15,780.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of Handibus transportation in the community and the good work being done by the volunteer Board.

Motion 06:12:05

Moved by Councillor Hurley that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Stettler & District Handibus 2007 Budget as presented, and further allocate in the Town's 2007 Operating Budget the transfer of a Provincial Grant estimated at \$15,780 to financially assist their operations.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(d) Stettler Town & Country Museum 2007 Budget

Town Council reviewed the statements of financial position/activities of the Stettler Town & Country Museum.

The Museum is requesting an increase of \$2,000 per year, in each of the next three years, from both the Town and County to support basic operating costs and enhance their ability to undertake renewal projects/site improvements.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of the Museum to the community and the good work being done by the volunteer Board.

Motion 06:12:06

Moved by Councillor Majeran that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Stettler Town & Country Museum 2007 Budget as presented, and further approve a \$12,000 grant in the Town's 2007 Operating Budget to financially assist their operations.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(e) Heartland Beautification Committee 2007 Budget

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg explained that this budget forms part of the Stettler Regional Board of Trade & Community Development's budget within the Town's budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of beautification in the community and the commitment/contribution of the volunteer committee members.

Motion 06:12:07

Moved by Councillor Richards that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Heartland Beautification 2007 Budget as presented, and further approve a beautification expenditure allocation of \$21,000 within the Town's 2007 Operating Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(f) Stettler Recycling Committee 2007 Budget

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg explained that the Recycling Committee is a spin off from the Beautification Committee.

The Town's 2007 Interim Operating Budget includes a \$24,000 allocation towards recycling however the Committee is now requesting an expenditure allocation of \$30,000. It was suggested that the additional \$6,000 amount requested for 2007 could be set aside from the unspent 2006 recycling budget of \$24,000.

Motion 06:12:08

Moved by Councillor Richards that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Stettler Recycling Committee 2007 Budget as presented and further approve a recycling expenditure allocation of \$30,000 within the Town's 2007 Operating Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(g) Stettler Public Library 2007 Budget

Town Council reviewed the 2007 Budget for the Stettler Public Library.

It was stated that the Library has experienced a significant increase in the number of people using/visiting the Library since the opening of the new pool.

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg highlighted that the Library is requesting \$66,040 from the Town in 2007. This represents an increase of \$6,240 over 2006 and is considered necessary to support basic operational costs associated with increasing demands/pressure on library services.

Motion 06:12:09

Moved by Councillor Hurley that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Stettler Public Library 2007 Budget as presented, and further approve a \$66,040 grant in the Town's 2007 Operating Budget to financially assist their operations.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(h) RCMP re: Enhanced Policing for 2007

Town Council reviewed correspondence from local RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. K. Picard requesting that Council enter into an enhanced policing agreement for 2007 to supplement the Town's existing policing contract at specific times and community events.

Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg explained that Sgt. Picard is proposing that \$15,000 from the (unused) 2006 policing budget allocation be set aside for enhanced policing use in 2007. Therefore an enhanced policing contract in 2007 would not impact on 2007 property taxation.

The funds would be utilized to enhance policing patrols over specific weekends and some special events (ie: Crazy Days, Midnight Madness, etc.). A total of eleven extra days with two additional members per shift is being proposed.

Town Manager R. Stoutenberg confirmed that although the 2006 operating year is not over, Administration anticipates there will be surplus policing funds available due to member shortages (less than 7 members) throughout the year. It was noted that an unexpected \$12,700 credit was also realized in 2006; representing the settlement of actual costs for the RCMP fiscal year ended March 31, 2006.

It was also noted that the Town has approximately \$60,000 dedicated in a policing reserve (10% of the annual contract) for use in case a costly major crime investigation/event occurs in Town.

Discussion ensued regarding the one-time nature of this agreement, the value of extra policing presence, the need for additional members in the rural area (and the stress this creates on in-town patrols), and whether a supplemental agreement would/should become an annual budget request/consideration.

Motion 06:12:10

Moved by Councillor Majeran that the Town of Stettler Council approve an Enhanced Policing Agreement with the RCMP for 2007 to a maximum of \$15,000 with funds to be allocated from the unused 2006 policing budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(i) Town Manager's Report

Motion 06:12:11

Moved by Councillor Hurley that the Town of Stettler Council approve the Town Manager's Report for the month of November as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

5. Delegations:

(a) Concerned Bus Drivers re: Residential Parking of School Buses

Eight members of the public (Margaret & Gerry Watson, Audry Coulosey, Sheryl & Keith Dobbie, Sherry Laing, Michelle Pinder, Clive Spechko, Transportation Supervisor for the Clearview School Division) and Bylaw Officer, D. Elliott entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Hunter welcomed members of the delegation to Council and respectfully asked attendees to introduce themselves for the benefit of Council Members present.

For clarification purposes, Town Manager, R. Stoutenberg outlined the existing provisions in the Town's new Traffic Bylaw which prohibit the parking of Heavy Vehicles (which include school buses) anywhere in a residential area.

School bus driver, Sheryl Dobbie distributed a letter to Council which included some facts and other relevant information pertaining to the issue of parking school buses in residential areas. She proceeded to make a presentation addressing the items included in her letter on a point by point basis.

Additionally she read out loud numerous letters of support from Town residents/neighbors living nearby each of the four affected bus drivers.

It was questioned whether the relevant Bylaw (authority) for parking provisions on private property is the new 2006 Traffic Bylaw or the existing Land Use Bylaw? Town Manager R. Stoutenberg responded that the parking provisions in the new Traffic Bylaw clearly prohibit the parking of Heavy Vehicles (buses) anywhere within a residential area; which includes parking on roads and on private property.

Group discussion continued generally regarding:

- The relatively small size of the affected local school buses.
- The magnitude of the inconvenience to the small number (4) of affected bus drivers.
- The status of the existing bus shop facilities owned by the Clearview School Division.

- The sincere consideration that each of the four current bus drivers has towards limiting idling times, minimizing noise and diesel smell.
- The temporary parking of buses on roads throughout the day during school hours.
- The safety of children playing in residential neighborhoods.
- The bylaw enforcement process; primarily on a complaint driven basis.

Discussion concluded with the delegation respectfully asking Council to reconsider its decision which currently prohibits a school bus from parking within a residential zone (or to allow an exemption for school buses) and also to deal with each school bus driver on an individual basis should a problem/complaint arise.

Mayor Hunter thanked all delegation members for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns. He informed everyone that Council will debate/determine whether the Traffic Bylaw should be revisited or not at its next regular meeting on December 19, 2006 (when all members of Council are expected to be present).

Delegation members departed the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

(b) 7:30 P.M. – Sgt. Kevin Picard re: New Staff Introductions

Delegation members Sgt. K. Picard, Cst. Kyle Christensen and Kim Welton, Municipal Administrative Support entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Sgt. K. Picard introduced the two new staff at the Stettler RCMP Detachment to Council. Mayor Hunter welcomed K. Christensen and K. Welton to Stettler and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Delegations members departed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

(j) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,558,248.27

Motion 06:12:12

Moved by Councillor Richards that Accounts Payable for the period ending November 29, 2006 in the amount of \$1,558,248.27 having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

7. **Council:**

Mayor and Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Hunter

-Nov 28 - Operating Budget Meeting.

-Dec 1 - Town Office duties.

-Dec 2 - Town Christmas Party.

(b) Councillor Campbell

-No report – absent from meeting.

(c) Councillor Hurley

-Nov 28 - Operating Budget Meeting.

(d) Councillor Majeran

-Nov 28 - Operating Budget Meeting.

-Nov 29 - Citizen's Recognition Committee.

-Nov 30 - Stettler Housing Authority Meeting.

(e) Councillor Peebles

-No report – absent from meeting.

(f) Councillor Richards

-Nov 24 - Lighting of the Main Street Christmas Tree with citizens of the year Keith Ryder & May Pollock.

-Nov 28 - Operating Budget Meeting.

(g) Councillor Thorogood

-No report – absent from meeting.

8. **Minutes:**

(a) Trail of the Buffalo Tourism Association Meeting of November 16, 2006

(b) Stettler Town & Country Museum Meeting of October 23, 2006

(c) Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting of November 2, 2006

Motion: 06:12:13

Moved by Councillor Hurley that the Minutes, items 8(a) to 8(c) inclusive be accepted for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

9. **Public Hearings:**

(a) None

10. **Bylaws:**

(a) None

11. **Correspondence:**

(a) Citizen's Recognition Committee Recommendation

Councillor Majeran explained that the Citizen's Recognition Committee, consisting of Carol Dand, John Grant, Lee Penner and Councillor Gordon Majeran met to consider two nominations for recognition per Policy X-1 (o).

The appointed Committee has adjudicated the nomination in accordance with the criteria in the Policy (point system) and is recommending that Town Council approves the following two awards:

* The Stettler Community Recognition Award to be presented to Roy W. Willis in accordance with the provisions of policy guideline 1(a).

* The Stettler Lifetime Achievement Award to Bob Stewart (posthumously) in accordance with policy guideline 2(a) and (b), including that a structure (a bench, statue, sculpture or artistic representation) be erected in Mr. Stewart's honor.

Motion: 06:12:14

Moved by Councillor Majeran that the Town of Stettler Council approve honoring Mr. Roy W. Willis with a Stettler Community Recognition Award and approve honoring Mr. Bob Stewart (posthumously) with a Stettler Lifetime Achievement Award as recommended by the Citizen's Recognition Committee.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion: 06:12:15

Moved by Councillor Majeran that correspondence item 1 (a) be accepted for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Mayor Hunter recessed the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Mayor Hunter reconvened the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

12. **Additions:**

(a) None

13. **In-Camera Session:**

(a) Memo re: Land Development/Ag. Society Lands

(b) Personnel Matter

(c) Electricity Contract

Motion 06:12:16

Moved by Councillor Richards that the Town of Stettler Council proceed into an In-Camera Session with the Town Manager and Director of Finance & Administration present to discuss the items as presented on the In-Camera Agenda.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 8:10 p.m.

Motion 06:12:17

Moved by Councillor Majeran that the Town of Stettler Council return to the regular meeting.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 9:10 p.m.

14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 06:12:18

Moved by Councillor Hurley that this regular meeting of the Town of Stettler Council be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor

Director of Finance & Administration