

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD JANUARY 13, 2015

Present: Mayor D. Richards, Councillors M. Fischer, D. Bachman, W. Brown
(arrived at 4:37pm), A. Campbell, & S. Nolls

CAO G. Switenky
Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz
Director of Operations M. Robbins

Absent: Councillor K. Sernecky

Call to Order: Mayor D. Richards called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

(a) None

2. Agenda Approval

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. Discussion re: Truck Route/Seed Cleaning Plant

CAO G. Switenky opened the discussion by highlighting the current truck route system within the Town of Stettler. During discussion it was noted that agriculture, the energy sector, and the gas sector are three of the most dominant industries in the Town of Stettler.

Director of Operations M. Robbins provided the Committee of the Whole with the following summary of the history that led to the updating of the truck routes within the Town of Stettler:

- Historically 46 Street has been signed as a Truck Route on the east side of town.
- Playground built at 45 Street/49 Avenue in 2011.
- Many residents concerned with the amount of large truck traffic on 49 Avenue and 46 Street and their children crossing 46 St and 49 Avenue to get to the playground.
- Administration conducts review of traffic in the area. Found that numerous large trucks were using 49 Avenue (not a truck route) as access from 46 Street (the truck route) into the industrial subdivision. We also realized during the investigation that large trucks were not stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks at 49 Ave/46 Street intersection.
- Administration conducts review of the truck routes, and evaluates eliminating 46 Street as an approved truck route. Discussions with RCMP, DOT and bylaw occurred to discuss best routes for large trucks. Evaluation included geometry of road, speed of vehicles, sight lines, congestion during steam train events, impacts on residential area, etc.

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- Ultimately removing 46 Street as the truck route was deemed to be the best solution for current traffic volumes and the development that has occurred in the area.
- May 2014 Administration presented to Council the attached truck route map which would become the tool in which appropriate signage and routing could be established.
- Information package and map was mailed to all businesses in the town and the surrounding County area to inform them of the changes of the truck routes on May 30th.
- Replace and/or install the necessary street signage on the affected roads was in place June 20.
- Issued a news release to Q93.3 radio station, effective June 2.
- Issued a news release to the Stettler Independent and East Central Alberta Review for the June 4th and June 6th editions respectively.
- Use the Town's website and Facebook page to post the information and map.
- Work with Bylaw, RCMP and the Department of Transportation (DOT) to educate trucks travelling on the banned routes to use approved routes.
- Educate until June 30th, at which time any trucks continuing to use unapproved roads would be subject to the applicable fines from the RCMP and DOT. We should note that the education period was extended two weeks due to availability of RCMP at the beginning of July. To date, several tickets have been issued and only to those trucks who continued to use roads not approved. Administration discussed the changes with approximately 10 business owners and satisfactory arrangements or discussions occurred and for the most part we are seeing compliance.
- Trucks travelling to the industrial area of town do have to travel further when entering town from the north and west sides. East traffic should not be affected as existing routes from the east have not been changed.

General discussion took place with regards to the previous truck routes compared to the current routes in terms of truck access and usage in getting through town.

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Agenda Item: "Truck Route / Seed Cleaning Plant" be referred back to Administration for more information such as traffic counts on 38th Street, and specifically more information from the Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant regarding hours of operation, number of clients, total tonnage, and the most demanding times of the year for the Plant.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

4. Central Alberta Economic Partnership – 2015 Membership Fee

CAO G. Switenky advised that The Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) is 1 of 13 Regional Economic Development Alliances (REDA's) around the Province and partially funded through the Innovation and Advanced Education Portfolio. CAEP was established in 1998 and is a regional economic development alliance consisting of 40 municipal members and 12 associate members. The Town of Stettler has been a member since 1999.

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It was noted that the 2015 membership fee Invoice has not yet been received. The 2014 membership fee was \$2,414.16. This membership fee has been the same amount since 2012.

General discussion took place regarding the benefit of belonging to CAEP, specifically to the Town of Stettler. CAO G. Switenky highlighted the 2014-2015 CAEP Projects. It was agreed that from the projects listed, there was no substantial benefit to the Town of Stettler.

General discussion took place regarding the cancellation of membership. CAO G. Switenky highlighted the various options for withdrawing membership: by giving 1 year calendar notice or failure to pay the current amounts owing to the Association on the date on which the amount is due.

CAO G. Switenky advised that CAEP, Executive Director Dale Barr has received an email dated December 15, 2014 from Aubrey Brown, Executive Director, Stettler Board of Trade indicating that "Please be advised that the Town of Stettler Council has deferred a decision on 2016 CAEP Membership Renewal to the first quarter of 2015 calendar year. If the decision is made to cancel, this email is the Notice of Cancellation".

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Committee of Whole recommend to the Town of Stettler Council that the Town of Stettler pay the 2015 CAEP Membership Fee upon receipt of invoice with notification that the Town of Stettler respectfully gives one (1) year notice to as per Section 7(2) of the Article of Association to withdraw from CAEP effective January 1, 2016.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

5. Council Meeting Dates

- 2015-2017 Capital Budget – Wednesday, February 25, 2015 – 3:00pm – 7:00pm

- Strategic Planning – Monday, March 2, 2015 – 4:00pm – 7:00pm (supper brought in)

6. Correspondence

a. County of Stettler Housing Authority re: Member-at-Large

CAO G. Switenky advised that C. Nixon is the current Town of Stettler Member at Large on the County of Stettler Housing Authority and will be leaving the Board. C. Nixon is willing to remain until a new representative is found. After some discussion it was agreed to advertise the Member at Large position.

7. Additions

a. None

8. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Committee of Whole Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 5:33 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO