

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD JUNE 9, 2015

Present: Mayor D. Richards, Councillors M. Fischer, D. Bachman, W. Brown, A. Campbell, S. Nolls & K. Sernecky

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

Absent: None

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

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions

9(a) Kinette Playground – West Stettler Park

2. Agenda Approval

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. Memo re: Seed Cleaning Plant re: Truck Route

Director of Operations, M. Robbins advised that at the January 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council requested Administration to provide additional information with respect to traffic counts on 38 Street & 46 Street and specifically more information from the Seed Cleaning plant regarding hours of operation, number of clients, total tonnage, and the most demanding times of the year for the Plant.

Traffic Counts

46 Street at 50 Avenue

May 2011 - the Average Daily Traffic was 1935 vehicles. 46 Street was a truck route at this time. Truck traffic was 18% of the vehicles.

June 2015 - the Average Daily Traffic was 1850 vehicles. 46 Street was not a truck route at this time. Truck traffic was 1% of the vehicles. It is worth noting that no local companies were noted on this road.

38 Street at 50 Avenue

June 2015 - the Average Daily Traffic was 960 vehicles. There were no previous traffic counts on the ring road for comparison. Truck traffic was 26% of the vehicles.

Seed Cleaning Plant

Administration met with the manager of the Stettler Seed Cleaning Plant on May 6th.

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The following information was received:

1. All appointments are pre-booked.
2. The Plant can accommodate 2 semi's or 3-4 tandem loads daily. Most farmers today delivering to the plant have semi-trucks.
3. The Plant typically closes June, July and the first ½ of August (although this will vary depending on the year and the weather)
4. There are currently 50-60 active farmers who haul to the Plant (from all directions).
5. All the trucks hauling to the Plant are underweight limitations for the highway.
6. The Plant has been in operation since 1960.
7. The Plant just completed \$200,000 in upgrades and plans for successful continuation for many years.

General discussion took place regarding truck route impacts upon customers hauling to the plant, various options to modify/relax various sections of the existing truck route configuration, current compliance and the successful reduction of truck traffic along 46 Street.

It was noted that no other concerns have been received.

Mayor Richards thanked M. Robbins for her presentation.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion to say that Council has reviewed, in depth, the current truck route and it was mutually agreed by Council that in light of the information received during the review, Council uphold the current policy and no changes are required.

4. Discussion re: School Zone Speeds

Councillor Fischer highlighted an option to extend the current school zone on 48 Avenue, 49 Avenue & 50 Avenue - 3 Blocks to the east.

General discussion took place including what is allowable under the Traffic Safety Act to extend school zones.

Council mutually agreed to have M. Robbins, Director of Operations confirm with Alberta Transportation with regards to extending school zones on 48, 49 & 50 Avenues (3 blocks). Secondly, to perform traffic counts at two locations (48 & 49 Avenues) for a week in June and July each to help validate traffic usage and quantify enhanced usage during school days and times and finally to have Administration communicate with the RCMP Detachment Commander to have more Community Resource Officer presence and enforcement within the school zones.

M. Robbins departed the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

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5. Alta Gas – Renewal of Natural Gas Distribution System Franchise Agreement

CAO G. Switenky advised that AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AUI) presently holds the natural gas franchise for the Town of Stettler pursuant to an agreement effective August 2004. The term of this agreement was for a period of ten (10) years.

CAO G. Switenky explained that the Town of Stettler receives two (2) revenue sources from AltaGas Utilities. The first revenue source are taxes paid by AltaGas for the land, buildings, linear property, machinery and equipment owned by AltaGas within the Town Boundary. This amount is approximately \$61,000 for 2015. The second revenue source is a Franchise Fee paid by the utility company to the Town for the exclusive grant of franchise and the ability to put gas distribution facilities on land owned by the municipality. This is the cost of AltaGas to do business within the Town. Municipalities have the ability to set the Franchise Fee, which is usually based on the amount of infrastructure affected by the utility distribution. The current rate for the Town is 18%. The revenue generated by the 18% is approximately \$430,000 based on \$2,389,000 total delivery revenues received from customers by AltaGas (does not include the variable cost of gas).

CAO G. Switenky highlighted revenues generated by a Franchise Fee of 18%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35% respectively.

CAO G. Switenky highlighted the following community Franchise Fees from 2015.

- AltaGas Customers – Franchise Fee only (no tax included)

- Drumheller - 27%
- Grande Cache - 25%
- Leduc - 35%
- Pincher Creek – 25%
- Westlock – 25%

- AltaGas Customers – Franchise Fee + Property Tax

- Blackfalds – 37.3%
- Edmonton – 36.4%
- Edson – 24.6%
- Innisfail – 29.8%
- Lacombe – 24.7%
- Lloydminster – 27.1%
- Oyen – 33.2%
- Provost – 25.9%
- Olds – 32.6%
- Red Deer – 37.3%
- Rocky Mtn. House – 30.0%
- Vegreville – 37.5%
- Wetaskiwin – 40.2%
- Taber – 37.9%
- Vulcan – 39.8%

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It was noted that the current percentage (%) for the Town of Stettler including the Franchise Fee and property tax is 20.6%.

General discussion took place regarding the various options for the Franchise Fee.

From the discussion it was noted that an increase in the Franchise Fee to 30.0% would result in the following:

- Total Franchise Fee paid to the Town of Stettler - \$716,788 (based on \$2.389 million – total delivery revenue for AltaGas).
- Total Revenue increase is \$286,715 (716,788-430,073).
- Average of \$210.94/property based on 3398 AltaGas properties.
- Average \$84.39/year/property increase based on the current 18% average of \$126.55/property.

Moved by Councillor Bachman that the Committee of Whole recommend to Town Council to proceed with a Franchise Fee Rate Rider of 30% for AltaGas Utilities and further that the Rate Rider be reviewed after 5 years of the new 13 year agreement between the Town of Stettler and AltaGas Utilities.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

6. Discussion re: Old Senior Centre

CAO G. Switenky advised that M. Dennis, Regional Fire Chief and E. Brugman, Deputy Regional Fire Chief have conducted an inspection of the old Senior Centre located at 5009-48 Street. It was determined that through their expertise with fire inspections and knowledge of building construction the old Seniors Centre was found to be in good structural shape. It was noted there are a few minor upgrades required such as lighting and building access.

CAO G. Switenky advised that the building is co-owned with the County of Stettler. There are 3 options which must be approved by both Town and County Councils:

1. Status Quo
2. Lease Building
3. Sell Building "As Is Where Is"

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits, concerns and process of each option.

Mayor Richards summarized the discussion indicating that it was mutually agreed by Council to have Administration confirm with the County of Stettler No. 6 to sell the building "As Is Where Is" in an open and transparent public process under an established reserve bid.

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7. Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program

CAO G. Switenky advised that the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program is part of Canada 150 Celebrates, the Government of Canada's celebration of our country's 150th anniversary. The Town of Stettler will be submitting an application for Phase II renovations of the Stettler Recreation Centre (SRC). The County of Stettler No. 6 will also review the application and provide a letter of support to submit with the application.

8. Correspondence

a. Lifesaving Society

9. Additions

a. Kinette Playground – West Stettler Park

Mayor Richards reported that he received an email from A. Baird from the Kinette Club of Stettler indicating the Club's application to the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) for the playground at West Stettler Park has been denied. The email explains that the Kinette Club is just over \$17,000.00 short to their total budget cost of \$215,000 to build the playground. A request was made by the Kinette Club to the Town of Stettler to obtain a loan from the Town in the amount of \$20,000.00 so that total funding is in place and the equipment ordered. The equipment takes about 6 weeks for delivery. If the equipment is ordered right away, there is still time to build the playground before the end of this summer. Mayor Richards reported that the Kinette Club would pay back the loan in full by December 31st, 2015.

General discussion took place. It was noted during discussion that the Kinette Club has not made a funding request to the Town of Stettler for the playground. To date the contribution from the Town towards the playground has been the land and excavation of the site. It was agreed that these types of projects provide a great benefit to the Community.

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Committee of the Whole recommend to Town Council to invest in the Kinette Playground at West Stettler Park at an estimated cost of \$20,000 in order to complete the project with funding to come from General Reserves in the 2015 Capital Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

10. Adjournment

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO