

1 Call Meeting to Order**2 Adoption of Agenda**

2019-02-13

Moved By: Councillor Warawa

That the Agenda of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on February 25, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED**3 Adoption of Minutes**

2019-02-14

Moved By: Councillor Berry

That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Town Council held on February 11, 2019 be received and filed.

CARRIED**4 Delegation****5 Unfinished Business****6 Correspondence****6.1 Doreen and Brian Tennant - Divestiture of Vegreville Emergency Service to Alberta Health Services**

2019-02-15

Moved By: Councillor Brodziak

That the correspondence dated February 18, 2019, from Doreen and Brian Tennant be received and filed.

The intent of this letter is to share our concerns regarding the divestiture of the Vegreville Ambulance Service to Alberta Health Services (AHS) a contractor of Alberta Health, Government of Alberta.

As both a taxpayer of the Town of Vegreville and the County of Minburn we learned of the planned divestiture approximately 10 days ago through social media. This was a complete blindside and I am employed in the health care system. We contacted a few town council members, voiced our concerns and were told that there would be a town council meeting on the forth coming Monday. Wrongly thinking that there would be opportunity for discussions from the public, my husband and I both attended the meeting. Prior to the opening of the meeting it was communicated to the audience that there would not be opportunity for discussions or questions from the public and that we would hear all we needed to hear about the divestiture on terms of the background and where council was in a decision to next steps. During the discussions by council it was clearly articulated that council was bound by legislation to not discuss any information with the public about divestiture prior to the commencement of that evening's council meeting. Comments made by various council members that evening stated that council had been going through deliberations of the issues they were facing with the ambulance service since 2014. I would like to ask was there no mechanism to involve key stakeholders such as the County of Minburn Council, St. Josephs General Hospital, both town and county residents in discussions regarding the future of the ambulance operations (clearly understanding that discussions around employee contracts would be outside these discussions). A motion was put forth by a council member at last weeks meeting to defer the decision and give opportunity for the public to bring concerns forth. The motion was defeated, thus clearly making a statement that public consultation was not necessary and that the best decision backed by evidence had been made.

Several points were made by the mayor and council as follows:

- There will be no change to level of service we receive the only difference will be the name on the car*
- We are the last non-profit, municipality operated EMS service in the province to divest its ambulance service*
- Other municipalities who have divested have said it was the best thing they ever did*
- Multiple attempts had been made to AHS to increase funding with no success at all*

- *That we would NOT receive additional funding*

We believe completely that the Town of Vegreville has and continues to face a shortfall in its funding for the ambulance service. This is a common message which we have heard through other municipalities in the province. Ambulance services are provincially funded by the province and delivered through the AHS system. AHS have contracts with municipalities, private operators and delivers services itself therefore being the holder of the "purse". No question it is to the benefit of AHS to have municipalities such as ours get out of "ambulance operations" management. AHS employ a system referred to as central dispatch which has ambulance units closest to a call respond first. This can have a Vegreville unit respond to an emergency in another community but a unit from another site can respond to Vegreville as well.

As both a community member and a health care provider, I feel a compelling pressure to share with you that there is evidence that...

- 1. There are presently rural communities, located within the AHS Central and North Zones, who continue to operate a not for profit, municipally operated ambulance service, alike what we currently have in Vegreville today. Furthermore, these communities are comparable to Vegreville in their socio-economics.*
- 2. At least one of these communities have gone directly to the Deputy Minister of Health, together with their town council, county council and MLAs and successfully had their ambulance budget topped up on at least one to two occasions and are currently working on the same process again.*
- 3. A key individual who had and continues to have overall responsibility and leadership to securing additional funding for the ambulance service has offered to come and speak with our community leaders and share his insight and experience in securing additional funding through AHS*
- 4. Communities who have indicated that divestiture was "the best thing we did" may have had a different response, when asked of an operational team.*

Health services are a key element of a strong community. We unfortunately do not have the luxury of having surgical suites, obstetrics and deliveries, CT scanners and cancer care treatment centers alike many of the comparable sited. Our local hospital has certainly had a significant change in the menu of services it provides today in comparison to 10 to 15 years ago. Gone are the days of surgeries and baby deliveries. And each and every day one needs to be mindful that we could have even less in the future should financial pressures or bureaucratic decisions lead decisions that way. An ambulance service is also a key element of the bricks and mortar that makes up a health service in a community. I have had the fortune of working along side many of the EMS staff while in the ER dept of the local hospital and must site the caliber of service and collaboration we have today is exceptional and high quality. These individuals will step up at any time of need to assist hospital staff with an already difficult or compromising life threatening situation outside the realms of transportation to the next medical facility. We are very fortunate as a community to have high quality emergency care and some level of control of what is in our community. My husband and I have had the pleasure of living in both the County of Minburn and Town of Vegreville and without question will state that both have served us excellent. What I do however want to say is that without a quality health service which includes hospital, community health and ambulance service retirement for many people like ourselves lacks any incentive.

I would ask you all to carefully examine your evidence and decisions to divest the ambulance service and ask the question "has everything possible been done, have we spoken with all the right people, have we leveraged our ask of AHS with the use of our politicians, county council and hospital representatives, and have we considered the community (the voters) and asked them if ambulance divestiture matters.

CARRIED

- 6.2 Darren Sandbeck, Senior Provincial Director & Chief Paramedic, Alberta Health Services - Notice of Contract Termination**
2019-02-16
Moved By: Councillor Waters

That the correspondence dated February 19, 2019 from Darren Sandbeck, Senior Provincial Director & Chief Paramedic, Alberta Health Services, be received and filed.

I am in receipt of your letter dated February 13, 2019 giving notice of the Town of Vegreville's intent to terminate the Emergency Medical Services agreement with Alberta Health Services (AHS).

I would like to thank the Town of Vegreville for their commitment in providing EMS in partnership with AHS since 2009. To ensure continuity of service we will be proceeding to implement service provision through AHS directly.

Scott Holsworth, EMS Operations Director for Central Zone will be AHS' lead on this work; he may be reached directly at (780) 781-2000. Scott will be contacting you in the coming days to start the planning to ensure a smooth, seamless and safe transition of Emergency Medical Services from the Town of Vegreville to AHS.

CARRIED

7 Financial

8 Memoranda

8.1 CAO Evaluation Committee - Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Employment Contract Revision

2019-02-17

Moved By: Councillor Berry

That Town Council revise Section 3 of the Chief Administrative Officer Contract, effective January 1, 2019, with all other terms and conditions to remain in place.

BACKGROUND

The CAO Contract was approved on September 26, 2016 at the Regular Council Meeting. As per Section 3.1 of the Contract, salary provisions were from April 12, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Section 3.3 of the Contract stated the Town will negotiate with the Employee to determine the salary for the years 2019 through 2022 inclusive.

The CAO Evaluation Committee met with the CAO on February 13, 2019 for the salary negotiations.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Mayor will advise the Employee, in writing, of the following changes to the CAO Contract:

Section 3.1 – update with the revised salary and dates

Section 3.3 – removed from Contract and conditions

All other terms and conditions of the Contract remain in place.

CARRIED

8.2 Cliff Craig, Town Manager - Deputy Mayor Appointment

2019-02-18

Moved By: Councillor Waters

That Councillor Tina Warawa be appointed Deputy Mayor for the term of February 26, 2019 to June 24, 2019.

At the Organizational Meeting held on October 23, 2017, Council decided that each Councillor would sit as Deputy Mayor for a period of four (4) months, twice in their four (4) year term. Following the schedule presented at the Organizational Meeting, the next Deputy Mayor is to be Councillor Tina Warawa.

CARRIED

9 Board Motions

10 Bylaw

11 Council Reports**11.1 Councillor Berry**

Councillor Berry reported and/or attended on the following:

- CAO Evaluation Committee Meeting - February 13, 2019
- Brownlee Emerging Trends in Municipal Law - February 14, 2019
- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2019
- Town of Vegreville/County of Minburn Joint Luncheon Meeting - February 18, 2019
- Legislative Committee Meeting - February 19, 2019
- M.D. Minburn Foundation Board Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

11.2 Councillor Brodziak

Councillor Brodziak reported and/or attended on the following:

- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2019
- Town of Vegreville/County of Minburn Joint Luncheon Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Legislative Committee Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Vegreville Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting - February 20, 2019
- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- 90th Birthday Recognition for Annie Zaharichuk - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

11.3 Councillor Lemko

Councillor Lemko reported and/or attended on the following:
(Absent)

11.4 Councillor Rudyk

Councillor Rudyk reported and/or attended on the following:

- BioEconomy Build Meeting in Edmonton - February 12, 2019
- Brownlee Emerging Trends in Municipal Law - February 14, 2019
- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2019
- Radio Spot - Family Businesses and Succession Planning - February 18, 2019
- Town of Vegreville/County of Minburn Joint Luncheon Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Legislative Committee Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Vegreville Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting - February 20, 2019
- FCM Executive Committee Conference Call - February 21, 2019
- Radio Interview - February 21, 2019
- Vegreville Region Physician & Health Professional Attraction and Retention Committee - February 21, 2019
- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Family Medical Centre Random Acts of Kindness - February 22, 2019
- FCM Rural Conference Planning - February 25, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

11.5 Councillor Warawa

Councillor Warawa reported and/or attended on the following:

- Community Futures Conference Call - February 13, 2019
- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2019
- Town of Vegreville/County of Minburn Joint Luncheon Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Attended Local Gun Show - February 23, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- 90th Birthday Recognition for Annie Zaharichuk - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

11.6 Councillor Waters

Councillor Waters reported and/or attended on the following events:

- Vegreville and District Child Development Coalition Meeting - February 13, 2019
- Brownlee Emerging Trends in Municipal Law - February 14, 2019
- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2018
- Joint Town & County Council Lunch Meeting - February 19, 2019

- Legislative Committee Meeting - February 19, 2019
- M.D. Minburn Foundation Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Vegreville Region Physician and Health Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee - February 21, 2019
- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- 90th Birthday Recognition for Annie Zaharichuk - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

11.7 Mayor MacPhee

Councillor MacPhee reported and/or attended on the following events:

- Conference Call with Investors - February 12, 2019
- CAO Evaluation Meeting - February 13, 2019
- Brownlee Emerging Trends in Municipal Law - February 14, 2019
- Family Day Pancake Breakfast - February 18, 2019
- Joint Town & County Council Lunch Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Legislative Committee Meeting - February 19, 2019
- Vegreville Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting - February 20, 2019
- Vegreville & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2019
- Alberta HUB Meeting - February 25, 2019
- Public Hearing - February 25, 2019
- 90th Birthday Recognition for Annie Zaharichuk - February 25, 2019
- Regular Meeting of Town Council - February 25, 2019

12 Closed Session Items

2019-02-19

Moved By: Councillor Waters

That Town Council close the session at 7:36 PM.

CARRIED

12.1 FOIP Act, Division 2, Section 24 - Advice from Officials

12.2 Open Session

2019-02-20

Moved By: Councillor Warawa

That Town Council return to open session at 7:58 PM

CARRIED

13 Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before Council, Mayor MacPhee declared the Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

TIM MACPHEE
Mayor

CLIFF CRAIG
Town Manager