

**Alexandra Community Council  
Regular Meeting  
February 7, 2018  
Alexandra Community Centre**

Attendance: John Brehaut, Chair; Joe Kopachevsky; Roy Beaton; Fred Osborne; Sheila Whiteway - Administrator

Residents: Clair Rogers, Joe Rogers, Jay MacDonald

Call to Order

John called the meeting to order.

Approval of January 10, 2018 Minutes

It was MOVED by Roy Beaton, SECONDED by Fred Osborne, that the minutes of the Council meeting held on January 10, 2018 be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Business Arising

Road Conditions: John read a draft letter prepared by the Administrator to Minister Paula Biggar, with copies to the RCMP and local MLA Allan McIsaac regarding road conditions and safety concerns. John will sign the letter and it will be mailed to those noted.

Draft Bylaws: Draft bylaws were presented for first reading for the following: Procedural Bylaw #2018-01; Code of Conduct Bylaw #2018-02; Conflict of Interest Bylaw #2018-03; Grants Bylaw #2018-04; and Fees Bylaw #2018-05. Second reading of the above noted bylaws is scheduled for March 14, 2018. It was noted that these are the first of several bylaws that the municipality will be required to approve.

John noted that the administration of the municipality has become very complex and complicated with the requirements of the new Municipal Government Act. Sheila has prepared a document outlining various timelines for the upcoming year to ensure we comply with new regulations. The election process also has many regulations that we must adhere to in advance of elections on November 5th.

John suggested that a frank and open discussion regarding the future of the community is necessary. He referred to various requirements that are being phased in, including the requirement of an office operating 20 hours/week, development of land use planning, an emergency measures plan, etc. He noted that based on these requirements, he feels that our tax rate will at a minimum be doubled in order to meet those requirements. There are also new costs related to the elections, including a polling station, ballots, appointment of Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer, etc.

John proposed that the March 14, 2018, meeting include discussion regarding the future of the community. Notices will be prepared and circulated to every household outlining options of dissolving the community, continuing to operate and meet requirements at a significantly higher tax rate to support those requirements, or annexation/amalgamation. The meeting start date will be March 15th.

John noted that he has heard that some communities are planning to dissolve.

It was agreed that the coyote education session will be postponed for now as it was agreed that the future of the community is the priority at this time. We can poll those in attendance at the March 14th meeting to determine if there is interest in holding a coyote education session in the future.

#### Financial Report

Financial Update: Sheila reported that the bank balance at February 7, 2018 is \$4,959.07. The fire insurance in the amount of \$3,398.00 has been paid. Snowblowing for 2017/18 in the amount of \$200 will be paid, as well as half of the annual administrator's honorarium in the amount of \$1,050.00.

Draft Budget: Sheila presented the draft budget for January 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019. As required by the MGA, the budget is for a 15 month period in order to move to a new fiscal year of April - March. Sheila has broken the applicable budget lines that are affected into two lines - January - December and January - March.

Concern was raised about possible legal fees, etc. should the community move to dissolve or amalgamate/annex. The budget does not specifically include line items for those; however, there is a contingency line and possibly some excess funds in some of the other line items. Financial information, including the approved budget, must be submitted to the Province by March 31st so there would be time to revise the budget based on the direction provided by residents at the March 14th meeting to discuss the future of the community. There may be provincial funding available to assist as well.

Some discussion was held regarding taxes if the community dissolved. It was noted that fire dues would likely be included in tax bills. Currently, the fire dues are included in the budget and paid as part of the municipal portion of taxes. It was also noted that the community centre, as a community asset, would go to the province.

#### Other Business/Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Fred Osborne at 8:07 p.m.