

Rural Municipality of Excelsior No. 166

September 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Excelsior No. 166 was held on September 8, 2021 at the RM Office, 310 3rd Avenue, Rush Lake, SK.

Reeve H. Martens called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PRESENT:

Reeve: Harold Martens
Councillors: Division 1 – Shane Castle
Division 2 – Darren Steinley
Division 3 – Danny Spenst
Division 4 – Harv Schulz
Division 5 – Don Mathies
Division 6 – Bruce Pate
Administrator: Dianne Hahn

- 21-191 Agenda Moved by Councillor Schulz:
THAT the agenda for the September 8, 2021 Council meeting be adopted as presented.
CARRIED
- Conf. of Interest** Councillor Schulz re: tax write-off
- 21-192 Minutes Moved by Councillor Pate:
THAT the minutes of the regular Council meeting held August 9, 2021 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED
- 21-193 Statement Moved by Councillor Mathies:
THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of August, 2021 be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED
- Public Notice was given in accordance with the Public Notice Policy for the discussion of a tax rebate program.
- 21-194 Rebate Moved by Councillor Spenst:
THAT Council motion No. 21-179 be rescinded.
CARRIED
- 21-195 Moved by Councillor Spenst:
THAT the RM adopt a Rebate Program for 2021 whereby property owners receive a rebate of 20% of the taxes for the municipal agricultural taxes providing the taxes have been paid by December 31st and that the dollar amount of the rebate is over \$10.
CARRIED
- 21-196 Accounts Moved by Councillor Steinley:
THAT the Accounts, as listed and attached to these minutes be approved and authorized for payment or ratification of payment.
CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

21-197 Public Safety Moved by Councillor Castle:
THAT the Amendment No. 1 for the agreement between the RM and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency for Dispatch Services be approved and signed.

CARRIED

21-198 Arrears-O&G Moved by Councillor Castle:
THAT the RM of Excelsior No. 166 agrees to become a co-sponsor of the following motion being initiated by the RM of Eye Hill No. 382 for the SARM Mid-Term Convention:

WHEREAS: With more and more Oil and Gas companies defaulting on their tax payment obligations for municipal and education purposes, thus forcing both governing bodies to lower the level of service to their ratepayers and;

WHEREAS: Oil and Gas companies use municipal infrastructure to access their oil and gas facilities that provide their revenue, and by defaulting on their tax obligations thus not providing necessary funds to municipalities for the upkeep/repair and upgrade(s) to the same municipal infrastructure they use to produce their revenue and;

WHEREAS: An increasing number of Oil and Gas companies having their assets sold through court orders that, often contain vesting orders that not only protect the purchasers from paying both municipal and education tax arrears but also include direction from the courts to have these tax arrears written off; and

WHEREAS: The amount of Oil and Gas taxes that have been written off to date by the responding ### RM's is \$XX,XXX,XXX.XX Municipal and \$XX,XXX,XXX.XX Education;

WHEREAS: The amount of outstanding arrears of Oil and Gas taxation of the responding ### RM's is \$XX,XXX,XXX.XX Municipal and \$XX,XXX,XXX.XX Education and;

WHEREAS: Changes must be made to where these vesting orders are not given a chance to become "Case Law" or at the very least a "Loophole", as a way for Oil and Gas companies to avoid their tax obligations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT SARM lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to legislate that municipalities have the opportunity to register a lien against oil and gas licenses and to provide for a procedure to realize on that lien.

CARRIED

21-199 Corresp. Moved by Councillor Pate:
THAT the correspondence as listed and attached to these minutes be accepted as presented by the Administrator and filed.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS/ROADWORK:

- 21-200 Covid Illness Moved by Councillor Steinley:
THAT should an RM employee have a positive Covid test within five days of being sick,
that the employee be paid to remain home until they are no longer contagious.
CARRIED
- 21-201 Pasture Mgr Moved by Councillor Spenst:
THAT Councillor Castle be given authorization to negotiate with Darcy Patzer for Pasture
Manager responsibilities and compensation until freeze up in 2021.
CARRIED
- 21-202 Fuel Tank Moved by Councillor Spenst:
THAT authorization be given to purchase a fuel tank from B&A Petroleum for \$1,047.
CARRIED
- 21-203 Moved by Councillor Spenst:
THAT we authorize new roadwork as presented on Councillors' Project Request forms.
CARRIED

DELEGATIONS:

Brian Zilkowsky, Assistant Foreman

NEW BUSINESS:

- 21-204 Council Mtg Moved by Councillor Castle:
THAT the regularly scheduled Council meeting for November be held on Tuesday,
November 16, 2021.
CARRIED
- 21-205 Village H2O Moved by Councillor Pate:
THAT the agreement with the Village of Rush Lake for purchase of the Reverse Osmosis
for the RM Shop be approved.
CARRIED
- 21-206 C Letkeman Moved by Councillor Steinley:
THAT authorization be given to Curtis Letkeman to place a temporary electric fence at
SW35-17-12W3 for grazing purposes with signage to be placed indicating that the road
is closed.
CARRIED
- 21-207 CPR Cross. Moved by Councillor Castle:
THAT approval be given to enter into an agreement with Canadian Pacific Railway for
the private crossing located at Range Road 3122 at NE22-16-12W3.
CARRIED
- 21-208 S SK River Moved by Councillor Schulz:
THAT Harold Martens, Reeve be given authorization to sit on the Board of the
Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds with expenses paid by the RM.
CARRIED

21-209 RM Map Moved by Councillor Mathies:
THAT the price for the sale of an RM Map be \$10.00 each, taxes included.
CARRIED

21-210 W/O Taxes Moved by Councillor Castle:
THAT the RM write-off municipal taxes in the amount of \$737.77 as well as pay the
education portion of taxes in the amount of \$543.87 for the SE PT 27-16-10W3 due to
Section 293 of *The Municipalities Act*.
CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

21-211 Moved by Councillor Spent:
THAT this meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

REEVE

ADMINISTRATOR