

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIRCH HILLS NO. 460**  
**279 Bellamy Avenue, Birch Hills, Saskatchewan**  
**August 12, 2020**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**Present:** Reeve Alan Evans, Councillors Brent Fenner, Kyle Jensen, Mathew Njaa, Leyton Elsaesser and Administrator Cherie Opseth.

**Regrets:** Councillors Ted Boutin and Matt Robertson.

The social distancing requirements due to COVID-19 were followed by Council and staff throughout the meeting.

**A quorum being present Reeve Evans called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.**

**157-2020 Minutes: Fenner** That the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 8, 2020, be approved as circulated. *Carried*

**158-2020 Financial Statement: Njaa** That the statement of financial activities and bank reconciliation as at July 31, 2020, be accepted as presented. *Carried*

**159-2020 Accounts Payable: Elsaesser** That the accounts at August 12, 2020 as per the attached list of Cheques #15382 - #15426 and Other Direct Utility Payments of \$92,903.01 plus payroll and Council Indemnity in the amount of \$28,159.94 totaling \$121,062.95 be approved. *Carried*

**160-2020 Correspondence: Njaa** That the following correspondence be accepted as presented:  
SAMA – 2021 Preliminary Assessment Values  
City of Cold Lake – Criminal Code Amendments, July 7, 2020  
Murray Foster – Complaint regarding trees and brush being left on back roads  
4H – Request for Donation  
Kristy Rhead – request for Ihunter app *Carried*

**161-2020 Committee Reports: Elsaesser** That the following committee reports be accepted as presented and filed with these minutes:  
**Invasive Plant Management Committee**  
**Health Foundation**  
**Fire Department**  
**First Responders & EMO**  
**Recreation Board**  
**Shop & Equipment**  
**Employee Relations**  
**Rural Crime**  
**Proposed Landfill Development** *Carried*

**9:18 a.m. – 9:33 a.m. Delegate: Grant Getz – Birch Hills Conservation & Development**  
**– Stakeholder Workshop - August 14, 2020**



162-2020

**Criminal Code Amendment: Jensen** That the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 Council lobby the federal government to revoke the amendments to the criminal code on May 1, 2020 under an "Order in Council" titled and referred to as "Regulations amending the regulations prescribing certain firearms and other weapons, components and parts of weapons, accessories, cartridge magazines, ammunition and projectiles as prohibited, restricted or non-restricted: SOR/2020-96.

The RM of Birch Hills No. 460 supports initiatives to end violence; however, feels very strongly that the Government of Canada is wasting valuable resources and taking the wrong approach to gun control that will have zero effect on gun crime.

WHEREAS on May 1, 2020, the federal government amended the Criminal Code by ordering regulations prescribing certain firearms, components and parts of firearms, accessories, cartridge magazines, ammunition and projectiles as prohibited or restricted;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is planning a buyback program to get the guns out of circulation, which is expected to cost between \$400 million and \$600 million, and if the history of federal estimating repeats itself, will likely be in excess of \$1 Billion;

AND WHEREAS the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 supports the Government of Canada's commitment to end violence, whether firearms are involved or not, by taking the opportunity to be more engaged and to collaborate with the public and local stakeholders to develop more effective solutions on the issue;

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 urges the Government of Canada to revoke the amendment, and instead institute the following: Target crime, and focus on enforcement through enhanced enforcement capacity for law enforcement and border services, as well as harsher punishments for firearms trafficking and crimes involving firearms. The current ban targets law-abiding owners, rather than the holders of illicit firearms, and would not greatly impact crime reduction;

Collect and share relevant data on crime involving firearms through improved collection and sharing of data on crimes involving firearms, particularly in terms of sources of illicit firearms, and the types of crime being committed. This data is critical for supporting law enforcement and border agencies efforts, as well as informing policy and legislation;

Collaborate with the firearms community and industry to support communication, training and public education regarding firearms to create a multi-faceted approach rather than implementing a ban in isolation;

*Carried*

163-2020



**EMO Indemnity Policy: Elsaesser** That the Council for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 set the indemnity for the appointed EMO Coordinator for the municipality as per the EMO Indemnity Policy attached to and forming part of these minutes.

*Carried*

Reeve Evans abstained from voting

164-2020

**Fire Department Members: Fenner** That the updated list of members of volunteer fire fighters for the Birch Hills Fire and Rescue Department for the 2020 year be updated as per the list attached and forming part of these minutes.

*Carried*

165-2020

**Demolishing Permit: Evans** That the Council for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 ratifies the electronic resolution from July 31, 2020, to approve the Permit to Demolish at Legal Land Description NW 34-46-23-W2 and furthermore that the deposit and demolishing fee be waived.

*Carried*

**166-2020 RCMP Acknowledgement of Consultation: Jensen** That the Council for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 acknowledge the RCMP Consultation report for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. *Carried*

**167-2020 Probationary Period: Fenner** That the 3 month probationary period be complete for seasonal public works employee, Don Morrow. *Carried*

**168-2020 Hagen Tax Title Property: Njaa** That the RM of Birch Hills advertise for sale the Tax Title Property located at Lot 19 Blk/Par 1 Plan No. CM5018 Ext. 0 in the Hamlet of Hagen. The tender must be submitted by a sealed envelope by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The tender will be advertised in paNow, the Birch Hills Heartbeat and the RM website for a minimum of three weeks prior to the tender opening during the September regular meeting of Council. *Carried*

**169-2020 Adjournment: Njaa** That the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 p.m. *Carried*

Certified correct this 9 day of September, 2020.

  
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Administrator

  
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Reeve

