

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIRCH HILLS NO. 460
279 Bellamy Avenue, Birch Hills, Saskatchewan
December 9, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

A quorum being present Reeve Fenner called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Present: Reeve Brent Fenner, Councillors Michael Soyland, Brad Mitchell, Ted Boutin, Leyton Elsaesser and Administrator Cherie Opseth attended at the municipal office and Councillor Kyle Jensen attended via conference call.

Councillor Ted Boutin left the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

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

218-2020 Minutes: Jensen That the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 18, 2020, be approved as circulated. *Carried*

219-2020 Financial Statement: Soyland That the statement of financial activities and bank reconciliation as at November 30, 2020, be accepted as presented. *Carried*

220-2020 Accounts Payable: Elsaesser That the accounts at December 9, 2020 as per the attached list of Cheques #15567 - #15601 and Other Direct Utility Payments of \$94,801.17 plus payroll and Council Indemnity in the amount of \$6,932.36 totaling \$101,733.53 be approved. *Carried*

221-2020 Correspondence: Fenner That the following correspondence be accepted as presented:
NDP – Bill C213 – Canada Pharmacare Act - Support
Government of Saskatchewan – Information for New Councillors
SARM – Name use of “Municipalities of Saskatchewan” – November 20, 2020
SARM – CTP Corridor
SARM – Training
North Central Transportation Planning Committee – Minutes September 3, 2020
APAS – AgriStability
Struthers Lake Regional Park – Minutes – August 18, 2020
Transitional Solutions Inc. – Council Orientation *Carried*

222-2020 Committee Reports: Boutin 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*

C.B.F.

10:32 a.m. – 10:53 a.m. Delegate: Chris, BuildTech
- RM appointed Building Official

223-2020 SARM Training: Elsaesser That the RM approve training for the Administrator with regards to Cyber Awareness offered by SARM and Curricula. *Carried*

- 224-2020 Christmas Office Hours: Jensen** That the RM Office be closed December 24, 25 and 28, 2020 and January 1, 2021.
Carried
- 225-2020 Employee Christmas Gifts: Elsaesser** That all the RM Employees be given a \$100 gift card from Lake Country Co-op as a Christmas gift.
Carried
- 226-2020 Fire Department Wages: Soyland** That the Fire Department wages for 2020 in the amount of \$15,575.00 be approved for payment as reviewed by the Town of Birch Hills and the RM of Birch Hills Council representatives which were paid out equally by the Town and RM and that the 2021 Fire Department wages remain the same as in 2020 at the rate of \$12.50 per meeting and \$25.00 per hour for callouts.
Carried
- 227-2020 Weed Inspector Annual Report: Mitchell** That the 2020 Weed Inspector Annual Report be acknowledged as submitted and filed.
Carried
- 228-2020 Auditor: Fenner** That the firm Ingram & Yeadon Accountants be appointed as Auditor for the 2020 fiscal year and further that the Reeve sign the engagement letter upon receipt.
Carried
- 229-2020 Hagen Inspection: Mitchell** That the water and sewer inspection reports for the Hamlet of Hagen from the Water Security Agency be accepted as presented and filed.
Carried
- 230-2020 2021 APAS Membership: Boutin** That the RM renew the APAS membership for 2021 in the amount of \$8,069.33.
Carried
- 231-2020 2021 FCM Membership: Soyland** That the RM renew the FCM membership for 2021 in the amount of \$272.33.
Carried
- 232-2020 2021 SASKTIP Membership: Elsaesser** That the RM renew the SASKTIP membership for 2021 in the amount of \$100.00.
Carried
- 233-2020 2020-2021 Gravel Tenders: Mitchell** That the tender from Kirsch Construction (2008) Ltd. be accepted as submitted. The tender is hereby attached to and forming part of these minutes.
Carried
- 234-2020 2021 Birch Hills Public Library Funding: Mitchell** That the RM contributes \$200.00 to the local library for programming and in addition fund one staff hour per week for a yearly cost of \$1,114.19. The total donation for the year of 2021 is \$1,314.19.
W B J.
Carried
- 235-2020 One Way Plow: Elsaesser** That the RM purchase a one way plow from Triod Supply (2011) Ltd. in the amount of \$31,400.00 plus applicable taxes.
Carried
- 236-2020 772G Grader: Elsaesser** That the RM purchase a 2021 – 772G John Deere Grader from Brandt in the amount of \$390,342.00 plus applicable taxes with the financing available through Brandt at an interest rate of 1.75% over 36 months once the grader is available in 2021.
Carried

237-2020 Signage: Mitchell That not all-weather road signage be installed at the following locations:

- West side of grid road at NE 19-46-23-W2;
- Both sides of Highway 3 at NE 24-46-24-W2;
- Both sides of Highway 3 at SW 30-46-23-W2;
- North of Highway 3 on the east side of the grid road at SW 25-46-23-W2.

Carried

238-2020 Heartbeat Newsletter: Soyland That the RM sponsor the January issue of the Birch Hills Heartbeat in the amount of \$300.00 plus applicable taxes.

Carried

2:53 p.m. In Camera: Soyland That Council move in camera to discuss employee relations and the Civic Centre.

3:20 p.m. In Camera: Elsaesser That the regular meeting of Council be reconvened.

239-2020 Administrator Overtime Hours: Fenner That the RM pay an additional \$2,946.43 gross wages to the Administrator for the overtime hours worked and vacation time not used in the 2020 year.

Carried

240-2020 Civic Centre Appraisal: Fenner That the RM proceed with obtaining an appraisal of the land and building as stated in the Centennial Agreement dated September 24, 1964, for the purpose of obtaining a value for the Civic Centre in the Town of Birch Hills. As the appraisal was agreed upon by the Town of Birch Hills through their legal Counsel on February 19 & 24 of 2020 and then on March 30, 2020 refused to agree to the appraisal as the Town of Birch Hills did not agree to the terms set out to obtain an appraisal of the land and building. The recommendation of the Appraiser as specified on May 19, 2020 by Brunson Lawrek & Associates, that the appraisal be done on the land and building together and the land alone. As a result, the RM of Birch Hills is proceeding to obtain the appraisal for the land and building and the costs to obtain the appraisal will be paid by the RM at this time and then apportioned by the arbitrator at the time of arbitration between the Town and the RM. Further to arbitration, the arbitration mechanism was triggered in resolution 188-2019 on September 9, 2019 by the RM of Birch Hills as per below:

Minutes of September 9, 2019

188-2019 Civic Centre Arbitration: Evans That further to the letter received from the Town of Birch Hills appointed lawyer, dated April 1, 2019, to initiate the purchase/sale of the Civic Centre between the Town of Birch Hills and the RM of Birch Hills, the RM appointed lawyer has sent four letters in agreement to start the process of the RM selling their 25% ownership of the Civic Centre to the Town of Birch Hills. These letters were dated May 1, May 29, August 7 and September 4 of 2019. The RM and their legal counsel have not had a response from the Town or their legal counsel since they began the process April 1, 2019 and as such the RM of Birch Hills Council is initiating the arbitration clause listed as point 16 in the Centennial Agreement dated September 24, 1964 to pursue the sale of the RM portion of the Civic Centre building to the Town of Birch Hills.

Carried

Carried

241-2020 Adjournment: Mitchell That the meeting be adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Carried

Certified correct this 13 day of January, 2021.



Administrator



Reeve