

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIRCH HILLS NO. 460**  
**279 Bellamy Avenue, Birch Hills, Saskatchewan**  
**February 10, 2021**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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**A quorum being present Deputy Reeve Elsaesser called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.**

**51-2021 Oath of Office: Mitchell** That the Council for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 acknowledges that Division Councillor Steve Tomtene has subscribed to the Oath of Office.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**Present:** Deputy Reeve Leyton Elsaesser, Councillors Michael Soyland, Kyle Jensen, Brad Mitchell, Ted Boutin, Steve Tomtene and Administrator Cherie Opseth.

**Regrets:** Reeve Brent Fenner.

**Councillor Kyle Jensen left the meeting at 2:35 p.m.**

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

**52-2021 In Camera: Jensen** That the meeting proceed in camera at 8:41 a.m. to discuss the complaints received regarding Reeve Fenner.  
*Carried*

**53-2021 In Camera: Soyland** That the meeting of Council be reconvened at 9:06 a.m.  
*Carried*

**54-2021 Minutes: Boutin** That the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 13, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*

**55-2021 Minutes: Jensen** That the minutes of the special meeting held on January 20, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*

**56-2021 Minutes: Mitchell** That the minutes of the special meeting held on January 25, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*

**57-2021 Minutes: Boutin** That the minutes of the special meeting held on February 2, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*

**58-2021 Minutes: Elsaesser** That the minutes of the special meeting held on February 3, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*

**59-2021 Financial Statement: Mitchell** That the statement of financial activities and bank reconciliation as at January 31, 2021, be accepted as presented.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**60-2021 Accounts Payable: Jensen** That the accounts at February 10, 2021 as per the attached list of Cheques #15663 - #15698 and Other Direct Utility Payments of \$431,812.62 plus payroll \$12,837.57 totaling \$444,650.19 be approved.  
*Carried Unanimously*

*CO RZ*

**61-2021 Correspondence: Soyland** That the following correspondence be accepted as presented:

MP Randy Hoback – Virtual Meeting  
Government of Saskatchewan – Minister Christine Tell – Rural Crime  
Government of Saskatchewan – Gas Tax – Boiler Replacement  
WSA – Notice of Intent to Amend a Permit to operate Waterworks – Brancepeth  
WSA – Notice of Intent to Amend a Permit to operate Waterworks – Hagen  
SARM – Annual Convention to be held Virtually – March 9 - 10, 2021  
Hamlet of Brancepeth – Minutes – January 13, 2021  
Hamlet of Brancepeth – Minutes – January 19, 2021  
Hamlet of Hagen – Minutes – February 2, 2021  
Hamlet of Hagen – Minutes – February 9, 2021  
Birch Hills Conservation & Development  
– February 8, 2021 – Update on Drainage Project  
Solarcor – Solar power

*Carried Unanimously*

**62-2021 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 Unanimously*

**63-2021 Fire Department Generator: Mitchell** That the RM of Birch Hills approve the quote submitted by Peak Electric to provide and install a generator at the Birch Hills Fire Hall subject to the approval of the Town of Birch Hills.

*Carried Unanimously*

**64-2021 In Camera: Boutin** That the meeting proceed in camera at 10:09 a.m., as per Section 16 of *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Privacy Act* to discuss Human Resource matters.

*Carried*

**65-2021 In Camera: Jensen** That the meeting of Council be reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

*Carried*

**66-2021 2021 Wages: Jensen** That the 2021 hourly wages be set to the following effective March 1, 2021:

Todd Devenis, Acting Foreman - \$30.00 per hour;  
Pat Lepine, Full-time Public Works - \$26.00 per hour;  
Victor Doderai, Seasonal Public Works - \$23.00 per hour;  
Brian Evans, Seasonal Public Works - \$26.00 per hour;  
Don Morrow, Seasonal Public Works - \$21.00 per hour; and  
Joanne Bzdel, Office Assistant \$22.00 per hour

*Carried Unanimously*

**67-2021 2021 Administrative Wages: Mitchell** That the RM Administrator, Cherie Opseth receive an annual salary of \$75,000.00 retroactive to January 1, 2021.

*Carried Unanimously*

**68-2021 2021 Council Committees: Jensen** That the following 2021 Council committee appointments as per below be accepted:

DEPUTY REEVE	Leyton Elsaesser
FINANCE	Leyton Elsaesser, Kyle Jensen, Michael Soyland
BUDGET	Council Committee of the Whole
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS	Ted Boutin, Leyton Elsaesser, Michael Soyland, Brad Mitchell
SHOP & EQUIPMENT	Leyton Elsaesser, Ted Boutin, Kyle Jensen, Brad Mitchell
ROAD & BRIDGE	Council Committee of the Whole
FIRE/EMO/FIRST RESPONDERS	Brad Mitchell, Michael Soyland, Kyle Jensen
RURAL CRIME WATCH	Steve Tomtene, Ted Boutin, Brad Mitchell
BIRCH HILLS HEALTH FOUNDATION	Kyle Jensen
RECREATION	Michael Soyland
ADD BOARD	Steve Tomtene
INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL	Steve Tomtene
PROPOSED LANDFILL DEVELOPMENT	Council Committee of the Whole

*Carried Unanimously*

**69-2021 Committee Appointments: Elsaesser** That the following 2021 committee appointments be made:

BH Health Foundation	Brenda Getz
Local Library Board	Nadia Stevenson, Maxine Cromartie & Helen Shilling
Wapiti Library Board	Nadia Stevenson (2021 & 2022) 2 yr appointment
Development Appeals	Dennis Rask (2021 & 2022) Ryan Shore & Dean Manson (2020 & 2021)
Board of Revision	Councillors of the RM of Invergordon & St. Louis
Board of Revision Secretary	Sindy Tait
Pest Control Officer	Vern Holland
Weed Inspector	Barry Swanson
Struthers Lake Regional Park Board	Carter Braaten

*Carried Unanimously*

**70-2021 Bylaw 01-2021: Jensen** That Bylaw 01-2021 being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 01-2016 a bylaw to regulate the proceedings of Municipal Council and Council's Committees be read a first time.

*Carried*

**71-2021 Bylaw 01-2021: Soyland** That Bylaw 01-2021 being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 01-2016 a bylaw to regulate the proceedings of Municipal Council and Council's Committees be second time.

*Carried*  
*CD JK*

**72-2021 Bylaw 01-2021: Tomtene** That Bylaw 01-2021 being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 01-2016 a bylaw to regulate the proceedings of Municipal Council and Council's Committees be given three readings at this meeting.

*Carried Unanimously*

**73-2021 Bylaw 01-2021: Boutin** That Bylaw 01-2021 being a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 01-2016 a bylaw to regulate the proceedings of Municipal Council and Council's Committees be read a third time and adopted.

*Carried*

**74-2021 Truck Fill – Key Fob Policy: Soyland** That the Truck Fill – Key Fob Policy be adopted as attached and form part of these minutes.

*Carried Unanimously*

**75-2021 Brancepeth Permit to Operate Waterworks: Soyland** That Council acknowledge the Brancepeth Permit to Operate a Waterworks effective February 8, 2021 to February 21, 2022.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**76-2021 Brancepeth Waterplant Insurance: Soyland** That the RM accept the insurance settlement as presented from SARM insurance in the amount of \$30,889.27 for the repairs to the Brancepeth Waterplant due to the damages resulting from the plough wind of June 14, 2020.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**77-2021 Hagen Annual Meeting: Mitchell** That Council acknowledge that the Hamlet of Hagen will not have an annual general meeting for 2021 due to COVID-19 and that the 2021 annual minutes as submitted by the Hamlet of Hagen Board from February 2, 2021 and February 9, 2021 be accepted as presented.  
*Carried Unanimously*

**78-2021 12:19 p.m. In Camera: Jensen** That Council move in camera to discuss legal issues and the complaints against Reeve Fenner.  
*Carried*

Administrator Cherie Opseth left the in-camera meeting at 1:25 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

**79-2021 4:01 p.m. In Camera: Mitchell** That the regular meeting of Council be reconvened.  
*Carried*

**80-2021 Adjournment: Boutin** That the meeting be adjourned at 4:03 p.m.  
*Carried*

Certified correct this 10 day of March, 2021.

  
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Administrator

  
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Deputy Reeve