

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

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

**Regrets:** Councillor Ted Boutin.

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

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

**81-2021      **Head of Council: Tomtene**** That Deputy Reeve Elsaesser act as the Head of Council at the request of Reeve Fenner for this meeting due to the ongoing investigation into the complaints against him personally.  
*Carried Unanimously*  
*Reeve Fenner abstained due to the conflict of interest.*

**82-2021      **In Camera: Jensen**** That the meeting proceed in camera at 8:40 a.m. to discuss the complaints received regarding Reeve Fenner.  
*Carried*

**83-2021      **In Camera: Soyland**** That the meeting of Council be reconvened at 9:06 a.m.  
*Carried*

**84-2021      **Complaint Investigation Results: Mitchell**** That upon conclusion of the investigation conducted by Council as a whole, Council has concluded that the complaints against Reeve Brent Fenner were substantiated and that he did engage in conduct contrary to the Code of Ethics Bylaw No. 01-2017 adopted by the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 and that the following sanctions be required:

- Reeve Fenner shall submit a written apology to Cherie Opseth & Joanne Bzdel;
- Reeve Fenner shall attend anger management training. The Deputy Reeve, Administrator and Reeve will find available courses to present to Council to decide on which course would be appropriate. The RM will pay for the cost of the course;
- Reeve Fenner must also complete Respect in the Workplace training offered by SARM; and
- With respect to the Administrator and Office Assistant, Council is directing that Brent step back from chairing meetings and limits his contact with the municipal office staff until the Respect in the Workplace and anger management training is complete.

*Carried Unanimously*  
*Reeve Fenner abstained due to the conflict of interest.*

*OP*  
*fh*

**85-2021      **Minutes: Soyland**** That the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 10, 2021, be approved as circulated.  
*Carried*  
*Reeve Fenner abstained as he was not present.*

**86-2021      **Financial Statement: Fenner**** That the statement of financial activities and bank reconciliation as at February 28, 2021, be accepted as presented.  
*Carried*

**87-2021      **Accounts Payable: Mitchell**** That the accounts at March 10, 2021 as per the attached list of Cheques #15699 - #15728 and Other Direct Utility Payments of \$100,553.15 plus payroll \$14,921.04 totaling \$115,474.19 be approved.  
*Carried*

**88-2021**      **Correspondence: Jensen** That the following correspondence be accepted as presented:  
Government of Saskatchewan – Gas Tax – Fire Department Building Repair  
Government of Saskatchewan – Gas Tax – Brancepeth Water Plant - Generator  
RCMP – Quarterly Report – October to December, 2020  
SARM – Clubroot Map  
SARM – PSIP  
NCTPC – Minutes – November 18, 2020  
Solarcor – Solar power

*Carried*

**10:00 a.m. - 11:13 a.m.**      **Delegation: Birch Hills Conservation & Development**  
Kevin Schmidt, SCDA  
Kevin Evans, BH C&D

**89-2021**      **Committee Reports: Fenner** 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*

**90-2021**      **Highway Accident: Tomtene** That the reimbursement of costs from Federated Co-op Association incurred by the RM of Birch Hills due to the accident on Highway 3 near Brancepeth on March 7, 2021, be used to purchase emergency signage for the Birch Hills Fire and Rescue Department.

*Carried*

**91-2021**      **Hamlet Water Truckfill Stations: Jensen** That the coin operated system at the truckfill water station in the Hamlet of Hagen be removed effective April 1, 2021 and that the coin operated system in the Hamlet of Brancepeth be removed effective July 1, 2021 as the key fob systems are now operational.

*Carried*

**92-2021**      **RCMP Quarterly Report: Elsaesser** That the Council for the RM of Birch Hills No. 460 acknowledge the RCMP quarterly report for October to December of 2020.

*Carried*

**93-2021**      **Fire Department Members: Tomtene** That Nathaniel Powalinsky and Georgia Mathers-Huniak be appointed as Volunteer Firefighters and that Morgan Munro be appointed as a Student Volunteer Firefighter for the RM of Birch Hills.

*Carried*

**94-2021**      **Bylaw 02-2021: Jensen** That Bylaw 02-2021 being a bylaw to provide for assessing and levying the cost of fire prevention, suppression and emergency response services be read a first time.


*Carried*

**95-2021**      **Bylaw 02-2021: Soyland** That Bylaw 02-2021 being a bylaw to provide for assessing and levying the cost of fire prevention, suppression and emergency response services be read a second time.

*Carried*

**96-2021**      **Bylaw 02-2021: Mitchell** That Bylaw 02-2021 being a bylaw to provide for assessing and levying the cost of fire prevention, suppression and emergency response services be given three readings at this meeting.

*Carried Unanimously*

- 97-2021 Bylaw 02-2021: Tomtene** That Bylaw 02-2021 being a bylaw to provide for assessing and levying the cost of fire prevention, suppression and emergency response services be read a third time and adopted.  
*Carried*
- 98-2021 2021 First Responders Budget: Soyland** That the RM approve the 2021 First Responders Budget presented and attached to these minutes and further that the purchase of First Responders clothing in with their logo be purchased in the amount of \$743.84 in addition to the budget be equally shared between the Town and RM of Birch Hills.  
*Carried*
- 99-2021 2020-2021 Gravel Tender: Soyland** That the electronic resolution from February 22, 2021 to amend the 2020-2021 Gravel Contract be acknowledged as attached and forming a part of these minutes.  
*Carried*
- 100-2021 Civic Centre Committee: Soyland** That the RM and Town of Birch Hills establish a committee to discuss the Civic Centre issues “without prejudice”. The RM appointed representatives shall be Leyton Elsaesser and Brad Mitchell.  
*Carried*
- 101-2021 Hagen Permit to Operate Water Works: Mitchell** That Council acknowledge the Hagen Permit to Operate a Waterworks effective March 3, 2021 to February 20, 2022.  
*Carried*
- 102-2021 Hagen Permit to Operate Sewage Works: Mitchell** That Council acknowledge the Hagen Permit to Operate a Sewage Works effective April 1, 2021 to April 1, 2026.  
*Carried*
- 103-2021 Hagen Waterplant Repairs: Mitchell** That the RM approves the quote submitted by J.R. Lepine Contracting to remove and replace siding on the Hagen Waterplant in the amount of \$3,350.00 plus taxes.   
*Carried*
- 104-2021 Brancepeth Permit to Operate Sewage Works: Soyland** That Council acknowledge the Brancepeth Permit to Operate a Sewage Works effective April 1, 2021 to April 1, 2026.  
*Carried*
- 105-2021 Hunting Beavers: Mitchell** That Hunter Rhead be added to the individuals authorized to hunt beavers within the municipality.  
*Carried*  
*Councillor Tomtene abstained due to the conflict of interest.*
- 106-2021 Federal Gas Tax Fund Program: Jensen** That the RM submit an Infrastructure Investment Plan Application for Federal Gas Tax Funding for the construction of a drainage ditch along NE 20-46A-26-W2, SW 21-46A-26-W2, SE 21-46A-26-W2, NE 16-46A-26-W2, NW 15-46A-26-W2, SE 20-46A-26-W2, SE 20-46A-26 W2 and SW 22-46A-26-W2 for the preservation and repair of the municipal road.  
*Carried*
- 107-2021 Federal Gas Tax Fund Program: Mitchell** That the RM submit an Infrastructure Investment Plan Application for Federal Gas Tax Funding for the purchase and installation of high efficient furnaces for the RM office.  
*Carried*
- 108-2021 1978-4440 Tractor: Jensen** That the RM advertise for sale the 1978 – 4440 tractor as-is and that the RM accept sealed tenders up 12:00 noon on April 12, 2021 to be opened at the April regular meeting of Council.  
*Carried*

- 109-2021**     **In Camera: Jensen** That the meeting proceed in camera at 2:25 p.m. to discuss the legal matters. *Carried*
- 110-2021**     **In Camera: Elsaesser** That the meeting of Council be reconvened at 2:53 p.m. *Carried*
- 111-2021**     **Adjournment: Soyland** That the meeting be adjourned at 2:54 p.m. *Carried*

Certified correct this 14 day of April, 2021.

  
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Administrator

  
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Deputy Reeve