

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – WABASCA
APRIL 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity Council was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at the Wabasca Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marshall Auger (Reeve)	Darlene Jackson
Leo Alook	Gerald Johnson
Larry Cardinal	Tahirih Wiebe (10:02 a.m.)
Cheri Courtorielle	Roy Yellowknee

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Brendan Powell (D/Reeve)	Robin Guild
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MEMBERS ABSENT: Louis A. Cardinal

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chad Tullis	Chief Administrative Officer
William Auger	Manager of Enforcement Bylaw & Security
Lee Bissell	Regional Fire Chief
Raymond Auger	Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance
Trina Mineault	Chief Financial Officer
Rolanna Auger	Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services
Kimball Newberry	Director of Public Works
Earl Gullion	Director of Utilities
Lynda Gray	Recording Secretary

MEMBER OF PUBLIC:

Pearl Lorentzen	Lakeside Leader
Ernie Grach	The Fever
Russell Loughridge	Wabasca Resident

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Reeve Marshall D. Auger.

Adoption of Agenda: **0179-2025-17MDC**
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the agenda be adopted with additions and deletions:

- 7b. Grant Writing session – Athabasca university
 - 7c. Al-pac Meeting
 - 8b. Calling Lake Security Schedule
 - 8c. Animal Control
 - 10c. Signage
 - 10d. Facility Maintenance Positions
 - 10e. Door Replacement
 - 11e. Request from Chokopeu Contracting – Additional Information
 - 12b. Financial Reporting Extension Request
 - 14c. Staffing Positions
 - 14d. Dangerous Tree Removal/Path
- Remove 10b. Window Covering Vendor Selection for Calling Lake Senior Complex
Remove 11f. FCSS Proclamation in Support of Truth and Reconciliation

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Arrival: Councillor Tahirih Wiebe arrived at 10:02 a.m.

Introductions: Round table introductions were held.

Initials: Reeve M.A. CAO C1

**Approval of Minutes
(March 26, 2025):**

0180-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the minutes of the delegation meeting of council held on March 26, 2025 be approved with amendments:

Keekenow Senior Facility: Signage for internal rooms will be facilitated by Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority. The outdoor sign will be facilitated by the MD of Opportunity. That is phase 2 of the signage program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Approval of Minutes
(March 28, 2025):**

0181-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on March 28, 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Admin Report:

Chief Administrative Officer, Chad Tullis presented the CAO Monthly Report.

0182-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Chief Administrative Officer report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grant Writing Workshop:

Athabasca University is offering a Grant Writing Workshop on April 24, 2025 in Athabasca. The workshop is co-hosted by the Athabasca District Chamber of Commerce. The 2-hour interactive session will provide knowledge of how to identify government, foundation or corporate funding opportunities, fundamentals of successful applications and practical skills to develop proposals via hands-on learning. There is a registration fee of \$11.98.

Administration will bring it up the directors meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

AI-Pac Meeting:

Reeve & council met with Alberta Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (AI-Pac) on April 3, 2025. AI-Pac doesn't consult with the municipality; they harvest trees and we get nothing.

Council would like to schedule a follow-up meeting. One item for discussion is corporate sponsorship for infrastructure projects.

Municipal Enforcement:

Manager of Bylaw Enforcement & Security, William Auger presented the Municipal Enforcement Department Monthly Report.

0183-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the Municipal Enforcement Department monthly report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Calling Lake Security
Schedule:**

Administration to look into the Calling Lake security schedule which would be more beneficial to the employees that work night shift. Get input from the staff and how they feel about the scheduling. The manager of Municipal Enforcement to meet with the security staff to discuss the scheduling.

Animal Control:

AMENDED APRIL 23, 2025

ms. QY

A concern was communicated by residents about dangerous dogs. Our communities need to be protected from dangerous and stray dogs, people need to feel safe in their yards and when going for a walk. Not all dogs can be apprehended because the kennel is full. The Second Chance Animal Rescue Society (SCARS) does help out when they have space available for dogs. The Canadian Animal Task Force will be in Wabasca on October 3-5, 2025 to offer a free Spay & Neuter Clinic.

Administration to come up with a game plan to remedy the situation.

Initials: Reeve  CAO 

Regional Fire Department: Regional Fire Chief, Lee Bissell presented the Regional Fire Department Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0184-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the Regional Fire Department monthly report be accepted as presented and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Rental Agreement with Kee
Tas Kee Now Tribal Council:**

0185-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the Municipal District of Opportunity enter into a short-term rental agreement with Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC) for a Type 2 Structure Protection Unit (SPU).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Peerless Trout First Nation
Mutual Aid Agreement:**

0186-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Municipal District of Opportunity enter into a Mutual Aid agreement with Peerless Trout First Nation which will replace the current Fire Services agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 11:02 a.m. and reconvened 11:13 a.m.

Capital Projects:

Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance, Raymond Auger presented the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0187-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Signage:

There was a brief discussion on signage. Signage to be added to the creek crossings in Calling Lake. Council also asked for an update on the metal signs.

Maintenance Positions:

Council asked for clarification on the some of the positions in the Facility Maintenance department. There were some positions removed when the organizational chart was restructured. The budget has been set to accommodate what Facility Maintenance has for staff. Current employees can be utilized in different capacities.

Door Replacement:

0188-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the request from a senior in Calling Lake to have an entry door replaced be approved up to \$500.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation & Culture:

Chief Administrative Officer, Chad Tullis presented the Recreation & Culture Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0189-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the Recreation & Culture report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Grants Committee Report:**0190-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Leo Alook that the recommendations from the Grants Committee be approved with funds from GL 2-00-00-31-770-16 (\$8,000) and GL 2-00-00-31-770-17 (\$8,500).

- Request from Mistassiniy School for \$5,000 to go towards graduation and cosmetology supplies;
- Request from Red Earth Creek School for \$3,000 to go towards a trip for grades 9-12 students to attend Northwestern Polytechnic student for a day program in Grande Prairie to expose them to post-secondary trade options on May 12-14, 2025;
- Request from Grace Decoine approved for \$1,500 to go towards a music video of song co-written with band member from Stirling John band;
- Request from Victoria Hicks for \$2,500 to go towards a community Easter egg hunt in Calling Lake on April 20, 2025;
- Request from Bigstone Community Wellness for funds to go towards a Mental Wellness Conferences in Wabasca (May 6-7, 2025), Calling Lake (May 8, 2025) and Chipewyan Lake (May 9, 2025) be tabled to investigate if it qualifies with FCSS;
- Request from Justice Bigstone approved for \$1,500 to go towards costs for the Native Dream Team Men's Volleyball European Tour to play volleyball on August 17-28, 2025;
- Request from Kayla Bigstone for \$1,500 to go towards costs for the 2025 Women's Global Challenge Tournament & Tour in Pula, Croatia to play volleyball on July 9-20, 2025;
- Request from Emily Rathbone for \$1,500 to go towards costs for the 2025 Women's Global Challenge Tournament & Tour in Pula, Croatia to play volleyball on July 9-20, 2025;
- Request from Wabasca Motor Sports for \$65,200 to go towards landscaping, gates, and mud bog pits is accepted as information. Invite to a delegation meeting for further information;
- Donation request from Sherylyn Beaver for po-car rally fundraiser and funeral service be accepted as information;
- Donation request from RECESS Society for a silent auction fundraiser on April 28, 2025 be approved for \$100 in MD promotional items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Barber Services Request:**0191-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the request from Mohamed Abbas to establish a barber shop within the Eagle Point Golf Course facility be tabled for more information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Calling Lake Kito Sakahekan
Seniors Society Lease
Extension Request:**

0192-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that administration is authorized to engage into a lease agreement for the Calling Lake Kito Sakahekan Seniors Society to lease the Calling Lake Seniors space for five (5) years under existing terms.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Chokopeu Contracting – Life
Skills Summer Training in
Calling Lake:**

0193-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the proposal from Chokopeu Contracting for \$27,700.00 for the Life Skills Summer Training in Calling Lake be referred to the Grants Committee meeting on May 13, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**FCSS Proclamation in Support of
Truth & Reconciliation:**

0194-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the FCSS Proclamation in support of Truth and Reconciliation be tabled to the April 23, 2025 delegation meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 12:18 p.m. and reconvened 12: 51p.m.

Finance Report:

Chief Financial Officer, Trina Mineault presented the Finance Monthly Report.

0195-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Financial Reporting Extension
Request:****0196-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the financial reporting extension request be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Corporate & Regulatory
Services Report:**

Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services, Rolanna Auger presented the Corporate & Regulatory Services Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0197-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Corporate & Regulatory Services Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Municipal Reserve Purchase or
Lease Lot 28MR, Plan 8321796;
791 Pelican Road:****0198-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration is authorized to proceed with a registered Alberta Appraiser to determine fair market value of 791 Pelican Road in Sandy Lake.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dangerous Tree Removal:

There are areas at the north beach in Calling Lake that has dangerous trees and dead brush that should be removed for the safety of the residents.

The removal of dangerous trees is not part of the FireSmart program and would have to be done in-house.

Public Works Report:

Director of Public Works, Kimball Newberry presented the Public Works Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0199-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Gravel Sales to Residents:**0200-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Robin Guild that administration is authorized to proceed with gravel sales to Wabasca, Sandy Lake and Calling Lake residents for \$475 plus GST per 10 tonne load to a maximum of two (2) loads for residential properties which includes the spreading of gravel for a total of \$498.75.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Staffing Positions:

The job descriptions for the Facility Maintenance seasonal positions are mostly utilized for cutting grass and helping crews but also cover guys on their days off.

Utilities Report:

Director of Utilities, Earl Gullion presented the Utilities Monthly Report.

0201-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Utilities report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Departure:

Councillor Gerald Johnson left at 1:51 p.m.

Council Round Table:**0202-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the Council Round Table discussions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Departure:

Councillor Gerald Johnson left at 1:51 p.m.

Sessions/Events:**0203-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that council are authorized to attend the following events:

- Virtual town hall information session on Bill 50 hosted by Alberta Municipal Affairs on April 16, 2025;
- Register Marcel Auger for the RMA Annual Charity Golf Tournament on June 12, 2025 in Drumheller;
- Enter a team for the Sturgeon County Mayor's Golf Tournament on June 19, 2025; and
- Enter a team for the Annual Golf Day in Barrhead hosted by North Central Transportation & Economic Corridors.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Information/Correspondence: 0204-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Calendars:**0205-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the calendars be accepted with additions to add the Calling Lake Senior Housing Working Committee meeting on April 13, 2025 at noon in Calling Lake and the Final Budget Review on May 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Dates:

Special Council Meeting
April 16, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Red Earth Creek Community Hall

Delegation Council Meeting
April 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Sandy Lake Community Hall

Regular Council Meeting
May 14, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Wabasca Council Chambers

Adjournment:**0206-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the meeting be adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Marshall D. Auger, Reeve



Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer