

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17
DELEGATION COUNCIL MEETING – SANDY LAKE
APRIL 23, 2025

The delegation meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity Council was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at the Sandy Lake Community Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Marshall Auger (Reeve)	Darlene Jackson
	Leo Alook	Gerald Johnson
	Larry Cardinal	Tahirih Wiebe
	Cheri Courtorielle	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Louis A. Cardinal	Robin Guild
	Brendan Powell (D/Reeve)	Roy Yellowknee
IN ATTENDANCE:	Chad Tullis	Chief Administrative Officer
	Earl Gullion	Director of Utilities
	Kimball Newberry	Director of Public Works
	Tanya Alook	Manager of Children’s Services
	Lynda Gray	Recording Secretary
MEMBER OF PUBLIC:	Pearl Lorentzen	Lakeside Leader

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Reeve Marshall D. Auger.

Adoption of Agenda: 0212-2025-17MDC
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the agenda be adopted with additions:

7a. Wabasca Desmaris Housing Land Transfers
7b. Hamlet Boundary Signs
7c. Gravel for Taron’s Ranch
7d. Update on Senior Housing Land Transfers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes (April 9, 2025): 0213-2025-17MDC
Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the minutes of the regular meeting of council held on April 9, 2025 be approved with amendments to the Animal Control item to add “Administration to come up with a game plan to remedy the situation.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes (April 16, 2025): 0214-2025-17MDC
Moved by Leo Alook that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on April 16, 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WDHA Land Transfers: Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority is in the process of doing land transfers, there are some that have been completed. With those land transfers that have been completed, some landowners would like to know if they will be responsible for paying property taxes this year or next year.

Typically, with a land sale, the terms of the sale would dictate how taxes are taken care of. Usually, the previous owner takes care of some or all of it, depends on what time of year the transfer takes place. The arrangement should be taken care of in the land sale agreement.

The MD of Opportunity sends tax notices to the registered landowner(s) in June. The current landowner would be responsible.

Initials: Reeve md CAO CT

Hamlet Boundary Signs:

There was a brief discussion about the hamlet boundary signs. Some of the posts are on a slope which makes it look crooked. Council wants to know what plans administration has to finish the signs and if there will be flower beds and lighting.

Administration to come up with a game plan to figure out a way to do some minimal landscaping for a more finished look.

Gravel for Taron's Ranch:

Residents from Taron's Ranch inquired about gravel for their driveways which are being damaged by water and sewer trucks. They would also like gravel on the road to the ranch.

Administration to inspect the driveways and check the policy to find out who is responsible for any damage to roads caused by water and sewer services provided to the residence.

Senior Housing Land Transfers Update:

The land transfers for the senior homes in Calling Lake from the MD of Opportunity to the Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority is still in process. The land transfers cannot be done until the subdivision is completed but that shouldn't hold up occupancy of the units.

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

**Delegation:
(11:00 a.m.)**

ATCO – Tanya Fillion, Jolene Colbourne
Round table introductions were held.

The delegates were in to present to council the ATCO Energy Systems "Addressing Climate Risk Enhancing Reliability" and climate risk plans. ATCO service territory in the forest protection area, including Wabasca area, is 43% of ATCO's powerline ROW. Over the past 5 years, there have been more fires and events than we have seen in the previous 20 years. They explained what they're doing to prevent that as well as the initiatives they have underway.

ATCO is committed to maintaining safe, reliable electricity and working to proactively mitigate climate risks, enhance the reliability of services and resiliency of our systems. Customer support helps ensure a safe, reliable, climate resilient electrical system. They are also looking into substation battery backup. ATCO's goal is to ensure leading grid resilience and preparedness for major weather events, unite existing climate strategies while delivering new and robust climate strategies, and construct climate resilience assets. By doing this, they have coalition with Alberta Government, work with Fortis Electric, other municipalities, communities and organizations.

Some of the things they are doing are to implement lessons learned from previous wildfire seasons is harden assets and make system improvements, advance technologies line condition monitoring, cameras & weather stations, enhance vegetation management for powerline hazard reduction and wildfire mitigation plan. As they to continue to do more things to harden systems which is to be more resilient, they don't want them to fail. They are using advanced technologies. One of the advanced technologies they're doing is early wildfire detection in the Swan Hills area where they have three different sensors and cameras to see if it can detect smoke. It detects the chemicals and scents of smoke. When a sensor triggers, a camera goes to that location and has visual confirmation. The platform is always accessible by Alberta Government and ATCO, so they're triggered immediately. Enhancing vegetation management and powerline reduction, that's important in this area. As they continue to do more things to harden our system, it makes it safer for communities.

Future work is the Transmission Capital Maintenance. ATCO is working on transmission lines. When you look in your area (Wabasca, Sandy Lake), typically you see distribution lines but before power comes down to distribution lines, it goes through transmission lines. Those need to be made reliable as well as quality and level of power. ATCO is aiming at mitigating risk and enhancing reliability and safety. Support from customers demonstrates stakeholder approval.

The *Climate Adaptation and Vulnerability Assessment* study assesses climate-related risk to the electrical system under a range of climate scenarios, identifies related risks and provides recommendations for high-risk areas. The study is expected to drive mitigating solutions to minimize asset loss and outage times in these higher risk zones. The *Wildfire Risk Reduction*

focuses on managing off-right-of-way vegetation around system infrastructure. The *Wood Power Pole Fire Protection program* protects power poles by wrapping coated wire mesh around poles. The *Cross-arm Replacement* program replaces wood cross-arms with steel on transmission structures in wildfire prone areas. Interphase spacers are installed to keep powerlines vertically separated in various weather conditions. The *Wildlife Mitigation* program is the installation of equipment to mitigate the impacts of wildlife interactions with power infrastructure. The operations crew make recommendations based on what they see. The *Powerline Risk mitigation* assesses overhead powerlines that pose reliability and safety risks. Mitigative measures include covering, relocating, or burying high-risk sections of powerlines.

Council thanked the delegates for their attendance and information. Delegates left at 11:41 a.m.

Recess/Reconvene: The meeting recessed at 11:41 a.m. and reconvened at 11:55 a.m.

Councillor Declaration: Councillor Darlene Jackson declared conflict and left the room at 11:55 a.m.

2025 Wabasca Gardener Project:

0215-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the 2025 Wabasca Gardener project be accepted as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Retender 2025 Wabasca Gardener Project:

0216-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that administration retender the Wabasca Gardener project and stipulate number of hours expected weekly and that the MD of Opportunity purchase the hanging flower pots and planters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Return: Councillor Darlene Jackson returned at 12:25 p.m.

Recess/Reconvene: The meeting recessed at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

Calling Lake Daycare Survey Results:

0217-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the Calling Lake daycare survey results be referred to administration with direction to look at the arena and recreation center as potential locations for a daycare with two rooms, one for children 12-35 months and one for children 36-60 months.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F.6 Community Grants Policy Amendment:

0218-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the proposed amendment to the F.6 Grants Community policy to change the maximum grant for an individual from \$1,500 to \$200.00 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Raw Land Purchase Request

NW-36-72-22-W4 Calling Lake: **0219-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the request from Jeff Hamm to purchase +/-1 acre of raw land within NW-36-72-22-W4 in Calling Lake be accepted as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Reserve Designation: **0220-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the remainder of NW-36-72-22-W4 be designated as a Municipal Reserve and administration to bring this back to council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve MA CAO CT

**T.32 Use of Municipal Buses
Amendments:**

0221-2025-17MDC

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the proposed amendments to T.32 Use of Municipal Buses policy be approved as presented.

- Change Transportation to Public Works and Manager to Director;
- Purpose of Policy: change “of Wabasca and Calling Lake” to “within the MD based out of Wabasca”;
- Use of Bus: 5. Change “Clubs” to “Teams”, and add per *calendar* year;
- Requirements: 7. remove Transportation Safety Director as well as all volunteer drivers;
- Responsibilities-Organization: 9. change 500 km to \$500.00, 12. add “and vapes”, 24. add “weather”;
- Required Licenses to Operate Bus: change “passengers” to “seats”, and change “12-15 passengers vans” to “vehicles that transport passengers”;
- Schedule C – Rental Rates: change half day rental and damage deposit rates from \$250 to \$400, change daily rental and damage deposit rates from \$400 to \$800, change weekend rental and damage deposit rates from \$750 to \$1,600, and one week rental and damage deposit rates from \$1,000 to \$2,500; and
- Remove Volunteer Bus Drivers section

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wabasca Generator Installation
M&M Lift Station Request for
Additional Funds:**

0222-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that administration is authorized to add \$30,000.00 to the Wabasca Generator Installation M&M Lift Station project GL 4-42-00-31-610-16.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Award Wabasca Generator
Installation M&M Lift Station
Contract:**

0223-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration is authorized to award the Wabasca Installation M&M Lift Station contract to Budney’s Maintenance Services Ltd. for \$158,150.00 plus GST with funds from GL 4-42-00-31-610-16.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Award Wabasca Lagoon
Fencing Contract:**

0224-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that administration is authorized to award the Wabasca Lagoon Fencing contract to Robert Davis, 2474171 AB Ltd. for \$365,000.00 and that administration be authorized to add \$38,000.00 to the capital budget GL 4-42-00-31-601-00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Round Table:

0225-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Council Round Table discussions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Information/Correspondence: 0226-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Calendars:

0227-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the calendars be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Dates:

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

Delegation Council Meeting
May 28, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Red Earth Creek Community Hall

Adjournment:

0228-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the meeting be adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Marshall G. Auger, Reeve



Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer