

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – WABASCA
DECEMBER 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity Council was held on Monday, December 8, 2025 at the Wabasca Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marshall D. Auger (Reeve)	Brendan Powell (D/Reeve)
Leo Alook	Robin Guild
Kevin Bigstone	Darlene Jackson
Louis A. Cardinal	Gerald Johnson
Cecil Gladue	Roy Yellowknee

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marcel C. Auger

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chad Tullis	Chief Administrative Officer
William Auger	Manager of Enforcement Bylaw & Security
Lee Bissell	Regional Fire Chief
Everett Gottfried	Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance
Angela Lightning	Director of Recreation & Culture
Nicole Alook	Manager of Golf Course, Arena & Parks
Trina Mineault	Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Musch	Director of Finance
Rolanna Auger	Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services
Kimball Newberry	Director of Public Works
Earl Gullion	Director of Utilities
Lynda Gray	Recording Secretary

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

Adoption of Agenda: 0742-2025-17MDC
Moved by Brendan Powell that the agenda be adopted with additions.

18c. iii. Closed Session: Tax Exemption for Employees

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes (November 24, 2025): 0743-2025-17MDC
Moved by Robin Guild that the minutes of the delegation meeting of council held on November 24, 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes (December 4, 2025): 0744-2025-17MDC
Moved by Gerald Johnson that the minutes of the interim budget meeting of council held on December 4, 2025 be approved with corrections.

Motion 0739-2025-17MDC: Change "carried unanimously" to "carried". Deputy Reeve voted against operating budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Admin Report: Chief Administrative Officer, Chad Tullis presented the CAO Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0745-2025-17MDC
Moved by Brendan Powell that the Chief Administrative Officers report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve ms. CAO CT

**Greater North Foundation
Member-at-Large
Appointment:**

0746-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that Cheri Courtorielle be appointed to the Greater North Foundation as a member at large.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Enforcement:

Manager of Bylaw Enforcement & Security, William Auger presented the monthly report.

0747-2025-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that the Municipal Enforcement report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regional Fire Department:

Regional Fire Chief, Lee Bissell presented the Fire Department Monthly Report.

0748-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Regional Fire Department report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Capital Projects:

Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance, Everett Gottfried presented the Monthly Report.

0749-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recreation & Culture:

Director of Recreation & Culture, Angela Lightning presented the monthly report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0750-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Recreation & Culture report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Grants Committee
Recommendations:**

0751-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the grants committee recommendation be approved as presented.

- Request from John McLeod be approved for \$1,500 for the 2025/26 Junior Hockey Season.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Request to Exceed 2025 Budget
- Community Grant -
Recreation:**

0752-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the total overage of \$99,476 for the 2025 recreation community grants budget GL 2-00-00-31-770-17 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene:

The meeting recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Delegation: Cheri Courtorielle Consulting Inc.
11:00 a.m. Round table introductions

The delegate was in attendance to present her consulting services and make a proposal to council. She can provide strategic support where outcomes, relationships and accountability matter. Bridge communication between councils, first nations, industry leaders, and governments. Government relations and lobbying through direct engagement with elected officials and senior public servants. Strategic communication and public relations, shaping public opinion and managing reputation. Digital advocacy and mobilization using online platforms to build public support. Guide organizations through sensitive, complex, high-stakes situations. Areas of focus would be communication and understanding, strengthening working relationships and collaboration.

She is a past municipal councilwoman and has experience working with contractors, industry representatives, and all levels of government. She knows what the MD of Opportunity needs when it comes to collaboration and partnerships. The MD doesn't get updates from industry. She can bridge the gap and inform the MD of Opportunity.

Council thanked the delegate for her attendance and presentation. Delegate left at 11:25 a.m.

Finance Report: Chief Financial Officer, Trina Mineault and Director of Finance, Ryan Musch presented the Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0753-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**F.6 Community Grants Policy
 Amendment:**

0754-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the F.6 Community Grants Policy and associated Schedule of Applications to add Scholarship to the application form and add the municipal scholarship grant application form be approved as presented and enacts.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

0755-2025-17MDC

Moved by Robin Guild that administration be authorized to remove the scheduled applications from the F.6 Grants Policy.

CARRIED

**WDHA Debt Forgiveness &
 Calling Lake Senior's Property
 Transfer:**

0756-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the forgiveness of the related-party balance of \$6,164,591 for Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority, and that the transfer of the Calling Lake Senior Facility through a Capital Government Transfer be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026 Capital Budget:

0757-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the 2026 Capital Budget and funding sources be approved in principle as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**2026 Interim Operating Budget
 Amendment:**

0758-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the 2026 Interim Operating Budget be approved in principle as presented with a tax revenue increase of \$3,914,739 or \$6.59% and \$3,000,000 is to be transferred to the Capital Reserve. Total revenue and expenditures for the 2026 Operating Budget is \$85,476,439.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess/Reconvene: The meeting recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

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

0759-2025-17MDC

Moved by Leo Alook that the Corporate & Regulatory Services report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw 2025-24 1000 Fox Drive – Sandy Lake Park Development MR Designation:

Being a Bylaw of the Municipal District of Opportunity in the Province of Alberta to designate a portion of NE-36-78-23-W4, in the Hamlet of Sandy Lake in the Municipal District of Opportunity, to Municipal Reserve. In accordance with Section 665(1) of the Municipal Government Act, Chapter M26.1, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, as Amended.

First Reading to Bylaw to 2025-24:

0760-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that Bylaw 2025-24 be given first reading to designate a portion of NE-36-78-23-W4, in the Hamlet of Sandy Lake, to Municipal Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Second Reading to Bylaw to 2025-24:

0761-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that Bylaw 2025-24 be given second reading to designate a portion of NE-36-78-23-W4, in the Hamlet of Sandy Lake, to Municipal Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Unanimous Reading to Bylaw to 2025-24:

0762-2025-17MDC

Moved by Robin Guild to seek unanimous consent that third reading of Bylaw 2025-24 be given.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Third Reading to Bylaw to 2025-24:

0763-2025-17MDC

Moved by Louis A. Cardinal that Bylaw 2025-24 be given third reading to designate a portion of NE-36-78-23-W4, in the Hamlet of Sandy Lake, to Municipal Reserve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Works Report: Director of Public Works, Kimball Newberry presented the Monthly Report.

0764-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

0765-2025-17MDC

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council Round Table:

0766-2025-17MDC

Moved by Gerald Johnson that the Council Round Table discussions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve ml - CAO CT

**Support Joint Letter with
Alberta North Central Alliance
Regarding the Proposed
Electoral Boundaries:**

0767-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the MD of Opportunity are in support with Alberta North Central Alliance (ANCA) regarding the proposed electoral boundary changes.

CARRIED

Information/Correspondence: 0768-2025-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Calendars: 0769-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the calendars be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Closed Session: 0770-2025-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that council move into a closed session at 1:23 p.m. with the Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Recreation & Culture, Manager of Eagle Point Golf Course, Arena & Parks, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance and Recording Secretary to discuss items: a) Concessions, b) Tax Exemption for Employees, c) Penalty on Taxes and d) BCN Water Agreement, as per section 16 of the Freedom of Information Privacy Act (FOIP).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Director of Recreation & Culture and Manager of Eagle Point Golf Course, Arena & Parks left at 1:33 p.m.

Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance arrived at 1:33 p.m.

Councillor Departure: Councillor Leo Alook left at 2:04 p.m.

0771-2025-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that council return to open meeting at 2:07 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Concessions: Direction to administration to draft a letter to the leaseholder.

**Tax Exemption for
Employees:** Direction to administration to have TD1-IN's filled out for employees that spend some time working on reserve.

Penalty on Taxes: Direction to administration to draft a letter to the resident to inform them of council's decision.

**Bigstone Cree Nation – Water
Billing:**

0772-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that council accept the draft agreement prepared by legal counsel between the MD of Opportunity and Bigstone Cree Nation as presented to introduce and begin discussions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Council Meeting
January 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Wabasca Council Chambers

Delegation Council Meeting
January 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Calling Lake Community Complex

Adjournment:

0773-2025-17MDC

Moved by Kevin Bigstone that the meeting be adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Marshall D. Auger, Reeve



Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer