

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **County Council Budget meeting** held on Wednesday, **September 25, 2019** at 1:09 P.M. in the County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to Order by the Reeve, Mr. Craig Lukinuk in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present
4	Lorne Halisky	Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Present
CAO	Cory Ollikka	Present
Asst. CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present
Legislative Svcs/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present

No other Members of Administrative Staff were in attendance.

No Member of the Media were in attendance.

No Member of the Public were in attendance.

2. Agenda:

1127-19: Gawalko

That the Smoky Lake County Council Budget Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, September 25, 2019 be adopted, as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

No Minutes.

4. Request for Decision:

No Request for Decision.

5. Issues for Information:

2020 Budget Guidelines

Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 08-11-02: Budget Development, states that council is to provide Administration with budget guidelines for the next year by the end of September.

These are guidelines only and are likely subject to change as Council and administration work through the details of each budget area and evaluate the effects and costs of recommendations.

In order to get started, guidance from Council for the Year-2020 to Year-2024 is required in the following areas:

- ❖ **The percent increase (or decrease) in function or capital expenditures that are acceptable.**
- ❖ **The priorities in the three-year road plan.**
- ❖ **Programming changes (services and/or service levels).**
- ❖ **The Municipal Tax Rate.**

These guidelines along with the strategic priorities chart and meetings will be used to compile the three-year road plan, capital budget, and operating budget, and the three-year financial plan.

- The Alberta CPI as at August is 1.4% (inflation rate measure).
- Bank of Montreal is predicting that GDP growth will be about 2% for Canada.
- We estimate that overall the residential assessment will stay the same.
- There is little indication regarding the Non-residential assessment. The province is reassessing the shallow wells and is now the assessor for all linear and industrial properties. The change in this assessment is not predictable because it is not based on market and the provincial guidelines change every year.
- Contracts with both unions are in place. They will equal approximately 1.5% Cost of Living Increase. Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 08-18-07: Council Remuneration and Expenses, states that a Cost of Living increment rate (as established in the Statistics Canada - Consumer Price Index for the province of Alberta in the month of October from the previous year), will be automatically applied to Elected Officials salaries or R.R.S.P. unless a motion of Council determines otherwise.
- In 2019 Council has not directed any changes to services or programming.

The guidelines provided by council will be used as a starting point to build a plan and budget for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Over the next three months, as more numbers become firm, they will be adjusted in the budget.

As noted in the Five-Year Financial Plan, some adjustments are needed in order to keep property tax increases to a reasonable level along with a strategy for meeting capital needs while achieving an acceptable tax rate.

Council Discussion

Council held discussion in regards guidelines for a possible 10% reduction to the overall budget with focus, not limited to, or committed to, on the following:

- Amending Policy Statement No. 01-29-02: County Vehicle Use.
- Reviewing Solid Waste Collection and Disposal within the County.
- Reviewing Campground Maintenance Contracts.
- Increasing Camping Fees - Bylaw 1252-13: Control County Parks.
- Amending the Three-Year Road Plan and possibly deferring the Year-2020 Construction Projects: C1913, C2012 and C2022 to Year-2021 and/or replacing them with road shoulder pulls.
- Adjusting the 15-Year Capital Purchase Plan.
- Reviewing hydro-axing protocol after a certain depth of snow.

- Limiting convention attendance by management and staff.
- Changing the Waskatenau Nuisance Grounds remediation to a County project if the cost is less than a contracted project.
- Implementing mowing equipment with spraying equipment attached.
- Utilizing wobbly packers versus blade fronts on graders.
- Enforcing road haul agreements for agricultural related work.
- Examining grader operators' hours worked versus miles traveled.
- Examining the cost of Contract versus County gravel hauling.

6. Correspondence:

No Correspondence.

7. Delegation:

No Delegation.

Adjournment:

1128-19: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Council Budget Meeting of September 25, 2019, be adjourned, time 3:37 p.m.

Carried.

REEVE

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER