

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at the
Town of Bowden Administration Building

Call to Order

Mayor Cody Berggren called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PRESENT	Mayor	Cody Berggren
	Councillor	Sheila Church
	Councillor	Bernice Willsie
	Councillor	Lloyd Lane
	Councillor	Sandy Gamble
	Councillor	Earl Wilson
	Councillor	Wayne Milaney

ABSENT None

STAFF Lori Conkin, Chief Administrative Officer
Andy Weiss, Manager of Administrative Services

DELEGATION Dale Withage – CAO (SRDRWC)
John Van Doesburg – Project Manager (SRDRWC)
David Helmer – Director, Central Region, Regional Services, Alberta Environment
Pervez Sunderani – Municipal Approvals Engineer, Alberta Environment
Al Kemmere – Vice-chair (SRDRWC)
Robb Stuart – Citizen of Bowden

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda & Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 2.a Moved by Councillor Bernice Willsie that Council approves the October 12, 2010 Regular Council Meeting Agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion 3.a Moved by Councillor Lloyd Lane that Council approves the September 27, 2010 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

Delegation

The South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission (SRDRWC) delegation presented Council members with an overview of the SRDRWC Business Plan.

- Al Kemmere outlined that the focus of the Business Plan is financial. This document will assist the commission in obtaining future financing in order to borrow 10 % of the capital costs of infrastructure for the regional wastewater line. (The remaining 90 % funding comes from provincial government funding)
- Dale Withage explained that the Business Plan is an Alberta Municipal Affairs requirement and that each of the six member municipalities gave passage to bylaws for membership in the SRDRWC.
- Mayor Berggren commented that Bowden typically discharges sewage once a year, not continuously. Our existing system is good for four times our existing population. The proposed sewage rates are a substantial burden to the citizens of Bowden.
- David Helmer commented that the Province will only fund one system and that any potential upgrades to Bowden's system will be 100% Bowden's cost if not on the regional system. A new lift station alone could cost 3.74 million dollars.
- Dale Withage stated that Bowden would not be able to pump sewage into the new regional system until 2015 or 2016.

- Mayor Berggren stated that future rates charged to the commission come from the City of Red Deer and that the SRDRWC is in discussions now with the city to get the numbers finalized.
- John Van Doesburg outlined that the Alberta Utilities model dictates potential rates and increases in the future. He stated that when the Bowden sewage lagoons are no longer required (when the municipality is "live" on the regional system), the commission will most likely buy them for \$10.00 for use in regional surge events as temporary storage facilities.
- Pervez Sunderani indicated that the commission will be able to use Bowden's lagoons for use in surge events.
- John Van Doesburg explained that the SRDRWC Business Plan is a flexible document that is reviewed yearly. Bowden is the last member to be hooked up to the regional system, most likely in 5 – 6 years. He stated that the government is paying 90% of 180 million dollars of the costs to put in this regional system.
- Mayor Berggren stated that when the lagoons on the regional system, they will be utilized during surge events or during line maintenance.
- Councillor Sheila Church stated that she was uncomfortable with the grayness of the language throughout the Business Plan.
- John Van Doesburg explained that any lagoon dredging required for future SRDRWC usage of the lagoons will be at their cost. Statistically, 2 – 6 surge events will happen yearly for the lagoons once on the SRDRWC system. He outlined that the SRDRWC Business Plan is financial and the technical elements are left out of it on purpose.
- Councillor Earl Wilson was concerned that there seems to be a lot missing out of the Business Plan. He pointed out that it keeps referring to sewage quality, but no specifics are mentioned. Will Bowden meet these standards?
- Councillor Earl Wilson stated that Olds and Innisfail are mentioned in the document and it is very clear why they need to go on this, but not Bowden. We have no idea what the rates will be in 2016 for Bowden as I pay around 50 cents per cubic meter and it looks like we will have triple the present rate.
- John Van Doesburg explained that any Capital funding is addressed in the rate structure charged by the commission.
- Dale Withage explained that the membership agreements with each member will spell out specifics for quality requirements. Members need to do periodic testing to mitigate potential contaminants getting into the system. Waste water will be tested at the lift stations by members.
- John Van Doesburg explained that Waskasoo is already in place as a regional system, so we are not breaking new ground. He outlined that in the end, Alberta Environment is the authority for standards.
- David Helmer explained that heavy industry is a typical culprit when it comes to sewage quality issues.
- Dale Withage explained that each year this document is reviewed and costs in future years will tighten up as more accurate numbers are obtained. This plan will always be a 5 year plan and will come to Councils for review each year.
- Councillor Lloyd Lane asked if it was potentially possible to opt out of the SRDRWC.
- Al Kemmere replied that future costs to the municipality for sewage treatment would be very significant.
- John Van Doesburg explained that now, you are a full partner but if you opt out and need services in the future; you would be a customer as opposed to being a member.
- Mayor Berggren explained that there would be no grant money for future upgrades to Bowden's system or for potential membership fees into the commission if we opt out.
- Al Kemmere states that this plan gives Councils the ability to plan for rates in their long range planning.
- Dale Withage stated that the commission is working on providing the best rates possible in the future for commission members.
- Councillor Earl Wilson pointed out that Bowden's citizens are going to be hit hard financially with these new rates.
- Pervez Sunderani explained that future costs of sewage treatment are going to be significant if you don't go onto a regional system as standards are always increasing.
- Mayor Berggren stated that there are financial efficiencies with going onto a regional system.
- Councillor Wayne Milaney explained that this will be a tremendous financial burden to our citizens and we have a very limited tax base. Now, our wastewater is not going directly into the river but on a regional system, it goes into a pipe into the plant and it impacts the river directly. The rates charged to the citizens on this new system will triple the costs to them. He points out that no one

can accurately predict costs that may happen in 5 years. He asks if there is potential to apply to the government for financial relief on the rates charged to our citizens.

- Mayor Berggren explained that the rates charged to all member municipalities are “postage stamp” rates, meaning all are charged the same. He adds that although it does not hurt to ask for relief, but that the province is already funding 90 % and that is probably considered their contribution for financial relief.
- Robb Stuart asked if we could just dump once or twice a year into the system.
- John Van Doesburg explained that the system and its pumps are designed for continuous discharge as opposed to a “wave” of wastewater. It is not engineered to have that ability.
- Al Kemmere stated that a municipality can try to control or eliminate infiltration of non-wastewater (i.e.: storm water or residential sumps) in order to keep costs down for citizens.
- Dale Withage explained that minimum volume charges are necessary in order to accurately set the rate structure. The City of Red Deer won’t generate enough revenue to pay for fixed costs if minimum volume estimates are too low.
- Councillor Earl Wilson asked about the level of staff training required for monitoring wastewater.
- John Van Doesburg explained that a Level 1 certification will be adequate as this is transmission monitoring, not treatment monitoring. Your staff will take tests to help monitor set minimum wastewater quality standards.
- Councillor Earl Wilson asked if the system capacity includes the newly annexed lands in East Bowden.
- John Van Doesburg explained that this was sized for 2 % growth and that it should have sufficient capacity for the next 50 years.
- Robb Stuart commented that the 90% - 10% current funding model is not guaranteed in the future.
- John Van Doesburg explained that this is why we are trying to complete the project as fast as possible. The provincial funding model has been changed from 3 years to 5 years to help spread the financial burden out.
- Dale Withage explained that there is strong Ministerial support for this project.

Mayor Cody Berggren called for a short break at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor Cody Berggren called the meeting back to order at 8:50 p.m.

Item 5 Old Business

Item 5.a Public Hearing (Bylaw 09-2010 Manufactured Home Community Taxation Bylaw)

Andy Weiss explains to Council Members that there was an error in the advertising and as such, recommends that the Public Hearing be re-scheduled to be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 8, 2010.

Motion 5.a Moved by Councillor Lloyd Lane that Council re-schedules the Public Hearing for Bylaw 09-2010 (Manufactured Home Community Taxation Bylaw) to be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 8, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 5.b Bylaw 09-2010 (Manufactured Home Community Taxation Bylaw)

Motion 5.b Moved by Councillor Bernice Willsie that Council defers Second Reading and Third Readings to Bylaw 09-2010 (Manufactured Home Community Taxation Bylaw) to the November 8, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 5.c South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission Business Plan

Motion 5.c.i Moved by Councillor Lloyd Lane that Bowden Town Council approves the South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission Business Plan dated August 13, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 5.c.ii Moved by Councillor Sandy Gamble that Bowden Town Council approves the Rate Structure the South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission will use, as outlined in Section 6.3 of the South Red Deer Regional Wastewater Commission Business Plan dated August 13, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 6 New Business

Item 6.a October 18, 2010 Council Committee Meeting

Motion 6.a Moved by Councillor Earl Wilson that due to the Municipal Elections, Council cancels the October 18, 2010 Council Committee Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 7 Financial Statements

Motion 7.a Moved by Councillor Earl Wilson that Council approves the attached Financial Statements as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 8 Correspondence

Motion 8.a Moved by Councillor Sheila Church that Council receives the attached correspondence for information.

MOTION CARRIED

Item 9 Committee of the Whole

Motion 9.i Moved by Councillor Sheila Church that in accordance with Section 197(2) of the Municipal Government Act, the Council meeting go temporarily in camera to discuss a personnel issue at 9:18 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 9.ii Moved by Councillor Bernice Willsie that the Council meeting come out of camera at 9:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 9.a.i Moved by Councillor Sheila Church that Council amends the Chief Administrative Officer's Salary Range to be \$65,000.00 - \$85,000.00 per year effective January 1, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 9.a.ii Moved by Councillor Lloyd Lane that effective January 1, 2011, Council amends the Chief Administrative Officer's current salary to be \$75,000.00 per year.

MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment

Motion 10 Moved by Councillor Sandy Gamble that the October 12, 2010 Regular Council Meeting adjourns at 10:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Robb Stuart

Lori Conkin, Chief Administrative Officer