

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIG LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
April 22, 2009**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Big Lakes Regular Council Meeting held at the M.D. Administration Building in High Prairie, Alberta on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT WERE:

Reeve:	Alvin Billings, HP East/Banana Belt
Deputy Reeve:	David Marx, Prairie Echo/Salt Prairie
Councillor:	Violet Campiou, Faust Randy Ehman, S. Sunset House/Gilwood Ken Killeen, Kinuso Guy L'Heureux, Joussard Ken Matthews, N. Gilwood/Triangle
Absent:	Ray Dupres, Enilda/Big Meadow Fern Welch, Grouard
Administration:	Jeff Renaud, C.A.O. Pat Olansky, Community Development Officer Gary Braithwaite, Ag. Fieldman Cory Bronson, Community Peace Officer Vic Abel, Public Works Foreman David Harrison, Project Supervisor Amanda Backs, Recording Secretary Karen Zelman, Development Clerk
Delegation:	Pat Billings, Heart River Housing
Members of the Public:	Stacy & Debbie Monteith
Observers:	Jordan Lewis, E.W. Pratt High School Student
Press:	Chris Clegg, South Peace News Keith Hopper, CKVH Radio

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Billings called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES:

Councillor Matthews noted on page four of the minutes that he inquired as to obtaining quotes for other makes of quads rather than Councillor Killeen as recorded.

2009-06-244

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the minutes of the April 9, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as corrected.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**BUSINESS ARISING
FROM MINUTES:**

Discussion took place on the status of the South Shore Area Structure Plan. Council was concerned with the amount of work that has been done to date and that there is no apparent timeline for completion of the project.

2009-06-245

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that administration acquire all work completed to date from the consultant on the South Shore Area Structure Plan and that the contract with Barlow Surveying be terminated upon doing so.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Matthews mentioned that Mr. Racher was to check if the water reservoir at Grouard could be filled in. Mr. Abel advised that he has not been out to look and questioned if Council was referring to the top or bottom reservoir. It was agreed that public works should look at filling in both.

Reeve Billings questioned if an insurance quote for the Joussard Community Association has been received. Mr. Renaud advised that Jubilee requires additional information from JCA for the quote on property insurance. He will provide Councillor L'Heureux with the forms. He further advised that the premium for liability will be the same whether JCA obtains coverage under the MD or remains stand alone.

Councillor Matthews questioned if the letter was sent regarding Bill 202. Reeve Billings advised that he signed the letter, and noted that the only correspondence not done was supporting the east/west connector road from Fort McMurray to Peace River. Mr. Renaud stated that the letter would be done today.

Councillor Matthews questioned if the lease agreements for the old fire halls have been forwarded to the interested community groups. Mr. Renaud advised that they would be sent out today.

Councillor Matthews inquired as to the status of the Manager of Grant Administration position. Mr. Renaud commented that he would like to discuss the topic in camera.

Councillor L'Heureux requested that copies of all correspondence sent out at the direction of Council be placed in the next council meeting agenda package. Mr. Renaud noted that the letters will be placed under the Distributed for Information section.

Councillor Campioui questioned if the letter regarding the Faust RCMP Station had been sent out. Mr. Renaud advised that he was waiting for information from the High Prairie Staff Sergeant. Councillor Campioui asked that he follow up.

**ADDENDUM
TO AGENDA:**

In Camera – Personnel
Trailer in Joussard
Seal Lake Road
Economic Development Committee
Enilda Bowling Alley

**LITTLE MIAMI
BRIDGE:**

Councillor Killeen questioned when work will begin on the Little Miami Bridge. Mr. Abel advised that the project cannot commence until July 1st.

2009-06-246

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that the agenda with addendum for the April 22, 2009 Council Meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATION:

**HEART RIVER
HOUSING:**

Mrs. Pat Billings, Administrator for Heart River Housing, joined the meeting to discuss their request for financing assistance. Council was provided with an overview of the modernization and expansion projects planned for High Prairie and Valleyview. She advised that \$2 million in financing is required in addition to grant funding and their own reserves to cover the \$6 million cost. Each of Heart River Housing's 12 funding municipalities has been asked to consider investing in the project in increments of \$100,000 over a period of 10 years. Mrs. Billings explained the repayment plan that is being proposed. She added that financing through the bank would cost Heart River Housing more because of the additional banking fees and ongoing maintenance fee. Discussion took place on the condition of the existing Pleasantview Lodge in High Prairie. Mrs. Billings informed Council that the facility has undergone major work to be brought up to standards and has been kept at standards. She noted that the building will easily endure another 20 years. Construction is scheduled to begin May 15th. Mrs. Billings thanked Council for their consideration. Reeve Billings thanked Mrs. Billings for her presentation.

**PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT:**

BYLAW #09-2009:

Bylaw No. 09-2009 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district part of SW 9-74-13-W5 within the Hamlet of Jousard from the Hamlet of Jousard Urban Reserve (HJUR) District to the Hamlet Commercial Recreation (HCR) District to accommodate a proposed 50-campsite campground was presented to Council for first reading.

2009-06-247

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that:

1. Bylaw No. 09-2009 be approved for first reading.
2. A public hearing date be set for May 27, 2009.
3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the May 13th and 20th, 2009 issues of the *South Peace News*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**BYLAW #10-2009:**

Bylaw No. 10-2009 to amend the Land Use Bylaw to re-district Lots 4 and 5, Block 1, Plan 4767CL within the Hamlet of Faust from the Hamlet Commercial (HC) District to the Hamlet Residential (HR) District to accommodate a dwelling to replace one that was recently destroyed by fire was presented to Council for first reading.

2009-06-248

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU that:

1. Bylaw No. 10-2009 be approved for first reading.
2. A public hearing date be set for May 27, 2009.
3. Notices of the public hearing be placed in the May 13th and 20th, 2009 issues of the *South Peace News*.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**JOUSSARD TRAILER:**

Councillor L'Heureux reported that he was approached by a couple that recently lost their home to fire to see if the MD would consider renting the mobile home in Jousard. Deputy Reeve Marx commented that he received the same call. General discussion ensued. Mrs. Monteith addressed Council and noted that if the utility services were shut off over the winter it is probable that there are broken water lines. Mr. Monteith commented that he had looked at the mobile home to purchase and felt that it was non-livable.

2009-06-249

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the MD owned mobile home located on Lot 1, Plan 842 0562 in the Hamlet of Jousard be inspected to determine if it is fit for habitation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reeve Billings requested that the item be placed on the next council meeting agenda if there are problems are detected with the mobile home.

COMM. DEV. OFFICER'S REPORT:

Council reviewed the Community Development Officer's Report for the month of March 2009.

2009-06-250

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the Community Development Officer's Report to Council for the month of March 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. & Mrs. Monteith left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS:**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:**

Council reviewed the Public Works written report. Mr. Abel added that the new grader arrived last Thursday and will be in service once the radio and GPS units are installed. A brief discussion took place regarding the steering mechanism in new graders. Mr. Abel further noted that one plow truck is being changed over for summer maintenance and the other will stay equipped for winter for another week or two.

Mr. Abel reported on two culverts that needed to be cleaned out this spring due to being clogged with loose grass. Councillor Matthews made note of a problem area east of High Prairie that is prone to spring flooding. Deputy Reeve Marx noted that this item was discussed during the April 16th Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting and was to be inspected by a landowner and Mr. Racher.

Councillor Ehman questioned if the MD is notified by ATCO about upcoming hydroaxing work, which would help reduce subsequent maintenance problems for the MD. Mr. Abel will discuss this with the local ATCO manager.

Reeve Billings reported on a call he received from a landowner along highway 750 north of the Grouard turnoff concerning runoff flooding his yard. He noted that part of the problem

stems from having not enough culverts along Township Road 752 to get rid of the water. Mr. Abel will follow up.

A brief discussion took place on turn around time to receive an order of culverts of a larger size. Councillor Matthews questioned if Mr. Abel had knowledge of rectangular shaped preformed culverts. Mr. Abel advised that he is waiting to receive information on the culverts from a sales representative.

2009-06-251 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the Public Works Report be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SEAL LAKE ROAD: Reeve Billings informed Council that the funding application under the Resource Road Program for the Seal Lake Connector Road has been rejected. Administration from Northern Sunrise County, the Town of High Prairie, the MD of Big Lakes and the engineering consultant are doing some checking as to the reasons for the decision. Mr. Renaud explained that Alberta Transportation, during a conference call held on April 20th, indicated that there was issue during the evaluation stage regarding Tirmoil Energy's License of Occupation (LOC) and that the project rated low on their point system. Council expressed concern that those evaluating the project did not follow up on these concerns with any of the stakeholders. Reeve Billings requested Council's approval to meet with the Reeve of Northern Sunrise County and Mayor of High Prairie as soon as possible to discuss how to proceed. Mr. Renaud added that the Treasury Board's office was made aware of the rejection and in turn contacted Alberta Transportation to look into what happened.

2009-06-252 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a meeting be arranged between Reeve Knudsen - Northern Sunrise County, Mayor Dumont - Town of High Prairie, Reeve Billings, regarding the funding application that was refused under the Resource Road Program for the Seal Lake Connector Road, and that a letter explaining the situation surrounding Tirmoil Energy's LOC be sent electronically to the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Lloyd Snelgrove, Minister of Treasury Board, and MP, Brian Jean.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A break was taken from 11:05 a.m. until 11:16 a.m.

AGRICULTURE:

**AB BEEF
PRODUCERS:**

Mr. Braithwaite advised that information on non-refundable check-off dollars was requested to be placed on the agenda at the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting as it was not available at that time.

2009-06-253 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the information on the Alberta Beef Producers non-refundable check-off dollars be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WOLF PROBLEMS: Mr. Braithwaite advised that an issue regarding wolf problems was brought forth at the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. He spoke with Fish & Wildlife this morning and reported that landowners can shoot on their own private land or obtain a resident trapper's license in order to use means other than guns to control wolves from October 1st to March 31st. He added that hunters can shoot wolves during the active hunting season if they have a valid hunting license. Mr. Braithwaite also explained that Fish & Wildlife has compensation and control programs. They indicated that there have been no complaints of wolves received this spring. Discussion ensued.

2009-06-254 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that a notice to livestock producers be placed in the FCS community newsletters advising that they should be notifying Fish and Wildlife if they are encountering wolf problems.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ROAD BANS: Mr. Braithwaite advised that this item was also discussed during the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. Committee members asked that Council consider allowing agricultural producers to haul at 100% axle weights during the road ban season. Mr. Braithwaite noted that Mr. Racher explained that the MD may issue special permits with the provision that the hauler would be held responsible to fix any damage to the road.

2009-06-255 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the item regarding hauling by agricultural producers during road ban season be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**H.P. SEED
CLEANING PLANT:**

Reeve Billings advised that the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended that Council allow the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op to use the money previously provided to them for fencing to be used instead for blue prints for the new facility.

2009-06-256 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX** that the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op be approved to use the \$25,000 in funding previously provided from the MD's Seed Cleaning Plant Reserve for fencing as per motion no. 2006-23-774 instead for the cost of creating and printing blueprints for the proposed new plant facility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**AG. FIELDMAN'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Braithwaite reviewed his written report to council. He added that he will be meeting with the regional landfill contracted operator and a welder at the direction of the Landfill Authority to address safety issues resulting from a gap between the scale and scale house. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of the scale house sinking. Mr. Braithwaite advised that an engineer has not been requested to inspect the facility at this point. He will document the concerns with pictures and take forward to a Landfill Authority meeting for further direction.

2009-06-257 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report to Council be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:46 a.m. and reconvened at 12:59 p.m.

**COMMUNITY AND
PROTECTIVE SERVICES:**

**PEACE OFFICER'S
REPORT:**

Council reviewed the Community Peace Officer's report for the month of March 2009. Officer Bronson added that the new patrol truck is currently being equipped in Edmonton. Once it is received the MD will be in 100% compliance with the new regulations for peace officers that come into effect next week. Officer Bronson reported that he has been working with the RCMP to deal with the increased quad usage in the hamlets.

2009-06-258 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the Community Peace Officer's Report for the month of March 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INCOME TAX ACT:

Mr. Renaud made note of discussion during Council's meeting with MP, Brian Jean, regarding an earlier Bill which would provide tax deductions for volunteer fire fighters. Mr. Jean indicated that, although this Bill failed, it may be beneficial for Council to submit a letter if it is in favor of reintroducing a similar Bill.

2009-06-259 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a letter be sent to Mr. Brian Jean, MP, indicating that the Municipal District of Big Lakes would support the reintroduction of a Bill, similar to the attached, to amend the Income Tax Act in order to provide volunteer emergency responders with a tax credit based upon hours of service.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**AB PHARMACEUTICAL
STRATEGY:**

Council was provided with a copy of Section 2.0 – Redesigning Drug Coverage for Seniors - from the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy as requested at the previous meeting. Mr. Renaud reported that indications are that government will be revisiting this model prior to implementation.

2009-06-260 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a letter be sent to the Hon. Ron Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness, indicating that the MD of Big Lakes is in support of a government review of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy, and further, should the Strategy be implemented that consideration be given to basing the deductible rates for seniors on net income rather than gross income.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**EVENT SUPPORT
POLICY:**

Council was presented with the draft Event Support Policy. Mr. Renaud was directed to look into the annual contributions provided to events in past years for final budget discussions.

2009-06-261

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the Event Support Policy be adopted as presented.

CARRIED**ECONOMIC DEV'T
COMMITTEE:**

Councillor Matthews reported on a meeting of the Economic Development Committee held with Hilliard's Bay Estates representatives. The committee was given a presentation on a proposed new golf course and cottage development on their property along the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake. He noted that the group is also in negotiations with Alberta Parks to put in a marina. Parks is in favor of the marina but would prefer to swap Hilliard's Bay Estates some provincial land for the golf course in exchange for land in another area. The province is interested in MD property for additional parks land. Councillor Matthews noted that Hilliard's Bay Estates was informed that the MD land would not be available for the transaction. The committee also suggested that the group compile additional information on the proposal to present to Council at a future meeting.

Mr. Renaud reported that the Grouard 3D model project has been reassigned to Mrs. Olansky. Council was provided with an update on the status of the project.

Reeve Billings mentioned that access to the Grouard Bridge off certain road allowances is to be addressed in order that the Grouard Area Structure Plan can proceed. Councillor Matthews noted that this is already being considered. Members of the committee also met with the Development Officer in regard to land use changes in the area.

Discussion took place on scheduling of committee meetings in order to allow staff ample opportunity to prepare for support as required.

**ENILDA BOWLING
ALLEY:**

Correspondence to the Town of High Prairie from the Enilda and District Society for Recreation and Culture (EDSRC) requesting a contribution towards the cost to replace the lanes at the Enilda Bowling Alley was distributed. Councillor L'Heureux noted that the request was not brought forth for consideration at the Town's budget meeting as requested by EDSRC. He suggested that the item be addressed during the next Town of High Prairie Inter-municipal Committee meeting since the facility is also used by town residents.

2009-06-262

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that the request to the Town of High Prairie from the Enilda and District Society for Recreation and Culture for a contribution towards the cost to replace the lanes at the Enilda Bowling Alley be placed on the agenda for the next Town of High Prairie Inter-municipal Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:**CHEQUE LIST:** Council reviewed the current cheque list.**2009-06-263** **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that cheques #42651 to #42783 in the total amount of \$554,267.63 for the period ending April 9, 2009 be received for information.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****C.A.O.'S REPORT:** Mr. Renaud reported that he attended an ARMAA zone meeting in Fairview and provided an overview of a presentation made by STARS regarding government funding. Mr. Renaud also spoke with an official with Alberta Municipal Affairs at the meeting who indicated that the department is not in support of Bill 202 at this time.

Mr. Renaud reported on a promotional initiative focused on municipal recruitment that is slated for 2010. Alberta Municipal Affairs supplied a \$20,000 grant to the Alberta Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (ARMAA), the Society of Local Government Managers (SLGM) and the Certified General Accountants (CGA) to undertake this initiative.

Mr. Renaud reported that the Jousard Community Association campground lease cannot be processed until a field inspection is completed by Sustainable Resource Development. The inspection is expected to be completed this spring. Mr. Renaud advised that the MD is being kept updated on the status of the lease application. He is assuming that JCA, as the current lease holder, will be contacted when the inspection is scheduled.

Councillor L'Heureux questioned if administration received feedback from Public Lands with regard to obtaining an LOC to cross public land in order to access private land when it is not viable to construct a road. Mr. Renaud advised that the request was denied because there is a protective notation (PNT) for a wildlife corridor placed on the quarter section in question. Mrs. Olansky explained that there is to be no disturbance to this quarter. Council questioned if there were other options for access. Councillor L'Heureux requested that Council be supplied with a list of the regulations pertaining to a protective notation and list of what activities can occur on these lands.

Councillor Campiou asked if there was information available on the Faust east end water funding application through Building Canada. Mr. Renaud advised that results of the applications might be known within the next couple of weeks.

2009-06-264 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that a letter be sent to the Minister of Health and Wellness expressing concern with regard to provincial funding levels for STARS Air Ambulance and that copies be sent to the Alberta Health Board, AAMDC zone members and the AAMDC.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****2009-06-265** **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the C.A.O.'s Report be received for information.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****CORRESPONDENCE:****NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY:**

A copy of correspondence to Premier Stelmach concerning the regional forestry sector was received from Northern Sunrise County.

2009-06-266 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that a letter be sent to Premier Stelmach in support of Northern Sunrise County's correspondence concerning the regional forestry sector.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****INT'L LIVESTOCK CONGRESS:**

Information was received regarding the 2009 International Livestock Congress taking place on July 10, 2009 in Calgary.

2009-06-267 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the correspondence dated March 31, 2009 regarding the 2009 International Livestock Congress be received for information.**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY****TOWN OF**

HIGH PRAIRIE: A copy of correspondence to Violet Campiou congratulating her on the Political Involvement Award presented at the Esquao Awards Gala was received from the Town of High Prairie.

2009-06-268 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CAMPIOU** that the correspondence to Violet Campiou dated April 1, 2009 from the Town of High Prairie congratulating her on the Political Involvement Award presented at the Esquao Awards Gala be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINISTER OF
TRANSPORTATION:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, regarding paving of the Spruce Point Park Road.

2009-06-269 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the correspondence dated April 1, 2009 from the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, regarding paving of the Spruce Point Park Road be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**TOWN OF
SWAN HILLS:**

A copy of correspondence to Shadow Creek Resort Inc. in support of their campground and marina project was received from the Town of Swan Hills.

2009-06-270 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS** that the correspondence to Shadow Creek Resort Inc. dated April 2, 2009 in support of their campground and marina project from the Town of Swan Hills be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WCB:

Correspondence was received from the Workers' Compensation Board regarding the Day of Mourning in Canada, April 28th.

2009-06-271 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN** that the correspondence dated April 6, 2009 from the Workers' Compensation Board regarding the Day of Mourning in Canada be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**HAROLD & DIANA
OLIVER:**

Correspondence was received from Harold and Diana Oliver thanking the MD office and public works department for the service in which they received this winter.

2009-06-272 **MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX** that the correspondence from Harold and Diana Oliver dated April 6, 2009 thanking the MD office and public works department for the service in which they received this winter be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PASZA:

Correspondence was received from the Peace Air Shed Zone Association announcing the relocation of their roving ambient air quality trailer to the Kinuso area.

2009-06-273 **MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN** that the correspondence from the Peace Air Shed Zone Association dated April 7, 2009 regarding the relocation of their roving ambient air quality trailer to the Kinuso area be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MINISTER OF
MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the 2009 funding allocation under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative.

2009-06-274

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the correspondence from the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated April 9, 2009 regarding the 2009 funding allocation under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PHYSICIAN
R & R WORKSHOP:**

Information was provided regarding the 2nd Annual Rural Alberta Community Physician Recruitment and Retention (R & R) Workshop being held September 23rd to 24th, 2009 in Nisku, Alberta.

2009-06-275

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that Councillor Matthews be approved to attend the 2nd Annual Rural Alberta Community Physician Recruitment and Retention Workshop on September 23rd and 24th in Nisku, Alberta.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**NAT'L NURSING
WEEK:**

A request was received that the MD of Big Lakes proclaim May 11 – 17, 2009 as National Nursing Week.

2009-06-276

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KILLEEN that the information dated April 14, 2009 regarding National Nursing Week be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**MINISTER OF
TRANSPORTATION:**

Correspondence was received from the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, advising of cost-shared funding that will be provided to the MD of Big Lakes under the 2009 Streets Improvement Program and 2009 Rural Transportation Grant.

2009-06-277

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that a letter be sent to the Hon. Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, thanking his department for the funding being provided to the MD of Big Lakes under the 2009 Streets Improvement Program and 2009 Rural Transportation Grant.

CARRIED**RONA:**

An invitation was received to attend the grand opening of the RONA High Prairie store on May 6, 2009.

2009-06-278

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the invitation to attend the grand opening of the RONA High Prairie store on May 6, 2009 be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**TRANSCANADA:**

An invitation was received to attend an informational open house regarding TransCanada's application to the National Energy Board to transfer TransCanada Pipelines Limited's Alberta System to federal jurisdiction.

2009-06-279

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that Reeve Billings attend the TransCanada open house on Thursday, April 23rd in Valleyview, and that Deputy Reeve Marx be approved to attend if Reeve Billings is unable.

CARRIED**FCM:**

Information was received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's announcement of its Municipal Infrastructure Lending Program. Discussion took place on the possibility of accessing this funding for the Heart River Housing projects. Mr. Renaud advised that the link to the program information website is not operational yet, but he will download the criteria when it becomes available.

2009-06-280

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the information from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities regarding the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Municipal Infrastructure Lending Program be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**Laurie
Blakeman, MLA:**

Correspondence was received from Laurie Blakeman, MLA and Official Opposition Deputy Leader, asking for support of the Private Member's Bill – Bill 204, the Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Act.

2009-06-281

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that a letter be sent to Laurie Blakeman, Official Opposition Deputy Leader, notifying that the MD of Big Lakes does not support Bill 204 - Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing, and that copies be sent to Pearl Calahasen, MLA, and the Hon. Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**PC ASSOCIATION:**

An invitation was received from the Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock PC Association to attend the celebration of the 30th anniversary of service by MLA, Ken Kowalski, on November 21, 2009 in Westlock.

2009-06-282

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that \$200.00 be contributed to the Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock PC Association towards the purchase of a gift for the celebration to commemorate the 30th anniversary of service by MLA, Ken Kowalski.

CARRIED**BLACK & WHITE
GALA:**

Information was received from the High Prairie & District Community Health Foundation regarding the 2nd Annual Black & White Gala taking place on June 13th, 2009. Council considered providing sponsorship for the event.

2009-06-283

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the MD purchase gold sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2nd Annual Black & White Gala taking place on June 13th, 2009.

CARRIED

Discussion took place on what to do with the five dinner tickets included in the sponsorship package.

2009-06-284

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that the five dinner tickets included with the gold sponsor package for the Black & White Gala be donated back to the High Prairie & District Community Health Foundation, and further, that any MD councillors wishing to attend the Gala purchase tickets at their own expense.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**CITY CENTRE
AIRPORT:**

A request was received from the Kingsway Business Association to provide a letter to the Commuter Air Access Network of Alberta (CAANA) in support of the Edmonton City Centre Airport.

2009-06-285

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that a letter be sent to the Commuter Air Access Network of Alberta (CAANA) in support of the Edmonton City Centre Airport.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**HIGH PRAIRIE
FIRE DEPT.:**

A request was received from Fire Chief Ken Melnyk, High Prairie Fire Department, to use the MD packer on the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd to compact the site of the new training centre at the High Prairie Airport prior to graveling.

2009-06-286

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the MD donate use of the MD packer to the High Prairie Fire Department, dependent on its availability, to compact the site of the new training centre on the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd.

CARRIED

**COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY/
COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- D. MARX:** Deputy Reeve Marx reported that he attended an MD Economic Development Committee meeting, Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on April 16th, and a High Prairie Regional Recreation Board meeting on Monday, April 20th as alternate for Councillor Ehman.
- K. MATTHEWS:** Councillor Matthews reported that he attended the April 3rd Economic Development Committee meeting, the April 16th Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting and a High Prairie Regional Recreation Board meeting on April 20th.
- K. KILLEEN:** No report
- V. CAMPIOU:** Councillor Campiou reported that she attended the council planning session on April 2nd, volunteered at the High Prairie Library's Antique Roadshow on April 4th, attended the Alberta Planning Conference in Red Deer from April 5th – 8th, met with the RCMP on April 10th in regard to the Faust detachment, attended a Faust Community League meeting on April 20th and a Community Futures meeting on April 21st.
- G. L'HEUREUX:** Councillor L'Heureux suggested that members appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Committee should be actively involved in agriculture. He added that, although he does not utilize the High Prairie Seed Cleaning Plant, he is considering becoming a member in order to help the new facility project proceed.
- Councillor L'Heureux reported that Joussard Community Association's new campsite building should be ready to pick up next week. He added that JCA has made application to the MD for an expansion at their campsite of 34 additional lots.
- A. BILLINGS:** Reeve Billings reported that he attended an inter-municipal meeting with the Town of High Prairie, and a Lesser Slave Lake Economic Alliance meeting on April 16th. He noted that LSLEA will be holding a planning session during the first part of May next month to discuss programs they will be contribution funding to.
- Reeve Billings and Councillor L'Heureux completed a certified livestock transportation course.
- Reeve Billings attended a High Prairie Seed Cleaning Co-op meeting.
- Reeve Billings reported that he attended that Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 21st. He commented that that event was very enjoyable and that Mrs. Strang and Mrs. Gould, Big Lakes FCS, did a great job of organizing the banquet. Reeve Billings also complimented Mr. Chris Clegg on the job he did as emcee for the evening.
- Councillor L'Heureux commented that some producers in the Kinuso area were not aware of the livestock transportation course because they do not receive the *South Peace News*. He requested that the Peace Country Beef & Forage Association place information on future workshops in the monthly FCS newsletters. Councillor Killeen noted that the *South Peace News* is now available at two locations in Kinuso.
- R. EHMAN:** Councillor Ehman reported that he attended the Town of High Prairie Inter-municipal Committee meeting on April 15th and the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on April 16th. Councillor Ehman questioned the process for appointing only active agriculture producers to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Renaud advised that a policy of committee criteria will have to be drafted.

2009-05-287

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR L'HEUREUX that the Councillor Community /Committee Reports be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. LEWIS:

Mr. Lewis reported that he has been attempting to promote municipal affairs at E.W. Pratt High School with little success. He noted that very few young kids are interested in politics. He will continue with his efforts.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

April 27, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Public Works Committee
April 27, 2009	1:00 p.m.	Municipal Planning Commission
May 8, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Special Council Meeting

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on May 27, 2009 at the M.D. Administration Building.

A break was taken from 2:48 p.m. until 2:55 p.m.

IN CAMERA:

2009-06-288

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the meeting go in camera to discuss third party confidentiality matters, inter-municipal negotiations and personnel matters at 2:55 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2009-06-289

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR EHMAN that the meeting come out of camera at 3:57 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2009-06-290

MOVED BY DEPUTY REEVE MARX that the meeting continue past 4:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2009-06-291

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the MD of Big Lakes proceeds with the proposed land swap with the Town of High Prairie and that administration be directed to prepare the required documentation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT:

2009-06-292

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MATTHEWS that the meeting adjourn at 4:36 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alvin Billings, Reeve

Jeff Renaud, C.A.O.