

Council Report

Don Faulkner

March 18, 2024

High Performance Governance is all about our **Organizational Ability to Lead, Imagine New Possibilities and Achieve Operational Excellence.**

Feb. 5/24, Regular Council Meeting

- Refer to the Town Web Site for agenda and minutes.

Feb. 14/24, Seniors Meeting

- Heather Hughes and Sylvain attended as delegations to introduce Heather and let the seniors that she's new and ready to assist. She presented herself well and was well received.
- Still working on replacing the front door, looks like the cost will be \$457.
- "Jammers" happened on Feb. 27.
- Comedy fundraiser on Jan. 19, made \$97.50.
- The Christmas bus to Rad torque only had 10 participants.
- Proposed Rummage Sale yet to be coordinated with Dawn Potter.
- They received the letter from Sylvain regarding insurance. Working on quotes.
- Some discussion on the relocation of the bus to the town yard. We need to work out the whole garage issue.
- Waiting for the grant from the county, hoping it will be the same as last (not sure what was, not much).
- A slight raise in rent is being proposed.
- I feel that there is a lot of activity raising money to accommodate once a month meeting and a Jammers event once a month. I feel we should do a needs assessment for our local organizations and see how that could be different.

Feb. 15/24, Emerging Trends

- Started with the topic "Teamwork: How Governance CAN Work". What I took from this session was the importance of having a "Public participation policy", we need to throw a lot of ideas at the wall in communicating with the public and see what sticks.
- "Flushing Out the Details: Clearing Up Concerns Related to Municipal Utility Bylaws". I feel we have already started down this path, cost recovery and that sort of thing. They also touched on Municipally Controlled Corporations".
- "Tax Incentives: Harnessing Opportunities for Growth and Tax Base Expansion". This was to me the most exciting topic of the day. They talked about the new rules regarding

giving tax exemptions to developers and how that was a double-edged sword. In our case I can see it as it applies to getting a developer motivated to get started as opposed to drawing in a developer. Take for example RMC, if we could entice them into getting started more sooner than later by starting the clock on tax exemptions, maybe once we got them to sign this document, it would encourage them to take advantage of it and get shovels in the ground so that they don't miss the boat, so to speak.

- “Is The “Just Cause” Test Finally Catching Up to Our New Higher Standards of Workplace Conduct and Harassment-Free Workplaces”. Good contracts and avoidance of hiring the wrong people will eliminate most of these concerns. I would rely on the proper legal advice and communication of intents and expectations.
- After lunch, “Municipal Risk Management: Public Spaces, Employment and Construction”.

Feb. 20/24, Regular Council Meeting

- Refer to the Town Web Site for agenda and minutes.

Feb. 21/24, Leduc & District Regional Waste Management Commission Meeting

- **Manager's Report:** Organics Processing, Driver feedback on load quality is ongoing with pictures of each load being taken. In January, we received 250 MT of organics, both member and municipal. This is down slightly from 280 MT in 2023. Cell 5 Update, the insulation layer will be laid in the coming weeks. We have determined we can use a legacy tire shred pile and previously shredded wood as the insulation layer. Site Activities and Security, Transition to our new Landfill Operator continues to be smooth. January's invoices for landfilling services show a 10% reduction in operational costs from January 2023. The crack discovered in the transfer building floor will need to wait until Spring for a seismic inspection to be completed. Invoicing for January tonnage was completed by the 10th of February; an acceptable amount of time for the first month. On January 11, minor damage was noted around the door lock of the wheel loader, it is suspected someone tried to force entry but was not successful. A request has come in from the Leduc Arts Foundry inquiring about receiving free or discounted disposal rates at the landfill, as a non-profit organization. Waste Tonnage, 2023 saw 54,636 MT of waste landfilled at site with 30,000 of that headed to Area 2. This volume is comprised of Commercial-Dry, CnD, building debris and ICI. This represents a 4 year high in inbound volumes. When comparing to January 2023, 2024, is down slightly from 3433 to 3153 MT. Site Improvement, Signage, primarily at the PDO, has been upgraded to improve safety and increase visitor awareness and compliance with waste segregation. The unattended scale and commercial scale intercom system are both now operational. The next phase will be to issue RFID cards to commercial haulers to speed up the scaling process. We are still sourcing partners for metal recycling, cardboard, and CFC removal. Collaborations with Other Regions, this collaboration continues an “as needed” basis. Soil Inventory, in 2023 there was 107,264 MT of impacted soil brought to site. Existing client commitments will be honored but all new projects will need to go through the

application process to determine suitability of the material, and for the first time, the amount of material we are willing to accept. Health and safety, E360 has fully implemented their health and safety plan which includes daily safety meetings, hazard assessments, an emergency response plan and health and safety audits. Site Inspections, A site inspection was conducted on January 31, 2024. Goodwill Pilot Project, Goodwill provided a 2023 Impact Report summarizing their donations and the

- **Business Arising:** Public Education & Communications Strategy, verbal report. Recycled Plastic Sign, the board selected the Onetwosix Design proposal. Diversion Initiatives (Drywall), the board was given 4 options, and we choose Option 4: Seek other Alternatives While Continuing to Landfill the Material (Lethbridge has found feed lots and farmers that will take this material for cattle bedding and later use it for fertilizing their fields at no cost. Agricultural contacts can be used to determine if there is interest in this from the market).
- **Public Dropoff Deficiencies:** Construction at the Public Drop-Off (PDO) at the Leduc Landfill began in Summer 2019 and was originally scheduled for completion in one construction season. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the construction extended over 2 seasons. After consulting with Tetra Tech, it was determined that Kemway is not contractually obligated to fix these remaining deficiencies because they were not properly identified and communicated to Kemway during Substantial Completion. Recommendations made and carried are as follows; 1. Administration recommends that the Board approve the 2023 carry forward amount of \$62,000 for the PDO Design and Construction Capital Project, which will be funded from the Capital Reserve. 2. Administration recommends that the Board approve a \$80,000 budget adjustment taken from the General Reserve to fund the remaining PDO deficiencies. 3. Administration recommends that the Board direct Administration to review and update the contract template to clearly identify responsibilities and accountability.
- **Bird Control:** When the Bird Control Program first started, electric scare cannons were not recommended by LGL, the consulting firm that oversees this program. Their position was that stationary scare cannons, usually set on timers and rarely moved, would quickly be ignored by the birds as they would become habituated to the cycle of sounds and the location of the cannon. While ordering supplies for the 2024 season, a cellular controlled cannon was discovered. This unit can be operated remotely wherever a cellular signal is available. It is also small and lightweight, allowing it to be easily transported anywhere on site. LGL was consulted and they gave their approval to incorporate this unit into the 2024 season. The inclusion of the Margo Electric Propane Cannon will reduce both the amount of pyrotechnics and labour hours needed to execute the 2024 program.
- **EMRB Solid Waste Collaborative:** The EMRB held a Solid Waste Collaborative meeting on January 25, 2024, which Mike Pieters and Michael Hancharyk attended.

Feb. 22/24, The Country Barber, Grand Opening

- I had committed to attending, it slipped my mind and I apologize for missing it.

Feb. 24/24, Nik N Nak & All That, Grand Opening

- I attended, it's nice to see that there is interest in opening storefront businesses in Calmar.

Feb 27/24, Ridley Law, Open House

- This is another benchmark for the Town of Calmar, professionals locating here.

Feb. 28/24 to Mar. 1/24, CARE Spring Seminar

- Attended as a member of the L&DRWMC.
- Wednesday, we went on a tour of PolyAg Recycling Ltd. in Bashaw, they specialize in farm waste, (grain bags and silage covers) that are pelletized and reused. We then went to the Camrose Regional Landfill, southeast of Camrose. It is a facility that the City of Camrose runs itself because of its partners leaving their group in favor of West Dried Meat Lake Landfill. They are in the process of shutting down the site in favor of a "transfer" site. It makes one appreciate what we have on our site and in our partnerships. After that we went to the Centra Cam Depot, which is a recycle center in lieu of a blue bag program (cans, paper, cardboard and such), just another layer to the waste handling that I'm glad we don't do. On the way back to the hotel we did a drive by the Restore Area/Emergency Depot.
- Thursday, Alberta EPR in the City of Camrose presented by Amy Johnson (Senior Management Engineering Technologist), followed by Alberta EPR Program presentation by Ed Gugenhiemer (CEO Alberta Recycling Management Authority), next was a presentation by the City of Camrose on their water treatment plant that utilizes Hy-bred Treatment Technology for removing ammonia & phosphorus from wastewater. After lunch more tours of regional facilities.
- Friday, Machine Learning All Soil Samples Climate Change by Olds College, utilizing 3D modeling and Visualization Software to Look into your Future Landfill Planning (Bob Jardine, Associated Engineers Group) and finally Catalytic Oxygen Free Waste Decomposition System in operation for the past year in Okotoks, AB.