

**MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF OPPORTUNITY NO. 17  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – WABASCA  
FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

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The regular meeting of the Municipal District of Opportunity Council was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at the Wabasca Council Chambers.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
Marshall Auger (Reeve)                      Brendan Powell (D/Reeve)  
Leo Alook    Darlene Jackson  
Larry Cardinal                                      Robin Guild  
Louis A. Cardinal                                  Tahirih Wiebe  
Cheri Courtorielle                                 Roy Yellowknee

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA  
TELECONFERENCE:**                      Gerald Johnson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  
Chad Tullis    Chief Administrative Officer  
William Auger                                         Manager of Enforcement Bylaw & Security  
Lee Bissell    Regional Fire Chief  
Jason Supernault                                     Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance  
Angela Lightning                                     Director of Recreation & Culture  
Trina Mineault                                         Chief Financial Officer  
Rolanna Auger                                         Director of Corporate & Regulatory Services  
Kimball Newberry                                    Director of Public Works  
Earl Gullion     Director of Utilities  
Lynda Gray    Recording Secretary

**MEMBER OF PUBLIC:**                      Pearl Lorentzen                                      Lakeside Leader

**Call to Order:**                                      The meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. by Reeve Marshall D. Auger.

**Adoption of Agenda:**                          0069-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the agenda be adopted with additions:

- 7c. Highway 88 Speed Limit
- 7d. Invitation to Calling Lake Community Meeting
- 7e. MD Housing Units
- 8b. Wolf Bounty Incentive
- 10b. Calling Lake Senior Homes
- 11c. Wabasca Waterworld & Fitness Centre
- 12b. F.6 Grant Policy Schedules
- 13e. FireSmart in Calling Lake
- 18a. Closed Session – Price Gouging

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Approval of Minutes  
(January 22, 2025):**                                  0070-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Robin Guild that the minutes of the delegation meeting of council held on January 22, 2025 be approved as amended:

Record that Councillor Cheri Courtorielle declared conflict at 12:50 p.m. and left the room before Grant Recommendations Request for Decision and returned at 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Approval of Minutes  
(February 5, 2025):**                                  0071-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Darlene Jackson that the minutes of the special meeting of council held on February 5, 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Initials: Reeve md CAO CA

**Admin Report:**

Chief Administrative Officer, Chad Tullis presented the CAO Monthly Report.

**0072-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the Chief Administrative Officer report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**State of Local Emergency:****0073-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the MD of Opportunity State of Local Emergency (S.O.L.E) for the Hamlets of Calling Lake, Wabasca, Sandy Lake, Chipewyan Lake and Red Earth Creek be extended for another 2 weeks.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Extend Highway 88 Speed Limit  
Zone:****0074-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that administration draft a letter of support to Peace Region Alberta Transportation to extend the 80 kmh speed limit zone farther north to cover the 686 intersection and farther south to cover Loon River First Nation access road on Highway 88, in the hamlet of Red Earth Creek.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Calling Lake Community  
Meeting:****0075-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that Cheri Courtorielle and Gerald Johnson be authorized to attend the community society meeting that was extended to local councillors in Calling Lake on Sunday, February 23, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MD Housing Units:****0076-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration allocates one unit to Wabasca Desmarais Housing Authority (WDHA) and to execute a lease agreement and that the agreement with Satori be amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Municipal Enforcement:**

Manager of Bylaw Enforcement & Security, William Auger presented the Municipal Enforcement Department Monthly Report.

**0077-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Municipal Enforcement Department monthly report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Wolf Bounty Incentive:**

Council received a concern from a resident of Calling Lake about a pack of wolves in the community and the local trappers want to bring wolf bounty incentive to Calling Lake.

The purpose of the wolf bounty is to deal with wolves in the hamlet, not hamlet boundaries. Administration will revisit the wolf bounty in the fall.

**Recess/Reconvene:**

The meeting recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened 11:00 a.m.

**Delegation  
11:05 a.m.****Melody Littell – Victim Services**

Round table introductions were held.

The delegate was in attendance to present to council the Victim Services – Regional Transition. She gave an overview of the Regional Victim Serving Society, outlining the key steps for referral and services provided.

Wabasca is in the North Subregion (Eastern Alberta). They provide services to victims in our region through local teams of Court & Support Navigators co-located with RCMP Detachments. She summarized the referral criteria for the RCMP to refer for service/support. Regional Victim Serving Society falls within two categories: 1) General Support Services and 2) Criminal Justice System Navigation Services.

They provide immediate after-hours crisis response for calls/incidents, e.g. suspicious death, sudden death, next-of-kin notification, home invasion, domestic violence with a high level of risk to the victim (telephone support only). They *do not* provide after-hour crisis response for calls/incidents that are not listed including, e.g. robbery, organized crime, missing person, expected death. There is one central number for all after-hour calls.

Victim Services has hired someone to work out of the Wabasca RCMP Detachment but they are also looking for a new location.

Council thanked the delegate for her attendance and information. Delegate left at 11:24 a.m.

**Regional Fire Department:** Regional Fire Chief, Lee Bissell presented the Regional Fire Department Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0078-2025-17MDC

Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the Regional Fire Department monthly report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Lubicon Lake Band Fire Services**

**Agreement:** 0079-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration enters into a fire services agreement with Lubicon Lake Band.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Bigstone Cree Nation Fire**

**Services Agreement:** 0080-2025-17MDC

Moved by Robin Guild that the Bigstone Cree Nation Fire Services Agreement be referred to the Chipewyan Lake Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Transition committee for discussion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Recess/Reconvene:** The meeting recessed at 11:40 a.m. and reconvened 11:54 a.m.

**Capital Projects:** Director of Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance, Jason Supernault presented the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance Monthly Report.

0081-2025-17MDC

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Capital Projects & Facility Maintenance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Calling Lake Senior Housing:** The Calling Lake Senior Housing working committee would like to see one of the units set up with the furniture and appliances to be sure everything is working.

**Recreation & Culture:** Director of Recreation & Culture, Angela Lightning presented the Recreation & Culture Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).

0082-2025-17MDC

Moved by Brendan Powell that the Recreation & Culture verbal report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Grants Committee Report:****0083-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the recommendations from the Grants Committee be approved with funds from GL 2-00-00-31-770-16 (\$130,000) and GL 2-00-00-31-770-17 (\$10,500) and \$5,000 in-kind donation.

- Request from Wabasca Iskwewak Society be approved for \$10,000 for 2025 Women's Day Celebrations;
- Request from Atoske Action Group be approved for \$50,000 for 2025 operations;
- Request from Calling Lake Food Bank be approved for \$30,000 for 2025 operations;
- Request from Second Chance Animal Rescue Society be approved for \$30,000 for 2025 animal rescue operations;
- Request from Wabasca Lions Club be approved for \$10,000 for 2025 Lions Club Santa's Anonymous operations;
- Request from St. Theresa School Girls Club be approved for \$2,500 for the Girl's Club for grades 5 & 6 from St. Theresa School;
- Request from Calling Lake Women's Wellness be approved for \$2,500 for 2025 Women's Day Celebrations;
- Request from Dash for Dialysis committee be approved for \$5,000 in-kind donation for the relay race on June 7, 2025;
- Request from Wabasca Lions Club be approved for \$2,500 for the RCMP Musical Ride community event in August 2025;
- Request from Veteran's Memorial Garden and Interpretive Centre be approved for \$500 for the Decoine family to attend the celebration in Grande Prairie;
- Request from Devon Rathbone be approved for \$2,500 for a community memorial hockey tournament on March 14-16, 2025; and
- Request from Bigstone Cree Nation (OHA) for \$171,000 to run homeless shelter for an additional 3 months be tabled and invite representative to present to council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**WWW&FC:**

There was a discussion about use of the Wabasca Water World Fitness Centre after hours. RCMP inquired about use of the fitness centre after hours from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. on Saturday's and Sunday's.

Before covid, Lakeview Sports Centre used to have a gym attendant. Administration will be bringing this back to council.

Suggestion to have highchairs available at Lakeview Sports Centre, Community Hall and at the swimming pool to accommodate parents with babies.

**Finance Report:**

Chief Financial Officer, Trina Mineault presented the Finance Monthly Report.

**0084-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Tahirih Wiebe that the Finance report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**F.6 Grants Policy:****0085-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the community grants application forms be approved and be added to the F.6 Community Grants Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Corporate & Regulatory Services Report:**

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

**0086-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Darlene Jackson that the Corporate & Regulatory Services Report be accepted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- FireSmart in Calling Lake:** There is a concern with deadfall from the north beach all the way south in Calling Lake. There is lots of brush hanging, where kids utilize the beach.
- Public Works staff will be marking the danger trees for removal and do some thinning. Engage with property owner.
- Councillor Declaration:** Reeve Marshall Auger declared conflict and left the room at 12:55 p.m.
- Chipewyan Lake Access Road Vegetation Management:** 0087-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Leo Alook that administration is authorized to engage Kisikaw Compliance Ltd. to complete the Chipewyan Lake Access Road Vegetation Maintenance project for a price of \$30,000 plus GST.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- LaPrairie Group – Direct Control District:** 0088-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Robin Guild that the Development Permit Application 25-DP-011 for a canvas storage facility, office, surveillance suite and heavy vehicle parking lot at 1221 Industrial Drive in Wabasca be approved.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee Funding Agreement:** 0089-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Darlene Jackson that administration enters into an agreement with the Village of Boyle, Athabasca County and Town of Athabasca for the funding for the Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention committee.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Councillor Return:** Reeve Marshall Auger returned at 12:59 p.m.
- Public Works Report:** Director of Public Works, Kimball Newberry presented the Public Works Monthly Report.
- 0090-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Robin Guild that the Public Works report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Clearing Access to Fish Shacks on the North Wabasca Lake:** 0091-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Robin Guild that administration is authorized to contact a contractor to clear access to the fish shacks on the North Wabasca lake once or twice a year as/if needed.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Utilities Report:** Director of Utilities, Earl Gullion presented the Utilities Monthly Report and Request for Decisions (RFD's).
- 0092-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Brendan Powell that the Utilities report be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 3-Year Contract Potable Water Delivery in Red Earth Creek:** 0093-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Brendan Powell that administration be authorized to enter a 3-year contract with C-Six Water Hauling services for potable water deliveries in Red Earth Creek.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Council Round Table:** 0094-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Brendan Powell that the Council Round Table discussions be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association Conference:** 0095-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that council be authorized to attend the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association conference on May 5-7, 2025 in Edmonton.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Information/Correspondence:** 0096-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the information/correspondence items be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Resilience Builders Network Information Session:** 0097-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that council be authorized to register for the virtual Resilience Builders Network information session on February 25, 2025.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Calendars:** 0098-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Cheri Courtorielle that the calendars be accepted as presented.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Recess/Reconvene:** The meeting recessed at 1:19 p.m. and reconvened 1:30 p.m.
- Closed Session:** 0099-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Roy Yellowknee that council move into a closed session at 1:31 p.m. with the Chief Administrative Officer, Manager of Enforcement Bylaw & Security, Chief Financial Officer and Recording Secretary to discuss item: a) Northern Waste Disposal, b) Taxpayer Request and c) Price Gouging, as per section 16 of the Freedom of Information Privacy Act (FOIP).
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Manager of Enforcement Security & Bylaw left at 1:39 p.m.  
Chief Financial Officer joined at 1:39 p.m. and left at 1:54 p.m.
- 0100-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Robin Guild that council return to open meeting at 2:19 p.m.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Straight Vac Services:** 0101-2025-17MDC  
Moved by Leo Alook that council approves the agreement executed by Straight Vac Services Ltd. on January 24, 2025 and directs administration to sign.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- Next Meeting Dates:** Delegation Council Meeting  
February 24, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Chipewyan Lake Community Hall

Regular Council Meeting  
March 12, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Wabasca Council Chambers

**Adjournment:**

**0102-2025-17MDC**

Moved by Brendan Powell that the meeting be adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



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Marshall D. Auger, Reeve



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Chad Tullis, Chief Administrative Officer