

**R.M. OF LUMSDEN NO. 189
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 17th, 2013**

The Lumsden Rural Municipal Council convened their special meeting in the Council Chambers of the R.M. Office, on Thursday, October 17th, 2013 at 6:37 p.m. with Reeve, Jim Hipkin presiding.

Present:	Reeve:	Jim Hipkin
	Councillors:	Jim Atcheson, Ian White, Tom Harrison, Dale Srochenski, Kent Farago, Al Szeles
	Asst. Administrator:	Krystal Strong
	Financial Officer:	Sheena Carrick
	Advoco Consulting:	Ron Hilton
Absent:	Chief Administrative Officer:	Darcie Cooper

Council held a special meeting to discuss planning and development items, such as the formation of a public utility and/or municipal partnerships for the provisions of services such as Water and Sewer with Ron Hilton from Advoco Consulting.

Ron Hilton provided the following information regarding some existing public utilities that he is familiar with:

RM of Edenwold #158 & Town of White City:

- The public utility was formed in 2009
- the utility was formed for sewage disposal in the area
- 3 councillors from each municipality were elected
- The utility built a transmission line, pump station, force main and 2 new lagoons
- The utility is an equal partnership operation, based on equal populations
- The utility received a funding grant and shared the start-up costs equally
- Future development levies will be shared equally so the municipalities can pay back their loans
- All sewage is metered
- The existing lagoons will be removed

RM of Beaver River #622:

- The RM of Beaver River established a Public Utility Board
- The board consists of 3 councillors and 2 citizens, all appointed by council
- A sewage collection trunk system was built to carry sewage to the lagoon
- They face capacity issues with their Water Treatment Plant and it will be expanded in the future
- The board bills the municipality for costs incurred
- The Board contracts the municipality to distribute utility bills
- The municipality holds the loan and fronts the costs of future development

Municipalities Act, Section 43:

- A Public Utility is recognized as a Corporation
- A Board is eligible for GST rebates, as it is recognized as a municipality

Options for the RM of Lumsden:

1. A Public Utility Board may be established to build and operate sewage works with the Town of Lumsden. Assets will have to be acquired from the Town. Costs can be on a fee-for-service basis
2. The RM can enter into an agreement with the Town for them to provide service to the urban-fringe area of the RM
3. The RM may choose to donate land that the Town is interested in annexing for future growth as a buy-in to the utility

General Discussion:

- Current users should not fund future development, the municipality or the board should pick up those costs through development levies

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- Should set up a payback system with developers who front the initial cost of trunk lines- new users that connect in the future should pay a portion back to the initial developer, within a specified time period
- The RM must be willing to contribute additional funds to the Town's recreation and culture programs for the new residents that will use the programs
- The future development will assist paying off loans via development levies
- The RM would need to buy into existing water services and future sewer services
- Ron Hilton recommends that the RM form a Public Utility with the Town so the RM will have a voice in the process, and to continue the good working relationship and inter-municipal cooperation

Town of Lumsden & RM of Lumsden No. 189 Partnership for Public Utility:

395-13 White: "That we agree to commit to negotiations with the Town of Lumsden regarding a financially viable agreement or the forming of a public utility for water and sewer services available to the municipality in the urban fringe development area, with operational costs to be borne by the users." **CARRIED**

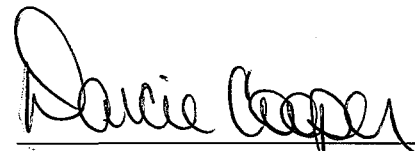
Urban-Rural Fringe Development Area:

396-13 Farago: "That we request our municipal planner to assist in the identification of a development area around the Town of Lumsden for urban fringe development and surrounding area to include sewage disposal restrictions and other considerations; and That we agree to amend the Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw, as required, to incorporate a new development district for the urban-rural fringe area." **CARRIED**

Adjournment:

397-13 Farago: "That we adjourn this meeting at 8:55 p.m." **CARRIED**


Reeve


Chief Administrative Officer