

Town of Bon Accord
AGENDA
Regular Council Meeting
September 15, 2020 8:30 a.m.
virtual meeting
live streamed on Bon Accord YouTube Channel

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. DELEGATION**
 - 3.1.** Josephine Oliveri – Request to forgive tax penalties
 - 3.2.** Dave Herman – 48 Avenue paving
 - 3.3.** Jarrett Morris – 48 Avenue paving
 - 3.4.** Brent Olson – 48 Avenue paving
- 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1.** Regular Meeting of Council; September 1, 2020 (enclosure)
- 5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - 5.1.** Finance (enclosure)
 - 5.2.** Operations (PW) (enclosure)
 - 5.3.** Planning and Economic Development (enclosure)
 - 5.4.** Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) (enclosure)
- 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 6.1.** Proposals for Municipal Assessor (enclosure)
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 7.1.** ATCO Gas & Pipelines Ltd. Franchise Fee 2021 (enclosure)
 - 7.2.** Notice of Motion – Policing (enclosure)
 - 7.3.** Notice of Motion – Land Acquisition (enclosure)
 - 7.4.** Notice of Motion – Basketball nets (enclosure)
- 8. BYLAWS/POLICIES/AGREEMENTS**

None
- 9. WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCES**

NONE
- 10. COUNCIL REPORTS**
 - 10.1.** Mayor Hutton
 - 10.2.** Deputy Mayor Bidney (enclosure)
 - 10.3.** Councillor May (enclosure)
 - 10.4.** Councillor Laing (enclosure)
 - 10.5.** Councillor Holden (enclosure)
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 11.1.** Telus' Prioritization of Rural Connectivity (enclosure)

Town of Bon Accord
AGENDA
Regular Council Meeting
September 15, 2020 8:30 a.m.
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12. CLOSED SESSION
None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Town of Bon Accord
Regular Meeting of Council Minutes
September 1, 2020 7:00 pm
Live streamed on Bon Accord YouTube Channel



PRESENT

COUNCIL

Mayor David Hutton (via telephone)
Deputy Mayor Lynn Bidney
Councillor Tanya May
Councillor Brian Holden
Councillor Lacey Laing

ADMINISTRATION

Joyce Pierce, Chief Administrative Officer
Ken Reil, Operations Manager (via telephone)
Jessica Caines, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Bidney called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN MOVED THAT the agenda for the September 1, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council be adopted, as presented.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-251

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Council Minutes – August 18, 2020

COUNCILLOR LAING MOVED THAT the minutes of the August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council be accepted, as presented.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-252

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Sale of 2006 GMC 1 Ton

COUNCILLOR MAY MOVED THAT Council give approval to sell the 2006 GMC 1 ton.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-253

Bon Accord Arena opening during COVID-19

COUNCILLOR MAY MOVED THAT Council directs Administration to open the Bon Accord Arena for the 2020 – 2021 season, on October 1, 2020 considering there is no significant increase of COVID-19 cases in Sturgeon County.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-254

Purchase of Security Equipment for Public Works Yard

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN MOVED THAT Council give approval to proceed with the purchase and installation of security equipment and monitoring services from Austin Security for \$9463 plus GST and monitoring services for \$76 per month plus GST.

Town of Bon Accord
Regular Meeting of Council Minutes
September 1, 2020 7:00 pm
Live streamed on Bon Accord YouTube Channel

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-255

Mayor Hutton left the meeting at 7:37 pm.
Operations Manager, Ken Reil left the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Shared Funding Model Sturgeon Victim Services

DEPUTY MAYOR BIDNEY MOVED THAT Council table the discussion of momentary support to Sturgeon Victim Services and discussion at the budget meeting.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-256

BYLAWS | POLICIES | AGREEMENTS

POLICIES

Declaration Special Days, Weeks, or Months

DEPUTY MAYOR BIDNEY MOVED THAT Council approve the Declaration of Special Days, Weeks or Months Policy, with the removal of National Drowning Prevention Day, and the Declaration of Special Days, Weeks or Months procedure, as information.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-257

WORKSHOPS | MEETINGS | CONFERENCES

ACCPA Annual General Meeting

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN MOVED THAT Council direct Administration to register Councillor May, Councillor Holden and Councillor Laing for the Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (ACCPA) Annual General meeting being held on September 9, 2020.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-258

CORRESPONDENCE

Sturgeon Public Schools

Ribbon cutting for Solar Farm – September 15, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN MOVED THAT Council accept the correspondence, as information.

CARRIED RESOLUTION 20-259

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN MOVED THAT the September 1, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at 8:01 pm.

Deputy Mayor Lynn Bidney

Joyce Pierce, CAO

**COUNCIL REPORT
FINANCE
SEPTEMBER 2020**

GENERAL MUNICIPAL

The property tax deadline passed on August 31, and to date 79% of taxes have been collected (last year at approximately this time [September 2019] 83% of taxes had been collected); administration applied a penalty of 9% to outstanding current balances, resulting in tax penalty revenue of \$20,610. On October 1, any remaining outstanding current balances will be subject to another 6% penalty. The TIPPs program remains steady. Cash flow remains stable.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads are projected to be in line with budget. Budgeted revenue includes a portion of MSI operating funds not yet received. Water, sewer, and garbage sales and expenses are projected to be in line with budget for the year.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The fire hall rental/grant payment has been received from Sturgeon County, slightly higher than budgeted (\$263 higher). Fire services support payment to Sturgeon County has been paid \$27K.

ADMINISTRATION

The account to track COVID-19 related expenditures/items is still currently \$3,773. This amount includes lost revenue from early closure of the arena, work from home office supplies, and the plexiglass installed at the front counter. In collaboration with Tanmar Consulting, the Town is incorporating residential surveys as part of the assessment cycle. 148 properties will be sent a letter requesting the return of a confidential survey confirming essential assessment data. The survey can be filled out online or returned by mail.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recreation program expenses are expected to be decreased from the cancellation of programs due to COVID-19.

PARKS & RECREATION

Received grant from Sturgeon County, funds slightly higher than budgeted for parks and recreation, as well as the library. Budgeted \$64,867, received \$76,331 – allocated to budgeted areas.

ARENA

Refunds issued for lost ice time for early closure due to COVID-19. (\$1,596). Revenue includes a portion of the Sturgeon County grant that the Town allocates towards the arena.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Revenues and expenses are expected to be in line with budget. Permit revenue is over budget for the year.

CAPITAL

2020 Sources of capital revenue will be MSI, GTF, MCCAC Grant, debenture, and reserves. The Town of Bon Accord Gas Tax Fund allocation for 2020 is \$87,461. The MSP allocation for the Town of Bon Accord is \$181,751.

Current Projects:

48th Avenue & 49A Street: Ongoing; Expenses to date = \$32,672

Solar Farm: Ongoing; Expenses to date = \$1,046,078

New Single-Axle Dump Truck = \$126,646

Ventrac Mower = \$22,900

Falon Fayant

Corporate Finance Officer

Town of Bon Accord

Town of Bon Accord

Year-to-Date Variance Report (*Unaudited*)
for the month ending August 31, 2020

Department	2020 YTD Revenue		2020 YTD Revenue	2020 YTD Expense		2020 YTD Expense	2020 YTD Net	2020 YTD Net	2020 YTD Net	% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	
General Municipal	2,158,475	2,220,523	-62,048	113,826	275,850	162,024	2,044,649	1,944,673	99,976	5%
	2,158,475	2,220,523	-62,048	113,826	275,850	162,024	2,044,649	1,944,673	99,976	
Public Works - Roads	10,804	18,456	-7,652	211,460	280,017	-68,557	-200,656	-261,561	60,905	23%
Storm Sewer & Drain	0	0	0	11,535	11,823	-288	-11,535	-11,823	288	2%
Water	304,006	316,019	-12,013	312,564	414,979	-102,415	-8,558	-98,961	90,403	91%
Sewer	175,307	181,183	-5,876	123,744	206,133	-82,389	51,563	-24,949	76,512	307%
Garbage	88,407	83,533	4,874	101,422	112,839	-11,417	-13,015	-29,306	16,291	56%
Cemetery	4,850	3,667	1,183	4,431	6,421	-1,990	419	-2,754	3,173	115%
	583,374	602,858	-19,484	765,156	1,032,213	-267,057	-181,782	-429,355	247,573	
Fire Department	9,015	8,752	263	34,430	47,623	-13,193	-25,415	-38,871	13,456	35%
Emergency Services	0	0	0	17,153	18,715	-1,562	-17,153	-18,715	1,562	8%
Bylaw	2,786	26,157	-23,371	30,388	40,787	-10,399	-27,602	-14,630	-12,972	89%
	11,801	34,909	-23,108	81,971	107,125	-25,154	-70,170	-72,216	2,046	
Administration	2,787	2,333	454	258,523	294,175	-35,652	-255,736	-291,842	36,106	12%
Election	0	0	0	0	3,333	-3,333	0	-3,333	3,333	100%
Library	12,213	10,480	1,733	54,119	58,038	-3,919	-41,906	-47,558	5,652	12%
Council	0	0	0	46,520	70,010	-23,490	-46,520	-70,010	23,490	34%
	15,000	12,813	2,187	359,162	425,557	-66,395	-344,162	-412,743	68,581	
Community Services	28,771	28,987	-216	46,791	65,424	-18,633	-18,020	-36,437	18,417	51%
Recreation Programs	7,100	5,789	1,311	29,792	56,648	-26,856	-22,692	-50,859	28,167	55%
Parks & Recreation	23,873	13,614	10,259	63,735	102,043	-38,308	-39,862	-88,429	48,567	55%
Arena	104,072	145,917	-41,845	139,243	164,947	-25,704	-35,171	-19,030	-16,141	85%
Municipal Planning	17,446	3,800	13,646	67,137	136,967	-69,830	-49,691	-133,167	83,476	63%
Economic Development	0	0	0	47,835	79,217	-31,382	-47,835	-79,217	31,382	40%
	181,262	198,107	-16,845	394,533	605,246	-210,713	-213,271	-407,139	193,868	
TOTAL	791,437	848,688	-57,251	1,600,822	2,170,141	-569,319	-809,385	-1,321,453	512,068	
TOTAL (incl. Gen Mun.)	2,949,912	3,069,211	-119,299	1,714,648	2,445,991	-407,295	1,235,264	623,220	612,044	

** Please note new formatting: budget values are comprised of the current time period, not the entire year,

Council Report

Date: August 2020 – September 2020

Department: Public Works

Submitted by: Operations Manager

PUBLIC WORKS

- Solar Farm is complete. Ribbon Cutting ceremony on September 15th at 1 pm.
- PW yard security system is installed.
- The GMC 1 ton has been placed on Kijiji for \$22,500

ROADS

- Paving project has started.
- Walking path along 51st Ave has been started. Excavation of soil completed.
- Trees along 54th Ave ditch and Lagoon road were mulched.

EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES

- Regular maintenance continues on equipment and vehicles when necessary.

CEMETERY

- 4 cremation plots opened.

WATER

- Monthly water reads occurred on September 1/20.
- Completed 10 Alberta 1st Calls in August.

SEWER

- The Final Lift Station backup generator has an engine issue. The water pump failed and will need to be replaced. Waiting for parts.

ARENA/PARKS & RECREATION

- Maintenance and painting in the Arena is ongoing.
- Ice making will be started on September 14th.

SAFETY/TRAINING

- All training is on hold at this time. Extensions were granted for expiring first aid certificates.

Ken Reil

Operations Manager

Public Works/Utilities/Recreation

**COUNCIL REPORT
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SEPTEMBER 2020**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mix 107.9

A trade agreement was mutually agreed upon at a value of \$7200. Commencing August 31/2020 Mix 107.9 will be airing 160 spots x .15 sec. / 5 days a week commercial in trade for advertisement on the Town's electronic sign. Messaging will focus on launching new business in Town, purchasing land for development, and selecting Bon Accord as a place to live.

Accord Pointe Care

Accord Pointe Care officially opened September 8/20. A meet and greet was hosted at Chelsea's with an offering of free pizza for those attending.

Care and services provide a range of assisted living services to support high risk seniors to continue living independently in the comfort of their own homes. Care and services include, but not limited to:

Personal care	Transportation	Foot care
Companionship	Shopping and errands	Daily phone calls
Medication reminder	Community outings	Safeguard visits
Meal preparation	Appointments	

The health care support available to Bon Accord residents, such as our Pharmacy, Medical Clinic and Home Care, enables peace of mind for seniors to remain in our community.

Council / Administration Workshop

This year's budget presentation to Council provided excellent feedback, discussion and engagement from all departments and elected officials. Appreciated the insight and direction received.

Recreation Trailers

After summer vacations and fall excursions, it is important for Residential owners to be aware of parking and storage guidelines in the Town of Bon Accord. As a friendly reminder, recreational vehicles are to be removed at the end of summer camping season April 1 to October 31 annually.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Investment and Development Inquires

Buildings to lease or purchase
Residential lots available

Complaints

Unightly yards

Unhooked recreational trailer

Business Inquiries	Compliance Certificates	Development Permits	Building Permits (Gas, Plumbing, Electrical)	Business Licenses	Bylaw Complaints	
3	0	1	8	0	0	This Period
10	7	15	15	30	21	YTD

Meetings/Events Attended/Education

- Manager Meetings – internal exchange of information & updates of Council
- Council Meetings – virtual
- Municipal Planning Services – discuss / review permits / compliance certificates
- MuniSight Workshop – virtual
- Accord Pointe Care – meet and greet
- Council Workshop
- Stakeholders / residents – development questions/inquiries and complaints

DIANNE ALLEN

Planning and Development

Town of Bon Accord

Council Report

Date September 2020

Department: Administration

Submitted: Joyce Pierce, CAO

Administration

Held management meetings in September which have included discussion and planning for the budget workshop and budget planning for 2021 and beyond. Working on the COVID-19 Response Plan on the reopening of our facilities, specifically the arena. The Council has approved opening of the arena on October 1, 2020.

There have been many discussions with the regional CAO's for the ICF/IDP work that administration has been working to complete. Vincinia consulting has been working to develop a funding model that can be considered once the ICF agreement has been completed with Sturgeon County.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Solar Farm will take place this afternoon at 1:00 PM.

Training

ICS 300 training is going to be held at the Emergency Operations Centre with Josh Morin instructing. Also, I have staff scheduled to take the Crisis Management Training program that will take a year to complete with classes being held 3 days per month.

AUMA/RMA/ Town Hall Relaunch Strategy- Ask the Expert Meeting

The fall convention will be hosted virtually on Sept 23 & 24, 2020. Council has been registered. Town of Redwater is hosting the regional Council's to attend the AUMA conference at Pembina Place where social distancing protocols can be followed.

SREMP Agency Meeting

The SREMP agency has been having virtual meetings on a weekly basis, but are now moving to meeting every two weeks.. It has been a very good sharing and discussion on all the municipalities positions during these trying times.

48 Ave/49A Street Paving Project

A preconstruction meeting was held on July 30, 2020 to discuss the plans for the paving projects with the engineers and contractor. The first week of September contractors are on

site and have started the construction on the roadway. Affected residents have been notified of parking and access plans in a hand delivered letter. Work has been done on the wetland back alley to address the highwater table in early July. Property owners were contacted to address overgrown trees and shrubs in the back alleys prior to work commencing.

Meetings Virtually Attended/Attending

Management Mtg

Regular Meeting Council

SREMP Mtg

Regional CAO Mtg

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Pierce, CAO

TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Request for Decision (RFD)

MEETING: Regular Meeting of Council
MEETING DATE: September 15, 2020
AGENDA ITEM: Proposals for Municipal Assessor

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT ... Council accept the RFD regarding the proposals for municipal assessor as information.

BACKGROUND:

During the September 17, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council, Council directed administration to bring back proposals for Municipal Assessor for 2021 (Resolution 19-291). The Town of Bon Accord currently uses the assessment services of Tanmar Consulting retained through membership with the Capital Region Assessment Services Commission (CRASC). Per the membership agreement, the Town can request a change in assessor and assessment firms employed through CRASC, however the cost would remain the same as CRASC has negotiated terms with the different firms they employ. The term of the Town's agreement with CRASC is from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021.

Membership with CRASC includes:

- Annual total valuation update of the assessment
- Assessment roll updates for development permits
- Annual 20% selective assessment review/inspection
- Assessment audit and equalization
- Maintenance of computerized database
- Representation at:
 - Open House
 - Assessment Review Board hearings
- Supplementary assessments upon request

Termination of the membership agreement with CRASC is as follows: "A Member shall be entitled to terminate this agreement upon six (6) months written notice together with payment of the annual fees for the balance of the Term."

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of assessment services and membership with the Capital Region Assessment Services Commission (CRASC) is budgeted. Assessment services are \$19.25 per parcel (\$19.25 x 666 parcels = \$12,820.50)

Annual fees per Member – per fiscal year are:

- a. Core fee of \$400, plus;
- b. Per parcel fee of \$0.15, based on the number of Member's parcels on file as at the 1st of January of each year of agreement. (666 parcels \$99.90)

Cost to terminate agreement = \$499.90 plus cost of new assessment services and sourcing the additional services such as qualified representation at assessment review board hearings.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. **THAT** ... Council accept the RFD regarding the proposals for municipal assessor as information.
2. **THAT** ... Council direct administration to....

Prepared and Submitted By: Falon Fayant

Reviewed By: Joyce Pierce

Date: September 9, 2020

TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Request for Decision (RFD)

MEETING: Regular Council Meeting

MEETING DATE: September 15, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: ATCO Gas & Pipelines Ltd. Franchise Fee 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT... Council review the ATCO Gas franchise fee letter and provide a motion to support no changes in fees for 2021.

BACKGROUND:

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. Franchise Fee Agreement allows for a year-over-year reconsideration of franchise fees. The Town of Bon Accord is required to set its franchise fees by November 1 of the year prior to a change taking effect. The 2020 rate was set at 25%; never will the percentage exceed 35% without prior Commission approval.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In 2021, ATCO, at an unchanged rate of 25%, would provide an estimated revenue of \$374,978. Therefore, based on the current 25% franchise fee, the forecast 2021 franchise fee revenue would be \$93,745.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Pursuant to Clause 5 of our franchise agreement, the municipality can change the franchise fee percentage on an annual basis by providing written notice to the Company.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: N/A

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Decrease percentage of franchise fees.
2. Increase percentage of franchise fees.
3. Support no changes in franchise fees for 2021.

Prepared and Submitted By: Jessica Caines **Reviewed By:** Joyce Pierce, CAO

Date: August 31, 2020

Notice of Motion

I Councilor, Lacey Laing, would like to propose a notice of motion regarding policing in our area. I would like council to consider looking into the cost of a full time officer (RCMP), whether in collaboration with the town of Gibbons or just with ours. I would like to have this added to the agenda in New Business for the next town council on October 6, 2020.

-Town Policing

Lacey Laing
Councilor
Town of Bon Accord

Notice of Motion

I Councilor, Lacey Laing, would like to propose a notice of motion regarding the acquisition of land in Bon Accord. I would like council to consider the benefit of the Town of Bon Accord owning, highway frontage property and building a structure to commercial business growth within our town. I would like to have this added to the agenda in New Business for the next town council on October 6, 2020.

-Land Acquisition

Lacey Laing
Councilor
Town of Bon Accord

Notice of Motion

I Councilor, Lacey Laing, would like to propose a notice of motion, regarding, adding basketball nets and half semi court to a piece of land besides the school property that our public could use, in Bon Accord. The nets in the school yards are worn down and the ground is in bad shape. Every time I am at the park, I see people using the nets and I would like to see a better situation for them to use. More local and accessible. I would like council to consider the benefit of the having new and in good condition basketball nets for our youth and adults to use for recreation. I think it would be an asset to our town. I would like to have this added to the agenda in New Business for the next town council on October 6, 2020.

- Recreation Addition

Lacey Laing
Councilor
Town of Bon Accord



TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Deputy Mayor Report – for Aug 13 to Sep 9, 2020

- August 14, 2020 Attended virtually the Assessment Model Review hosted by AUMA. The province is changing the way pipelines and wells are assessed by depreciating them faster and changing the percentage they are assessed at. Although Bon Accord does not have any wells or pipelines, Sturgeon County will notice a difference which ultimately will affect the Town. I believe this will make it even more difficult to get agreements in place such as Rec funding and perhaps even the IDP.
- August 24, 2020 Attended virtually the Fiscal update hosted by Alberta Counsel. The numbers are staggering – the province’s debt now is \$2200.00 for every man, women and child in the province. Other than \$846 million dollars received from the federal government, the only positive increase in revenue is \$5 million from cannabis tax. There have been losses in all other areas. Financial disaster would be the result of another Covid wave causing a full lock down. Although no “Klein” cuts are forecast, with the austerity government further cuts are expected.
- August 18, 2020 Attended the Regular Meeting of Council.
- September 1, 2020 Attended the Regular Meeting of Council.
- September 8, 2020 Attended the “Meet and Greet” hosted by Sheri Sodeko the owner of Accord Pointe Care. She is certainly offering many services our residents can take advantage of.
- Note: The provincial and federal government announced Sept 7th funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) which will allow ACRWC to install a waste gas burner. The plant will now burn off more than 99% of the excess biogas and will use that for heating. This is a significant reduction in pollutants and an increase in energy efficiency.

Lynn Bidney
Deputy Mayor
Town of Bon Accord

TOWN OF BON ACCORD
Council report
August 15 – September 15, 2020

August 18 Regular Meeting of Council
August 21 NLLS Board Meeting
Working with Plsb on the Super net Bandwidth
Working on policy reviews
Julie Walker no longer with the NLLS
NLLS sent 75,000 masks to libraries in the system
Stronger Together Conference coming up October 1 and 2.
September 9 ACCPA AGM
September 10 Council Budget Workshop
September 15 Regular Meeting of Council

Tanya May
Councillor
Town of Bon Accord

TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Councillor Report – for period August 15, 2020- September 15, 2020

August 18, 2020	Attended Regular Meeting of Council
September 1, 2020	Attended Regular Meeting of Council
September 8, 2020	Attended LPN Accord Point open house at Chelseas
September 9, 2020	Attended virtual meeting with
September 10, 2020	Council Workshop/Administration meeting

Lacey Laing
Councillor
Town of Bon Accord

TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Councillor Report – for period Aug 13 – Sept 9, 2020

August 14, 2020

Attended AUMA virtual meeting

August 18, 2020

Attended Regular Meeting of Council

September 1, 2020

Attended Regular Meeting of Council

Brian Holden

Councillor

Town of Bon Accord

TOWN OF BON ACCORD

Request for Decision (RFD)

MEETING: Regular Council Meeting
MEETING DATE: September 15, 2020
AGENDA ITEM: Telus' Prioritization of Rural Connectivity
RECOMMENDATION: THAT.... Council accept the following as information and for discussion purposes.
BACKGROUND: Telus has sent Town Council email correspondence regarding the Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada. They are looking to gauge "interest in sending a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to request that his government prioritizes rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne on September 23." They have taken the liberty of drafting a letter that can be customized for each municipality interested (attached).
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY: N/A
ALTERNATIVES: N/A
Prepared and Submitted By: Jessica Caines Reviewed By: Joyce Pierce, CAO Date: September 10, 2020

From: [Jessica Caines](#)
To: [Julia Miller](#)
Subject: FW: Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada
Date: September 10, 2020 3:42:58 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[Letter to PM from municipalities - Rural connectivity.docx](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Julia,

Just FYI I'm doing an RFD for this and it will need to be attached to the package when you send them out tmw.

Thanks,

Jessica Caines
Executive Assistant
Town of Bon Accord
780-921-3550



From: cao <cao@bonaccord.ca>
Sent: September 10, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Jessica Caines <exec.asst@bonaccord.ca>
Subject: FW: Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada

Please do an RFD for information and add it with the attachement to the Sept 15 agenda.
Than ks

Joyce Pierce,
TOWN MANAGER
TOWN OF BON ACCORD

From: David Hutton <DHutton@bonaccord.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2020 6:10 PM
To: Brian Holden <bholden@bonaccord.ca>; cao <cao@bonaccord.ca>; Lacey Laing <llaing@bonaccord.ca>; Lynn Bidney <lbidney@bonaccord.ca>; Tanya May <tmay@bonaccord.ca>
Subject: FW: Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada

Good evening everyone,
I think that I would like to discuss this letter in Council before any action is taken.

Dave

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Brian Bettis <Brian.Bettis@telus.com>

Date: 2020-09-09 4:31 p.m. (GMT-07:00)

To:

Subject: Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada



Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada

September 9, 2020



Brian Bettis, a member of the TELUS team

Good afternoon Municipal Partners,

As a follow up to the update I sent earlier today, I'm reaching out to gauge your interest in sending a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to request that his government prioritizes rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne on September 23. Municipalities of all sizes play a role in representing rural and remote communities and know too well the essential role connectivity infrastructure plays in the daily lives of Canadians.

COVID-19 has reinforced the importance of access to high speed internet and wireless services not only to stay in touch with loved ones, but to enable telecommuting, virtual health care services, and remote learning. While many Canadians and businesses have been able to adapt to this new reality, there are still too many rural Canadians that are being left behind.

That is why we need your help to urge the Government of Canada to

prioritize policies that encourage private sector investment in connectivity for rural and remote communities, including a new approach to spectrum policy.

To assist, we've taken the liberty of providing a proposed draft letter (attached) to the Prime Minister, that can be customized as you see fit.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Bettis
General Manager, CSD AB & BC North
Customer Solutions Delivery

Distributed to all AB & BC municipalities, RDs UBCM and AUMA

From: Melissa Rodriguez **On Behalf Of** Brian Bettis

Sent: September 9, 2020 03:02 PM

Subject: TELUS COVID-19 Update | Supporting Our Communities and Helping Them Stay Connected



TELUS COVID-19 Update | Supporting Our Communities and Helping Them Stay Connected

September 9, 2020



Brian Bettis, a member of the TELUS team

To our valued Municipal Partners,

As mentioned in previous communications, at TELUS, the health and safety of our customers, communities and team members remains our #1 priority. As an essential service, we are maintaining our efforts to keep you connected during this challenging time.

Partnering for a Healthier Future

See a locally licensed doctor fast from your smartphone, including evenings and weekends and at no cost: TELUS Health has partnered with Babylon Health, a global leader in digital health that combines the power of AI with the medical expertise of doctors. Together, we created Babylon by TELUS Health which allows British Columbian's and Albertan's to see a locally licensed doctor fast from their smartphone, including evenings and weekends and at no cost to them. The app is free to download and video consultations with doctors are covered by provincial healthcare.

We encourage you to let your community members know that if they don't have a family doctor or need healthcare after hours, Babylon by TELUS Health is here for them. The service can also be used to check symptoms – including those of COVID-19 – book appointments and get prescriptions and referrals for diagnostic tests or specialists. Download the free app from the App Store or Google Play, register and it's ready to use. For more information, **visit telus.com/babylon**

Connectivity Programs for Low-Income Families, Vulnerable Youth and People with Disabilities

Low-cost, high speed internet and an affordable computer: We have expanded our Internet for Good program to make it easier for both Canadian families and people with disabilities to access low-cost, high speed internet. Principals at any school in B.C. and Alberta can now reach out to us directly for Internet for Good codes for families at their schools that they deem in-need, and who may not have met our regular criteria for the program. Moreover, people with disabilities that receive the Canada Pension Plan Disability Benefit, or provincial equivalent are now eligible to access our Internet for Good program.

Broadening the reach of this initiative will ensure that more people have access to low-cost, high speed internet and an affordable computer. Eligible families and people can apply at **telus.com/internetforgood**.

Access to a free smartphone and free data plan for two years:

Moreover, in partnership with the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, we are expanding our Mobility for Good program nationally,

ensuring vulnerable youth aging out of foster care can stay connected to the people, resources and information that matter most, particularly during the pandemic. By providing access to a free smartphone and free data plan for two years, we are helping ensure this underserved demographic has the opportunity to realize their full potential. You will soon be able to donate your old devices to be refurbished and provided to a youth in need! Eligible youth can apply at telus.com/mobilityforgood.

TELUS Supports Communities During COVID-19

Since the pandemic, over 150 communities throughout Alberta and British Columbia have reached out for support on both community and business continuity needs. We want to assure you that we are here for your community. Please don't hesitate to reach out for any support you may need. We have proactively extended supporting our communities for their TELUS provided business continuity needs until the end of 2020.

Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: Prioritization of Rural Connectivity Across Canada

Now more than ever, we have learned from COVID-19 that connectivity infrastructure plays an important role in the daily lives of Canadians. I will be reaching out to you shortly with a draft letter that you can customize as you see fit, to ask you to send to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to request that his government prioritizes rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne on September 23.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Bettis
General Manager, CSD AB & BC North
Customer Solutions Delivery

September XX, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

By email: pm@pm.gc.ca

CC: Chrystia.Freeland@canada.ca (Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance)

CC: ISI.minister-ministre.ISI@canada.ca (Hon. Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry)

CC: Alyx.holland@pmo-cpm.gc.ca; ryan.dunn@canada.ca; elder.marques@canada.ca; jeremy.broadhurst@dpmo-cvpm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of [INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY], I am writing to you to raise the urgent need for increased rural connectivity, and to ask that you **prioritize rural connectivity in the upcoming Speech from the Throne** on September 23. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the essential role connectivity services play in the daily lives of Canadians, not only to stay in touch with loved ones, but to telecommute, access virtual health care services, and enable remote learning. While many Canadians and businesses have been able to adapt to the new reality we find ourselves in, there are still too many rural Canadians that are being left behind.

As you prepare to lay out the Government of Canada's priorities in the Speech from the Throne, we urge you to prioritize policies that **encourage private sector investment in connectivity for rural and remote communities**. The need for new or improved broadband connectivity in [MUNICIPALITY], and communities like ours, is urgent.

To deliver better connectivity to our communities – and all of rural Canada – we ask that the federal government encourage rural network investment and deployment by:

1. **Expediting the 3500 MHz and 3800 MHz spectrum auctions** so that this spectrum can be put to use for all Canadians, sooner;
2. Imposing meaningful deployment conditions across accelerated timelines to all spectrum holders. For example, a **“use it or lose it” spectrum policy** that requires greater rural deployment within five years of a license grant, where failure to build results in forfeiture of that license;
3. **Ending the use of spectrum set asides**, particularly for rural areas, as set-aside eligible telecoms companies do not have a track record of deploying in rural Canada, and that spectrum goes unused; and
4. Continuing to invest in rural connectivity programs by launching the Universal Broadband Fund, supporting the CRTC Broadband Fund, and identifying opportunities to match or **coordinate funding programs with the provinces**.

We can no longer afford delays to the roll out of wireless connectivity. We hope that you will include rural connectivity as a key priority in the Speech from the Throne. We ask that these commitments be reflected in new ministerial mandate letters, reflecting your government's commitment to **encourage private sector investment in connectivity for [INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]**, and all of rural Canada.

I look forward to hearing from you on how your government is going to prioritize rural connectivity to ensure equal access for all Canadians to reliable wireless services and high speed internet.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]