

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 11:00 am
Council Chambers

Present: Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, and Councillors Dave Cox, John MacGarva and Jim Welsch.

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager David Desabrais, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order, the time being 11:00 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that the agenda for the February 11, 2025, Committee Meeting be amended to include in closed:

c) Information on Town Owned Recreation Facilities – FOIP Sec. 24.1

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

2. Delegation

a) Bennink Farms

Christine and Mike Bennink attended at this time to discuss commercial traffic on MD roads.

They currently live at Township Road 6-0 Range Road 29-5. The family has been on the property since 2007; there were no neighbors then. In 2007, Hilltop Welding was a small business; now are working with SuperForm and making structures, which has led to increased traffic in both commercial and residential areas.

Quality of life has changed in the past five years. People can't walk near the ditches, and other neighbors have complained about the traffic. Hilltop Welding has offered to pay for dust control, but that doesn't control traffic. Large trucks deliver and pick up commercial businesses, and residents at the property have multiple visitors. Although they know the vehicles aren't speeding, the noise and dust have caused a lack of privacy and peace. For the previous peace to be returned to their lives, a 16-foot wall would be required. They attended today to discuss with Council what can be changed with Bylaws and traffic reduction, or possible speed reduction for commercial businesses.

Council will discuss further at the next Council meeting.

b) Livingstone Landowners Group

Members of the Livingstone Landowners Group attended the meeting to present to the Council that the environmental and health risks outweigh the claimed benefits that allowing coal operations at the headwaters will cause. They stated that coal mines rarely, if ever, generate forecast benefits. There is an

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uncertain industry, volatile markets, frequent failure, and significant risk to Alberta's critical sustainable industries, including agriculture and tourism. Livingstone Landowners suggest that coal mines need water but at whose expense? There is no proven way to deal with selenium, and damage to headwaters is permanent and irreversible.

Council discussed their thoughts on the benefits to Alberta, which include economic growth and job prospects for future generations, allowing the next generation to stay in the community. Discussion took place regarding both sides being unclear in all the information that has been released. MD Council is not in favour of or against coal mines; their statement has always been in support of clean water, first and foremost.

Council will discuss further at their next meeting.

Delegations left the meeting at this time, the time being 12:20 pm.

3. Closed Session

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 12:32 pm.

- a) Public Works Call Log – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- b) Public Works Modernization – FOIP Sec. 24.1
- c) Information on Town Owned Recreation Facilities – FOIP Sec. 24.1

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 1:29 pm.

Carried

4. Round Table

5. Adjournment

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that the Committee Meeting adjourn, the time being 1:33 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER