

Coffee with Council
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
6:00 pm
Division 1 - Twin Butte Hall

Attendees:

Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillor Dave Cox, Jim Welsch and John MacGarva, CAO Roland Milligan, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, CPO Robyn Potter, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Also In Attendance:

Fire Chief Pat Neuman, Rural Crime Watch Members Anne Stevick, Blanch Lemire and Shelly Anne Dennis

Audience:

Approximately 43 staff members and residents from various divisions were in attendance.

Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder opened the meeting, welcomed everyone for attending. Reminded people where the emergency exits and washrooms are.

Council introduced themselves and the staff who were in attendance.

Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder reminded residents that there was no set agenda for the meeting, requested that people keep it civil, and opened the floor to questions.

- MD responses in bullet points.

Fortis Powerline Upgrades

Fortis promised powerline upgrades in the Twin Butte area. Is the MD aware of when this will happen?

- Nothing has been told to the MD for a timeline on upgrades.

St. Henry's Historical Society

Would it be possible for the MD to lend St. Henry's Historical Society a traffic counter? We are curious about the amount of traffic the site receives.

- The MD would have a portable traffic counter that could be lent to the society.
- Public Works will arrange for it to be delivered.

Drought – Water Pumping

Thank you to the MD for assistance with the culvert for water pumping and signage on the road during pumping.

- Council just met with the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, asking about funding and other options for agricultural water.
- Council also requested the same from the Federal Government.
- Public Works Manager is an asset to the community, was raised in agriculture and understands the significance this kind of assistance has.

Rural Crime Watch

- Rural Crime Watch has been reorganized and is taking some time to get operational; paperwork and such needed to be refiled for the society.
- New Executives are Anne Stevick, Blanch Lemire, Shelly Anne Dennis and Barb Boyer.
- There is a meeting planned for April 15, 2026 at 6:30 in the MD office.
- They request that if you previously joined and haven't received a Rural Crime Watch sign, you advise an executive.
- Actively recruiting new members.
- They will be at the MD booths at the Trade Fair at the end of April.
- Currently looking for a representative from Divisions 1, 2, 4 & 5.
 - Representatives would be a contact for that division to assist with Rural Crime Watch information.
- Signal and RAVE Apps were explained.

Captus

Is there any update on the Captus project?

- Captus owns the 140-acre property and all infrastructure that was previously the Shell Gulf plant.
- Captus wants to produce power, not sell it into the grid.
 - Cost is prohibitive and would require an increased transmission line.
- They are looking for someone to use the power on-site.

Water Concerns

- Any water used on site will come from deep, salt brine water; no surface water will be used.

Does Captus have experience in cooling technology?

- Captus wouldn't be responsible for this portion; the company they work with would be.
- Technology is changing all the time.
- Our climate helps with cooling.
- New systems are closed loop systems and don't require as much water.

Data Centre

- Nothing has been officially applied for.
- Paridae deal was not successful.
- Carbon sequestration will cost three times as much as producing power.
- Complicated venture.
- Residents encouraged to reach out to Paul Connolly with Captus for information.
- Currently there is no new information to share on the proposed project.

When would the notification be made if the project moves forward?

- Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) would be in contact with MD should Captus want to produce power.
- First step from the MD would be a change to the Land Use Bylaw, to allow for a land use change, which would trigger a Public Hearing and notification, as set out in the Municipal Government Act.

Emergency Services

Community Connect

- Chief Neuman discussed the upcoming rollout of Pincher Creek Emergency Services' new Community Connect.
 - This will be a self-registration done online.

- Community members can provide pertinent information that Emergency crews may need to know to assist better.
 - How many pets are in the household? Are any of them dangerous?
 - Children in the house?
 - Mobility issues?
- Will be only visible to the dispatching unit at the time of an event.
- Program will launch in late April.

Location Concerns

- Phones have GPS integrated, but depending on where you are, they could pull information from different cell towers, making it difficult for crews to find you.
- Call centers are having issues with the dash on the blue sign address numbers.
- When people call 911, the information given can be incorrect.
- Over 2 years, the MD has had people take a photo and a pin, it is now gone to the province.
- There was a disconnect; you are talking to someone in Red Deer or further.
- Reminder to residents:
 - Know your legal land description.
 - Blue sign number – remove the dash if the call centre is having trouble finding your location.
 - Say you are in the MD of Pincher Creek, not North of Town, or in Twin Butte.

Fire Hall Renovation

- Plans are to be moved in for June.
- As with all construction, there have been delays.
- Will be a ribbon-cutting and open house once they are moved in.
- The new space will have 6 bedrooms for staff who are on-call.
 - Contract with Alberta Health Services:
 - Ambulance out the door in 90 seconds.
 - Pincher to provide 24-hour ambulance services.
 - Community is never without an ambulance.
- The old building is listed at \$729,000 and has interest.
- A use change would require a rezoning from the Town of Pincher Creek.

What is the policy for emergency crews in the event of an active shooter?

- When a call comes in, if there is an active shooter with an unknown location, emergency crews do not enter the area until it is secure.
- Comes down to safety, emergency crews are not equipped to deal with that situation.

Campground

- The opposition group has had more discussion with ID #4 than the MD has.
- There has been no application to the MD.
- Public Lands is sending a form letter stating that no application has been made to them.
- Any changes or applications would be advertised to the public.

Can the MD protect against the future development of that land?

- If a majority of landowners want to see a change, potential to have that happen.
- Talk to the Councillors.
- Can be changed with the Municipal Development Plan and zoning.
- Residents can contact the Development Officer for further information on this process.

Would the potential campground become a recreational lease from the Province?

- Would need to be rezoned as rural recreation first; it is currently zoned agriculture.

Could the province declare the lands a 4-season resort?

- The province could declare it a park, which would remove MD rights for control, but there have been no talks of this happening.
- The province isn't seeing this campground as a priority; it's currently just rumours from a resident in another municipality.

Tourism

- Waterton had 570,000 people visiting last year, expectations are similar this year.
- RCMP advised the average speed on Highway 6 was 130 km.
- Tourism is being pushed to our area by other forms of Government.
 - Council has made it clear to Ministers that we have issues with tourism in our area, we are not set up for it, and it is costing the municipality money for cleanup and damage to our roads.
 - Council is pushing back and asking for controlled tourism to our region.

Can the province install more washrooms along the highway?

- They won't, there is no money for that.

Agriculture

- A meeting is being planned for dam users – Agriculture Service Board (ASB) has requested this meeting for a few months.
- ASB has an opening for a member; MD would like to see someone from Division 1.

Reservoir

- Looking at raw water storage
- Hauling water for livestock – MD is looking at ways to assist producers, going to AB environment, for raw water to water cattle.
- Currently looking at costs, feasibility, etc.
- MD has 5 dams, all of which are low or empty.
- Looking at starting user groups for the dams. MD controls dams, checking perimeters and the integrity of the dams.
- Not about people who pump, it's about the releases and people downstream.
- Used to be a landowner that maintained it; some still are, the rest is the MD. We need consistency.
- MD wants input from all users, not just the person opening the dam.
- Council has concerns with how water allocation orders are announced. The Province no longer runs ads in the paper or sends notifications; it's up to people to go online to find the information.

Water – Coal Mines

- MD is doing private selenium testing.

Is there money set aside for dam work?

- Yes, MD has reserves specifically for this dams.

Funding Cutbacks

- The province has cut back STIP funding to the MD, which we used to use for major infrastructure projects.
- Offloading more costs to municipalities for education and police.
- Policing expected to increase 50% over the next 5 years.

- MD is just given a bill from the province and collects the funds; there is no extra funding for the municipality.

Roads

Can the MD use different gravel? The current supply is very dusty.

- MD is currently crushing at a different specification, but it will take a couple of years of stockpiling to see a change.
- Current dry weather isn't helping with dust.

Community Peace Officer

- Introduction of CPO and explanation of the program.
- The majority of the program is community outreach and education.
- Working with the rural crime watch to get that program up and functioning.

Random Camping Concerns

- Depending on the area, contact CPR or the RCMP.

Draft Traffic Bylaw 1365-25

License of Occupation (LOC)/Road Allowance Rental:

MD clarified the following:

- Overview of what the MD is proposing, this is not being a new process, License of Occupations have been around since early 2000's.
- Renting of the road allowances promotes grazing.

Concerns that if the lease holder has the liability, if there is no LOC, the landowner doesn't have the liability.

- No different than hay permits, the person using the land holds the liability.
- CPO reminded them that the MD isn't coming in heavy handed, this is a tool we can follow if education doesn't work.
- LOC's started due to neighbour disputes.
- MD isn't going out looking for them; we are a complaint-based system.
- Good stewardship should be encouraged.

Community Standards Bylaw 1366-25:

- Comes down to education, MD isn't going out looking for issues.

Meeting closed at 8:02 pm.