

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHERWOOD NO. 159 HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AT 1840 CORNWALL STREET, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN
Friday, January 12, 2015

PRESENT: Kevin Eberle, Reeve
Joe Repetski, Councillor Division 1
Tim Probe, Councillor Division 2
Dale Heenan, Councillor Division 3 (*via telephone*)
Carl A. Husum, Councillor Division 4
Rod Culbert, Councillor Division 5

ABSENT: Brian Wirth, Councillor Division 6

STAFF: Ron McCullough, Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Mellor, Lawyer

ORDER: Reeve Eberle called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

005/15 **AGENDA**

COUNCILLOR HUSUM: THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reeve Eberle confirmed that a majority of Council requested a Special Meeting be called.

006/15 **IN CAMERA**

COUNCILLOR PROBE: THAT this meeting go into In Camera session at 8:11 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dale Heenan disconnected at 9:40 a.m.

Dale Heenan reconnected via telephone at 9:45 p.m.

007/15 **RECONVENE**

COUNCILLOR HUSUM: THAT this meeting reconvene into regular session at 9:55 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

008/15 COUNCILLOR HUSUM: THAT Council of the R.M. of Sherwood No. 159 receive recommendation and approve News Release dated January 12, 2015 – RM of Sherwood Embraces the Recommendations of the Inquiry and release to the media, Ministry and post on the municipal website.

FOR: Eberle, Repetski, Probe, Husum, Culbert

AGAINST: Heenan

CARRIED

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009/15 **ADJOURNMENT**

COUNCILLOR CULBERT: THAT this meeting be adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reeve

Administrator



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News Release – January 12, 2015

RM of Sherwood Embraces the Recommendations of the Inquiry

The Reeve, the Council, Administration and legal counsel have reviewed and analyzed the Final Inspection Report. Although Council disagrees with many of the factual findings made in The Inquiry Report, we will adopt each of the recommendations pertaining to the RM and its Council immediately.

The Council and in particular the Reeve thank everyone for recognizing that it was never in dispute by anyone that the Reeve had an economic interest in the land he owned in the RM. As recognized by Council members involved in the Inquiry, we relied upon multiple opinions from one of the most experienced and reputable law firms in Saskatchewan regarding the disclosure of a pecuniary interest. Having received these opinions, Council did not fully understand the nature of the disclosure requirement when faced with multiple development agreements between a council member and a developer, which is disappointing. We are not lawyers but we are volunteers who rely upon our legal counsel's advice to provide guidance through this difficult area of law. Therefore we appreciate the needed guidance of the Inquiry and will promote the implementation of the recommendations that are made regarding the disclosure of a pecuniary interest. These recommendations were not made law in the past but we will work with the provincial government to ensure these recommendations are made law in the future and we as Council intend to implement these recommendations into our internal policies.

We agree that clarifications need to be made in the legislation and all municipal council members across Saskatchewan need to be educated regarding the disclosure of a pecuniary interest. We applaud the inquiry process and recommend legislative changes need to be codified into law to protect and guide elected officials. These are difficult legal issues and even the most brilliant legal minds have arrived at different opinions.

In addition, it is clearly recognized that control over water determines whether developments can move forward or not. Given that Saskatchewan has an abundance of water, we feel that water should never be a hindrance for development in our province. We hope that the Government of Saskatchewan will work together with the RM of Sherwood and surrounding region to provide access to a water source so that development can continue.

The RM of Sherwood reached out to the Minister's Office last week with a request for a meeting to discuss the recommendations from the Report and we are anticipating a meeting this week. Deputy Reeve Tim Probe stated, "We are looking forward to meeting with Minister Reiter to discuss the Inquiry Report."

The RM of Sherwood continues to forge ahead with its vision for economic growth which is congruent with the Government of Saskatchewan's policies to develop the Province in the 21st century.

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For more information, please contact:

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