1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Council General Meeting for the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 was called to order by Reeve T. Van de Kraats in the Council Chambers, of the County of Wetaskiwin Administration Office, commencing at 9:02 a.m. on Monday, May 6, 2019.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Resolution CG20190506.001

MOVED: by Councillor K. Adair

to approve the agenda for the Council General Meeting, Monday, May 6, 2019 as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**

3.1 Council General Budget Minutes, April 29, 2019

Resolution CG20190506.002

MOVED: by Reeve T. Van de Kraats

to approve the minutes for the Council General Budget meeting held Monday, April 29th, 2019 as presented.

Carried Unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

5.1 Pigeon Lake Chamber of Commerce Funding for 2019 Budget - Report

At the November 6, 2018 Council General meeting, Council resolved the following:

MOVED: by Councillor L. Seely that Council approve to fund the Pigeon Lake Chamber of Commerce $7,500.00 for 2019 and discuss an additional $2,500.00 for a total 2019 funding contribution of $10,000.00 during the 2019 Municipal Operating and Capital Budget deliberation process.

(Ref. Resolution #CG20181106.1002)
Council General (Budget) meeting, May 6, 2019

Administration recommended that Council deny the additional funding of $2,500.00 to the Pigeon Lake Chamber of Commerce, which was presented at the November 6, 2018 Council General meeting, as the Budget does not allow for the increase.

**Resolution CG20190506.003**

MOVED: by Councillor L. Seely

that Council deny the additional funding of $2,500.00 to the Pigeon Lake Chamber of Commerce, which was presented at the November 6, 2018 Council General meeting, as the Budget does not allow for the increase.

Carried Unanimously

### 5.2 STARS Foundation Funding for 2019 Budget - Report

At the November 8, 2018 Council for Planning and Economic Development meeting, Council was presented with a presentation from the Shock Trauma Aire Rescue Service (STARS) Foundation. In the presentation the following was requested:

- $2 per capita / per year
- 3 year pledge (2019, 2020, 2021)
  - In conjunction with Council term
- Consider standing motion
  - Within protective services budget

Council resolved the following:

MOVED: by Councillor L. Seely that Council accept the update from STARS as information and continue to provide annual funding in accordance with Grants to Organizations Policy #1802, which will be included in the 2019 Municipal, Capital & Operating Budget. (Ref. Resolution #PD20181108.1021)

Administration recommended that Council deny the request for an additional $1 per capita/per year increase to STARS, which was presented at the November 8, 2018 Planning and Development Council meeting, as the Budget does not allow for the increase.

**Resolution CG20190506.004**

MOVED: by Councillor B. Krahn

that Council deny the request for an additional $1 per capita/per year increase to STARS, which was presented at the November 8, 2018 Planning and Development Council meeting, as the Budget does not allow for the increase.

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<tr>
<th>Recorded</th>
<th>In Favour:</th>
<th>Opposed:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reeve T. Van de Kraats</td>
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<td>Councillor J. Bishop</td>
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<td>Councillor B. Krahn</td>
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<td>Councillor D. Woitt</td>
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<td>Councillor K. Adair</td>
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<td>Councillor K. Rooyakkers</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councillor L. Seely</td>
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**Results**

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Carried (6 to 1)
5.3 **Wetaskiwin Agricultural Society Funding for 2019 - Report**

At the November 6, 2018 Council General meeting, Council resolved the following:

"MOVED: by Councillor K. Rooyakkers that Council table responding to the Wetaskiwin Agricultural Society’s request for the County of Wetaskiwin to assist with the cost and/or complete the work involved in removing the black soil in the Parking Lot, a commitment to securing Municipal Infrastructure Grant funding as well as approving any additional form of financial support until after the 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget discussions."

(Ref. Resolution CG20181106.1017)

Administration recommended that Council deny the request for the County of Wetaskiwin to assist with the cost and/or complete the work involved in removing the black soil in the Parking Lot, a commitment to securing Municipal Infrastructure Grant funding as well as approving any additional form of financial support, as presented at the November 6, 2019 Council General meeting, as Budget does not allow to assist with the costs.

**Resolution CG20190506.005**

MOVED: by Councillor L. Seely

that Council deny the request for the County of Wetaskiwin to assist with the cost and/or complete the work involved in removing the black soil in the Parking Lot, a commitment to securing Municipal Infrastructure Grant funding as well as approving any additional form of financial support, as presented at the November 6, 2019 Council General meeting, as Budget does not allow to assist with the costs.

Carried Unanimously

6. **NEW BUSINESS**


In reference to the Council General Meeting held on April 29, 2019, County Administration reviewed options for reducing the budget to accomplish Council’s request for an average 1.5% tax increase. The first option Administration provided on April 29, 2019 with a 3% increase in the Residential Mill Rate accomplishes that. However, it requires that we reduce the budget by $1.1 million which will put the 2019 budget below the total 2018 budget (option 2 in the alternatives).

Administration believes this direction is compounding the reduction in taxes from 3 years ago where we eliminated most of the reserve transfers for future projects. If the reductions are made, it may not affect the 2019 projects, but will certainly catch up to the County in future years. These are the options Administration is outlining:

1. PW General Operation Reserve currently at $2.466 million – a one-time reduction of up to $1.1 million to reduce increase in taxes
2. RCMP Breton – reduce budget by $100,000.00 and repurpose the MSI Operating grant of $100,000.00 to another project
3. Intersection Realignment – reduce Public Works Maintenance by $100,000.00
4. Sign Maintenance – reduce by $40,000.00
5. Gravel Reserves – reduce by $300,000.00 (leaving $300,000.00 to transfer to Gravel Contingency)
6. Information Services Reserve Capital Reserve - eliminate $40,000.00 (reserve currently at $0)
7. Road Construction transfer to reserve for future projects – eliminate $300,000.00
8. Overtime - $190,000.00 – a review of 2018 overtime has shown that about 20-30% of this may be manageable but will have an effect on service levels. The remaining 70-80% was for emergency services such as Utilities, Patrol operators and the Gravel program.
9. Cut brushing in half – reduce by $150,000.00*
10. Cut culvert maintenance in half – reduce by $140,000.00*

*the reduction of brushing and culvert maintenance will likely cause a reduction in full time staff who normally spend part of year brushing and then the rest on maintenance.

Without the Public Works reserve, the total options are $1.360 million so not all options above are required. Once budget is approved, Administration will have to review the mill rates, and the strategic plan will definitely need a review before approving the final version. Administration is concerned that the continued reductions will have a dramatic effect on future operations of the County.

The 2019 budget reflects a reduction in level of service, either short term or longer term. Additionally, the County may be conducting a Service Capacity Review in 2019 that could help Council with future decisions and direction.

Administration recommended that Council approve:

Option 1:

The 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget that is presented and balanced with an estimated municipal levy of $20,005,781.00 including emergency services estimated at $1,634,482.37 excepting out the Provincial School and Seniors Homes and Community Housing Associations requisitions.

Option 2:

The 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget that is presented with an estimated municipal levy of $18,883,142.86 including emergency services estimated at $1,634,482.37 excepting out the Provincial School and Seniors Homes and Community Housing Associations requisitions.

Option 3:

Other combination of mill rates and reserve transfers chosen by Council to balance the budget.

Administration recommended Council approve the 2019 Strategic Planning Business Plans for the County of Wetaskiwin.

Administration to present the 2019 Mill Rate By-laws and Special Tax By-laws for the County of Wetaskiwin at the Council General meeting scheduled for May 14th, 2019 for review and approval.

Administration recommended that Council approve:

The 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget that is presented and balanced with a with an estimated municipal levy of $20,005,781.00 including emergency services estimated at $1,634,482.37 excepting out the Provincial School and Seniors Homes and Community Housing Associations requisitions.

Administration also reiterated information received from the meeting with the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), on May 3, 2019, that the Federal Gas Tax announcement of a one time doubling of the grant will happen in 2019. That would increase revenues by $615,000.00.

General discussion ensued on the presented budget options. Various options were discussed regarding possible changes that could be made to the proposed budget.

**Resolution CG20190506.006**

MOVED: by Councillor B. Krahn

that Council approve including the Federal Gas Tax in the 2019 Budget of $615,000.00 and approve budget as presented with an average overall tax increase of 2.79%.

Recorded In Favour: Opposed:

Reeve T. Van de Kraats X
Discussion ensued on reductions that could be made to the presented budget. It was indicated that the budget be decreased enough so there is only an average 1.5% tax increase.

Resolution CG20190506.007
MOVED: by Councillor L. Seely
that Council approve the 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget as amended and balanced with an estimated municipal level of $18,883,142.86 including emergency services estimated at $1,634,482.37 excepting out the Provincial School and Seniors Homes and Community Housing Associations requisitions which includes a $1,122,000.00 decrease in the 2019 budget by reducing the following areas:

- Overtime - $40,000.00
- Protective Services - $100,000.00
- Intersection Realignment - $100,000.00
- Signs Maintenance - $40,000.00
- Brushing - $150,000.00
- Information Services transfer to reserves - $10,000.00
- Road Construction transfer to reserves - $67,000.00
- Federal Gas Tax - $615,000.00 (Revenue increase)

Taxes Required
- Municipal - $16,298,926.30
- Emergency Services - $1,634,482.37
- Fire Zones - $295,464.71
- Recreation - $593,010.48
- Designated Industrial Property - $61,259.00
  - Total - $18,883,142.86
- Alberta School Foundation Fund - $7,595,881.02
- Alberta Senior’s Foundation Requisition - $557,025.00
  - Total - $8,152,906.02

Total including Alberta School Foundation Fund and Alberta Senior’s Requisition - $27,036,048.88
Council General (Budget) meeting, May 6, 2019

Councillor B. Krahn X
Councillor D. Woitt X
Councillor K. Adair X
Councillor K. Rooyakkers X
Councillor L. Seely X

Results 4 3

Carried (4 to 3)

8. **ADJOURN**

Resolution CG20190506.008

MOVED: by Councillor D. Woitt

that the Council General meeting adjourn at 10:02 a.m.

Carried Unanimously

________________________________________
REEVE

________________________________________
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER