

Town of Stettler

COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2021

6:30 P.M.

BOARD ROOM



TOWN OF STETTLER MISSION STATEMENT

WE WILL PROVIDE A HIGH
QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR
RESIDENTS AND VISITORS
THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND
THE DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE,
EFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE
SERVICES THAT ARE SOCIALLY
AND ENVIRONMENTALLY
RESPONSIBLE

**TOWN OF STETTLER
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2nd, 2021
6:30 P.M.
AGENDA**

1. **Agenda Additions**
2. **Agenda Approval**
3. **Confirmation of Minutes**
 - (a) Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 16th, 2021 5 - 8
4. **Citizens Forum**
5. **Delegations**
 - (a) Rhonda O'Neill & Barb Gano – 6:35pm 9 - 19
Stettler Public Library 2021 Update –
6. **Administration**
 - (a) 2021 Capital Budget – Downtown Streetscape Tender Award 20 - 21
 - (b) 2021 Provincial Budget – Letter from Hon. Minister McIver,
Minister of Municipal Affairs 22 - 23
 - (c) Taxes Receivable Summary – December 31, 2020 24
 - (d) Bank Reconciliation – January 31, 2021 25
 - (e) CAO Reports 26 - 31
 - (f) Meeting Dates
 - Tuesday, March 9 – COW – 4:30pm
 - Tuesday, March 16 – Council – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, April 6 – Council - 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, April 13 – COW - 4:30pm
 - Tuesday, April 20 – Council - 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, May 4 – Council – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, May 11 – COW – 4:30pm
 - Tuesday, May 18 – Council – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, June 1 – Council – 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, June 8 – COW – 4:30pm
 - Tuesday, June 15 – Council – 4:30pm
 - (g) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$372,400.21. 32 - 39
(\$320,129.09 + \$52,271.12)

COUNCIL AGENDA
MARCH 2nd, 2021
PAGE 2

7. **Council**
 - (a) Meeting Reports
8. **Minutes**
9. **Public Hearing**
10. **Bylaws**
11. **Correspondence**
 - (a) Edmonton Sun - Change of Command: Prospect of Alberta
Police Force Raises Concerns Over Cost, Rural Crime 40 - 55
 - (b) EMS Dispatch – Hon. Minister Shandro, Minister of Health 56 - 57
12. **Items Added**
13. **In-Camera Session**
14. **Adjournment**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF STETTLER COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2021 IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Present:

Mayor S. Nolls

Councillors A. Campbell, C. Barros, G. Lawlor, M. Fischer,
S. Pfeiffer & W. Smith

Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz

Media (2)

Absent:

CAO G. Switenky

Call to Order:

Mayor Nolls called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1/2. **Agenda Additions/Approval:**

Motion 21:02:16

Moved by Councillor Pfeiffer to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

3. **Confirmation of Minutes:**

- (a) Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held February 2nd, 2021

Motion 21:02:17

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 2nd, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

- (b) Business Arising from the February 2nd, 2021 Minutes

None

- (c) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 9th, 2021

Motion 21:02:18

Moved by Councillor Barros that the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 9th, 2021 be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

- (d) Business Arising from the February 9th, 2021 Minutes

None

4. **Citizen's Forum:** (a) None

5. **Delegations:** (a) None

6. **Administration:** (a) Committee of the Whole Recommendations

Assistant CAO S. Gerlitz advised that at the February 9th, 2021

Committee of the Whole Meeting, three (3) recommendations were brought forward for Council approval.

Motion 21:02:19

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Town of Stettler make a financial contribution of \$10,000 which is matching to the grant funds applied for under the Provincial Historical Grant, to the Stettler History Book, with funding to come from the Culture Reserve Account in the 2021 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion 21:02:20

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Stettler Recreation Centre Rink Board Signage and Zamboni Signage sponsors that are in good standing for the 2020/2021 season receive an additional year of advertising for the 2021/2022 season free of charge.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

Motion 21:02:21

Moved by Councillor Lawlor that the Town of Stettler offer a \$150 COVID-19 relief contribution to local businesses in good standing with a 2020 Local Business License or Business Tax, with funding to come from the balance carry forward amount from the Municipal Operating Support transfer (MOST) Reserve from the 2021 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(b) 2021 Revenue/Expense Summary – January 31st, 2021

Motion 21:02:22

Moved by Councillor Smith that the Town of Stettler Council accept the 2021 Revenue/Expense Summary as of January 31st, 2021 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(c) Bank Reconciliation – December 31, 2020

Motion 21:02:23

Moved by Councillor Pfeiffer that the Town of Stettler Council accept the Bank Reconciliation as of December 31, 2020 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

(d) Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, March 2 – Council – 6:30pm
- Tuesday, March 9 – COW – 4:30pm
- Tuesday, March 16 – Council – 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 6 – Council - 6:30pm
- Tuesday, April 13 – COW - 4:30pm
- Tuesday, April 20 – Council - 6:30pm
- Tuesday, May 4 – Council – 6:30pm
- Tuesday, May 11 – COW – 4:30pm
- Tuesday, May 18 – Council – 6:30pm

(c) Accounts Payable in the amount of \$548,305.02

Motion 21:02:24

Moved by Councillor Campbell that the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$548,305.02 (\$58,484.99 + \$301,852.71 + \$4,076.59 + \$116,509.35 + \$67,381.38) for the period ending February 16th, 2021 for having been paid, be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

7. **Council:**

Councillors outlined highlights of meetings they attended.

(a) Mayor Nolls

February 3 – Talk of the Town
February 5 – Signed cheques at the Town Office
February 9 – Stettler Board of Trade Annual General Meeting
February 9 – Committee of the Whole
February 12 – Signed cheques at the Town Office
February 16 – Meeting with Nate Horner, MLA

(b) Councillor Barros

February 4 – Heartland Beautification Meeting
February 5 – Delivered pizza to the Stettler Fire Department
February 8 - Delivered pizza to the Stettler Fire Department
February 9 – Committee of the Whole
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends
February 12 - Delivered pizza to the Stettler Fire Department
February 16 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

(c) Councillor Campbell

February 9 – Committee of the Whole
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends
February 15 – Municipal Planning Commission

(d) Councillor Fischer

February 3 – Community Builders Prototype Consultation
February 9 – “Ask Us Anything” Webinar
February 9 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends
February 16 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting
February 16 – Community Builders Consultation

(e) Councillor Lawlor

February 9 – Stettler Board of Trade Annual General Meeting
February 9 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 10 – Parkland Regional Library Board Meeting
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends
February 11 – Stettler Library Meeting
February 11 – Elected Officials Education Program Course
February 16 – Meeting with Nate Horner

(f) Councillor Pfeiffer

February 8 – Stettler FCSS Meeting
February 9 – Stettler Board of Trade Annual General Meeting
February 9 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends

February 16 – Municipal Planning Commission Meeting

(g) Councillor Smith

February 4 – Heartland Beautification Meeting
February 8 – Stettler FCSS Meeting
February 9 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
February 11 – Brownlee Emerging Trends
February 16 – Municipal Planning Commission

Motion 21:02:25

Moved by Councillor Fischer that the Town of Stettler Council approve the Council Reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

- 8. **Minutes:** (a) None
- 9. **Public Hearing:** (a) None
- 10. **Bylaws:** (a) None
- 11. **Correspondence:** (a) Town of Stettler Letter to Nate Horner, MLA – Alberta’s COVID-19 Relaunch Strategy
(b) Clearview Public Schools – Annual Review Letter

Motion 21:02:26

Moved by Councillor Barros that Town Council accept the Correspondence item (a-b) for information.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

- 12. **Items Added:** (a) None
- 13. **In-Camera Session:** (a) None
- 14. **Adjournment:**

Motion 21:02:27

Moved by Councillor Campbell that this regular meeting of the Town of Stettler Council be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor

Assistant CAO



Stettler Public Library

Annual Report 2020



Library service was available for **2,536** hours



2,884 are registered for a library card at our library



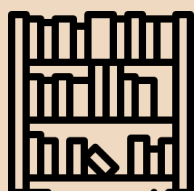
32,250 people walked through (or to) our doors.



In addition to **25,469** website visits



The library added **2,403** new items last year



Bringing the total collection to **24,800**



There were **1,957** downloads of e-Content



Contributing to a total of **63,528** checkouts!



We lent our items to libraries outside of our system **10,817** times



Our service is delivered by **11** dedicated staff



Summer Reading Club participants read a total of **864** hours.



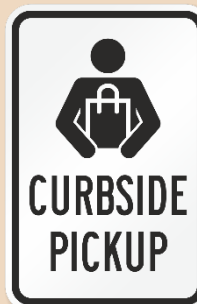
The library has **9** public computers



And brought in **2,239** items upon patron request

Curbside service was requested **1367** times between March 16 & June 13 (the first closure).

We had a further **208** requests between December 14 & 31 (the second closure).



They were in use for a total of **3,819** hours!



We offered **292** programs for children



161 for adults and seniors



And **95** for families



17,206 people attended in person programs (or viewed online) programs in 2020



There were also **77,866** connections to our Wi-Fi

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
REVENUE		
Donations / Fundraising	\$24,533.00	\$16,033.00
Grants	\$82,727.00	\$82,742.00
Other Revenue	\$450.00	\$30,750.00
Sales and Services	\$4,300.00	\$4,300.00
Requisitions		
County of Stettler	\$134,713.21	\$128,418.62
Town of Stettler	\$250,181.69	\$238,491.73
TOTAL REVENUE	496,904.90	500,735.35
EXPENSES		
Board Expenses	\$3,700.00	\$3,300.00
Equipment	\$17,000.00	\$16,500.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00
Library Materials	\$31,700.00	\$32,600.00
Office and Maintenance	\$62,350.00	\$62,700.00
Audit and Bank Fees	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Big Valley and Donalda Library Requisition	\$5,912.00	\$5,912.00
Staff Expenses	\$370,542.90	\$376,023.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$496,904.90	\$500,735.35

Thank you for your support of the Stettler Public Library!



Services while Closed to Public Access



- ❖ Curbside Service
- ❖ Telephone and Tech support
- ❖ Programming (online)
- ❖ Take home kits
- ❖ Outreach Services
- ❖ Printing, faxing and scanning

Curbside Service



- ❖ Approximately 9221 books, movies, magazines borrowed during 1367 curbside deliveries between March 15 and June 15.
- ❖ Since December 15 we have loaned more than 16,600 items through more than 900 curbside deliveries.

Telephone and Tech Support



- ❖ 800+ telephone calls for assistance between Dec 15 and Feb 22.
- ❖ What the calls are about:
 - ✓ sign up/renew library cards
 - ✓ request material
 - ✓ accessing e-Content & using e-readers
 - ✓ help posting items to Kijiji, accessing CLAC and more
 - ✓ request printing, scanning or fax
 - ✓ ask about booking exams
 - ✓ ask if the library has reopened

Programming during 2020



- ❖ In person (indoors and outdoors) - 421 programs with 3,358 guests.
- ❖ 47 interactive online programs with 312 guests.
- ❖ 196 livestreams and recorded programs with 15,026 views

Take Home Kits

Take some time for yourself...

Hygge

Take Home Kit

Pronounced "hoo-ga" this Danish concept cannot be translated to one single word or statement but it encompasses a feeling of contentment and well-being through enjoying the simple things in life

Contents:
Hot Chocolate Mix
Woven Heart Craft
Colouring Sheets
French Knit Pretzel Craft
Mini Gratitude Journal
Folky Felt Hearts Craft
Tea Light Flower Craft

Call
The Stettler Public Library
403-742-2292
to reserve and pick up your kit!
Limited number of kits available.

Kit appropriate for all ages
Some crafts may require adult supervision

Strong Libraries, Strong Communities.



❖ Partnership with the Stettler Information and Referral Centre and the Stettler FCSS. We distributed 3 crafting kits to 150 seniors and adults between December and February.

❖ Since our December closure we have distributed 29 different activity kits for children and teens.

Outreach Services



- ❖ Seniors: Heart Haven, Paragon, Willow Creek, the Auxiliary, Points West
- ❖ Colonies: Erskine, Gadsby, White Sands
- ❖ Suspended during the first closure
- ❖ Outreach services resumed June 18 using a system of quarantined bins and bags.
- ❖ Daisy Reader use climbed in 2020. We purchased 2 new DAISY readers and borrowed 3 from libraries within the region to meet the increased demand.

Remote Printing, Faxing & Scanning



Library Staff have assisted with:

- ❖ Pension documents
- ❖ Business contracts
- ❖ Health documents
- ❖ Student loan documents
- ❖ Employment documents
- ❖ Insurance documents

Funding and Fundraising



- ❖ \$3840 Federal Wage Subsidy
- ❖ Funding from the Kimberly Foundation \$4500
- ❖ Friends of the Library Casino Wine Survivor and Ghost Walks
- ❖ Alberta Culture Days funding
- ❖ Donations from members of the public
- ❖ Seeking to expand in 2021

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 23, 2021

To: Greg Switenky,
CAO

From: Melissa Robbins,
Director of Operations

Re: Recommendation of Award of Downtown Streetscape/Watermain Replacements Tender

Background:

2021 Capital Budget project to replace the water main, water services and sidewalks/curb and upgrade pedestrian bulbing on 50 Street from 48-49 Avenue for \$850,000.



Summary of Tenders Received by Tagish Engineering on February 18, 2021:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| • Wally's Backhoe Services | \$680,077.00 |
| • Watson Welding | \$724,505.54 |
| • Urban Dirtworks | \$775,762.64 |

Tenders do not include gst or contingency.

Budget Evaluation:

Contingency was not included in the tender to avoid extra billing; however, carrying a 10% contingency allowance is necessary to cover any unexpected costs or changes. Engineering services will be provided by Tagish Engineering Ltd.

Tendered Price	\$680,077.00
10% Contingency	\$68,000.00
Engineering & Testing	<u>\$82,000.00</u>
Total	\$830,077.00

Recommendation:

Administration respectfully recommends that Town of Stettler Council award the Downtown Streetscape/ Water Replacements (48-49 Avenues) tender to Wally's Backhoe Services in the amount of \$680,077, with a 10% contingency of \$68,000 for a construction cost of \$748,077, excluding GST. Administration recommends utilizing Tagish Engineering for engineering services up to \$82,000 for a total project expenditure of \$830,077.00 with funding to be provided from the 2021 Capital Budget.



ALBERTA

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
Deputy Government House Leader
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

I am writing to provide you with more information about Budget 2021, which my colleague, the Honourable Travis Toews, has tabled in the legislature. I would specifically like to provide you with details on the items in Municipal Affairs' Budget 2021 that affect municipalities the most.

To begin with, I am pleased to tell you that Municipal Affairs is investing more than \$1.7 billion overall to build stronger communities. Those funds will deliver important programs and services and will support effective governance and preserve public safety. I must also acknowledge that, as a result of several factors, including falling revenues and the ongoing costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to reduce government spending in Alberta. Our goal is to do this while also continuing to provide significant infrastructure funding in the near term to support our economic recovery and help municipalities adjust to new levels of funding in future years.

Over the next three years, from 2021-24, as we all strive to live within our means, municipalities will receive about 25 per cent less in capital funding than they did in 2020-21. In real terms, that means Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) capital funding will average \$722 million a year over that time. To support continued economic recovery and stimulus efforts, more of that funding will be made available up front, and less in subsequent years.

To help you adjust to a reduced average funding level, \$1.196 billion in MSI capital funding will be made available to municipalities and Metis Settlements in 2021, and \$485 million in each of the next two years. Additionally, municipalities and Metis Settlements will continue to receive the full \$30 million under the operating component of the MSI.

As you are aware, MSI was scheduled to conclude in 2021-22 and be replaced by legislated funding provided under the Local Government Fiscal Framework in subsequent years. Given the current circumstances and economic uncertainty, we are extending MSI for two years to stabilize provincial revenues before launching the Local Government Fiscal Framework in 2024-25. The baseline funding level for that first year of the LGFF will remain at \$722 million. We thank municipalities for understanding that this change was necessary to respond to the serious challenges we are all facing. The estimated 2021 MSI allocations are available on the program website.

.../2

I am also pleased to advise you that Alberta expects to receive \$255 million in federal funding under the Gas Tax Fund (GTF). The estimated 2020 GTF allocations are available on the program website. Links to the program websites with the MSI and GTF allocations are provided in the transmittal e-mail accompanying this letter.

MSI and GTF program funding is subject to the Legislative Assembly's approval of Budget 2021. Individual allocations and 2021 funding are subject to ministerial authorization under the respective program guidelines. Federal GTF funding is also subject to confirmation by the Government of Canada. You should expect to receive letters confirming MSI and GTF funding commitments in April.

To help municipalities respond to the requirements of the *Alberta Senate Election Act* and *Referendum Act*, our government is making \$10 million available to support costs associated with operating Senate nominee elections and referendums in conjunction with local elections. This funding will be available under the Alberta Community Partnership program, increasing the total program budget to \$25.4 million.

I am happy to say that funding to support local public library boards will remain stable, helping those groups provide a vital resource to residents through this especially trying time. I am also pleased to report that, due to some great work from our staff at the Surface Rights Board to reduce the backlog of landowner claims, we will be able to save \$600,000 in our yearly operating expenses.

This has not been, by any means, an easy time for Albertans. We understand the challenges that communities will continue to face in the months and years ahead. We remain committed to providing sustainable levels of capital funding to support critical local infrastructure, promote economic development, and enable local governments to continue to deliver the programs and services that Albertans depend on.

As Albertans, we are no strangers to adversity. We have overcome challenges in the past and we will continue to do so. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that Alberta overcomes today's challenges and shares in a bright and prosperous future together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ric McIver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ric McIver
Minister

**TOWN OF STETTLER
TAXES RECEIVABLE
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020**

STATUS OF PROPERTY	2019 # OF PROPERTIES	2020 # OF PROPERTIES	CURRENT TAXES	ARREARS TAXES	TOTAL TAXES
Property under agreement	10	11	404,742.09	53,390.15	458,132.24
Property to be offered for sale in 2018	1	1	1,796.82	6,699.75	8,496.57
Property to be offered for sale in 2019	0	1	266.56	320.90	587.46
Property to be offered for sale in 2020	3	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property to be offered fro sale in 2021	0	12	31,385.05	20,754.38	52,139.43
Installment Plan Property	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
All Other Property	<u>89</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>196,347.15</u>	<u>37,286.56</u>	<u>233,633.71</u>
Sub-total Property Taxes	103	122	634,537.67	118,451.74	752,989.41
Business Taxes	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL TAXES RECEIVABLE 2020		122	\$634,537.67	\$118,451.74	\$752,989.41
TOTAL TAXES RECEIVABLE 2019	103		\$136,058.27	\$109,763.29	\$245,821.56

**PERCENTAGE OF CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES OUTSTANDING
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	
Current Taxes Outstanding	\$ 177,531.29	\$ 634,537.67	
Less Tax Payment Plan	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
Net Current Taxes Outstanding	\$ 177,531.29	\$ 634,537.67	
Property Tax Levy	\$ 8,682,129.12	\$ 8,660,619.12	*includes Business Tax Levy \$6,400

% of Current Taxes Receivable

2020 =	7.33%	Dec 31
2019 =	2.04%	Dec 31
2018 =	1.56%	Dec 31

Penalty Schedule

12% Penalty on Current Balance After 4:30 p.m. October 30, 2020
12% Penalty on Total Balance After December 30, 2020

**TOWN OF STETTLER
BANK RECONCILIATION
AS OF January 31, 2021**

Net Balance at End of Previous Month	\$	10,796,926.48
ADD: General Receipts (summarized below)		1,188,785.70
Interest Earned (Prime 2.45% less 1.65% = 0.80%)		8,493.44
Investments Matured		-
SUBTOTAL		11,994,205.62
LESS: General Disbursements		1,012,460.28
Payroll		244,790.05
Investments		-
Debenture Payments		-
Returned Cheques		1,161.28
Bank Charges		911.00
SUBTOTAL		1,259,322.61
NET BALANCE AT END OF CURRENT MONTH (General Ledger)	\$	10,734,883.01
Balance at End of Month - Bank		10,636,508.03
ADD: Outstanding Deposits		107,922.33
LESS: Outstanding Cheques		9,547.35
NET BALANCE AT END OF CURRENT MONTH (Bank)	\$	10,734,883.01

THIS STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL THIS 23rd DAY OF Feb 2021

MAYOR

ASSISTANT CAO

	A	B	C
2	GENERAL RECEIPTS SUMMARY		
3	Tax	AR	259,977
4	Utility	AR	261,333
5	ATCO	Franchise	60,476
6	AltaGas	Franchise	98,479
7	Library	Salary Reversal	37,173
8	County of Stettler	Water/Fire Agreement	79,414
9	SRC	Ice Rental	26,250
10	Hwy 12/21	Water	25,074
11	SMRWSC	Water	110,097
12	County of Stettler	Intermunicipal	15,394
13	Gov't of AB	Airport Grant	80,000
14	SVWS	Salary Reversal	9,818
15	AE Kennedy	Rent	16,572
16	Other		108,729
17		Total	1,188,786

TO: Town of Stettler Council

DATE: 2021 03 02

FROM: Greg Switenky
CAO

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2021

ADMINISTRATION – CAO – GREG SWITENKY

1. Meetings: Town Council, Joint Health & Safety Committee, and daily office staff information sharing sessions.
2. Ongoing organizational COVID-19 continuity planning under AHS guidelines, provincial mandates, and industry best practices.
3. Ongoing CRO/SRO deliberations with Community Partners and the RCMP respecting the future of the School Resource Officer Program, and how it could be structured financially and operationally for the benefit of all parties to a (new) agreement.
4. 2021 Capital Budget presentation and deliberation, with subsequent approval by Town Council in February.
5. Staff commence year-end financial procedures to prepare 2020 Financial Statements for annual audit purposes.
6. Ongoing liaison and information sharing with County Administration; working on community development and strengthening collaborative working relationships.
7. Ongoing organizational succession planning considerations.
8. Continuous engagement with Senior Department Heads regarding situational solutions to arising issues/requests, emergent problems and troubleshooting Council Member/Ratepayer concerns.

ADMINISTRATION – ASSISTANT CAO – STEVEN GERLITZ

1. Meetings attended included: Council, 2021 Capital Budget Workshop, Economic Development Committee, Town Life, 2021 Municipal Election Training, 13 Ways (Ask me Anything Seminar), Brownlee Emerging Trends, AUMA Presidents Workshop on Policing, Senior Management COVID, SRO Planning, 2021 Regional Water Rates, 2020 Regional Water True-up costing, Numerous Town Hall Meetings (listening), Dr. Hinshaw COVID Updates (listening),
2. Projects worked on included:
 - COVID planning, info and research
 - COVID Relief Financial Contribution – Local Businesses
 - 2021 Municipal Election – Assist Returning Officer with Election Planning/training
 - 2020 Cash Flow Statement follow up – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run – pre audit)
 - 2020 Regional Water Summary – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run – pre audit)
 - 2020 Capital Budget Summary – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run – pre audit)

**CAO REPORT
JANUARY 2021
PAGE 2**

- 2020 Operating Budget Summary – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run – pre audit)
- 2020 Reserves Update – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run – pre audit)
- 2020 Grant Updates – December 31, 2020 (B2 Run pre audit)
- 2020 Regional Water Rates – true up costing
- 2021 Capital Budget
- 2021 Cash Flow Statement follow up – January 31, 2021
- 2021 Regional Water Summary – January 31, 2021
- 2021 Capital Budget Summary - January 31, 2021
- 2021 Operating Budget Summary – January 31, 2021
- 2021 Reserves Update – January 31, 2021
- 2021 Grant Updates – January 31, 2021
- 2023-2032 – Regional Water Model Program Update - continued
- Municipal Stimulus Program (MSP) – Red Tape Reduction Report
- Municipal Operating Support Transfer (MOST) Reporting
- Garbage and Recycling Inquiries – municipal inquiries
- Council Agenda prep
- Council Minutes
- AP Invoices and sign checks
- Ratepayer issues and concerns

TRANSPORTATION – IVAN WILFORD

- Dug cremations and graves
- Sign repair/installations
- Sanded lanes and streets as needed
- Equipment repairs and cleaning
- Sidewalk sanding as needed
- Shop clean
- Some rink cleaning and flooding
- Hauled and blew clean snow onto west Stettler and Parkdale hills
- Repaired berms on outdoor rinks
- Flooded oval at campground
- Watered and turned compost
- Graded water treatment plant road
- Took down Christmas decorations and tree
- Cleaned piles from the east end of the runway
- Reviewed hazard assessments and job procedures
- Grinded a few sidewalk trips
- Camera a couple of storm lines
- Finished our confined space practical training
- Snow fence repairs
- Finished reviewing entire safety manual. (directives)
- Some snow removal in January, but not much
- Changed battery in school cross walk light again
- Moved some material around and set up two shelving units in the basement of the town office.
 - Cut brush out of the ditch on 46 avenue across from Tac

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS – MELISSA ROBBINS

Meetings:

- COVID-19 Updates (teleconference calls and staff meetings)
- 2021-23 Capital Budget Overview with Council
- Vacation Jan. 26-31

Projects:

- Downtown Streetscapes/Watermain tender
- Sidewalk Replacement Tender
- 44 Street Alley Water replacement tender
- Water meter replacements – account adjustments
- Neptune 360 water billing software transfer started
- ATCO Streetlight – replacement light review
- Potential residential development drawing review

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – LEANN GRAHAM

1. Building Permit Activity to Date

	2020 Permits to January 21, 2020	2021 Permits to December 31, 2021
Institutional	-	\$2,868,560.00
Industrial	-	-
Commercial	\$25,000.00	\$14,900.00
Residential	\$5,000.00	\$245,160.00
Total	\$30,000.00	\$3,128,620.00

2. Projects:

- 4915-50 Street Enforcement Property
- ECACS Development
- IDP & SE ASP RFP
- Seniors Development Proposal
- Corporate Identity Initiative
 - o Website & App Development
 - o Visual Brand and Logo
- Economic Development Committee Initiative
- North West ASP
- Community Builders
- Planning & Operations Clerk Maternity Leave Replacement
- Bylaw Officer Resignation Replacement
- AE Kennedy Maintenance
- Bylaw Property Inspections and Enforcement
- Planning & Development Inquiries

3. Meetings:

- JHSC Meeting
- NW ASP Meeting
- IDP & SE ASP Meeting
- AE Kennedy Admin Meeting
- Insurance Paul Davis Meetings
- Seniors Development Proposal Meeting
- Corporate Identity Meetings
- Economic Development Meeting
- Commercial Market Analysis Meetings
- Capital Budget Meeting
- Town Life Meeting
- Compliance Property Meetings
- Bylaw Inspection Meetings
- Development Inquiry Meetings
- Council and Committee Meetings
- Staff and Department Head

DIRECTOR OF PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES / PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES FOREMAN – ALLAN KING

1. **Meetings:** Meetings with Paul Davis concerning the state of the roofs, Heartland beatification, Arena connect, Provincial town hall, ARPA relaunch meetings, AARFP board of directors, CARA, and Town council.
2. **Projects:** Rebranding of the SRC, carpet cleaning, outdoor rink and oval at the Campground maintenance, hung new banners in the SRC parking lot, painting in the Hub and Campground washrooms.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERVISOR – CHRIS SAUNDERS

1. Received a quote for new actuators for the Raw Water Inlet Valves at the Low Lift Pumphouse from Spartan Controls. These new actuators will automatically close the inlet valves on the raw water line from the river to the pumphouse which will keep the pumphouse from flood damage which happens during spring break up. The government has stated in its report that the flooding can get worse as climate change continues.
2. Chamco completed the annual vibration analysis on the plant pumps. Waiting for the report.
3. Installed a new Danfoss Variable Speed Drive in 2010A Floc Mixer. Floc Mixer back in service.
4. The ammonia feed had to be increased quite a bit after batching the day tank with the first couple of barrels of ammonia from the last delivery. The next barrel has seemed to go back to normal. Contacted the supplier to have them check into a possible error in the labeling of the first couple of barrels. It was thought that maybe the barrels were weaker and miss labeled. We still have a few barrels of the delivery to

use up and will watch carefully to see if the problem reoccurs. If it happens again we will check the strength of the barrel and confirm.

5. Started as a crew going through the plant Hazard Assessments
6. Routine plant maintenance carried out.

WATER – GRANT MCQUAY

No report

REGIONAL FIRE CHIEF – MARK DENNIS

1. Training
 - January training was postponed due to enhanced COVID guidelines
 - New schedule two training nights per week with on call shift rotation to limit group size for February re-start to deal with COVID restrictions
2. Fire Department Operations
 - Schedule recruit physical testing for February one candidate being tested every 30 minutes over two nights. Modified to test indoor concerning weather
 - On call shift - apparatus equipment inspection to re-start in February on Friday nights
 - Officer meeting, Medical First Response COVID meeting, Fire Agreement meeting, TOS Capital Budget meeting, Region 5 meeting, and Council meeting
 - Finalize year end Fire Agreement
 - Prepare memo for COS council meeting regarding wildfire response invoice justification
 - Prepare for Fire permit review and discussion with COS Council
 - Operating and Capital budget
 - Ongoing fire investigation and final report submissions
 - Fire investigation final report request by OHS investigator
 - Preparing for Safety Codes internal audit submission in March
 - Fire inspection activities - Ongoing fire code occupancy load calculations and questions regarding enhanced COVID restrictions, Stettler hospital renovation stand pipe access fire hydrant access, Dry Island final inspection
 - Modify all apparatus exhaust for ventilation system connection
 - Re-locate shelving unit for exhaust unit operation
 - Completed apparatus exhaust ventilation system at station 1
 - Repair pressure washer station 1
 - Move squad 19 inside fire station for cold weather
 - Engine 11 tank to pump valve inspection
 - Tender 15 tank to pump valve and actuator froze schedule for replacement and order parts
 - Repair rescue 14 light tower lock up (cold weather related)

**CAO REPORT
JANUARY 2021
PAGE 6**

3. Regional Fire Department Incident Summary
Total calls 15- 3 motor vehicle incidents, 6 alarm calls, 5 medical first response, 1 public hazard



Greg Switenky
CAO

Ranges:	From:	To:	From:	To:
Vendor ID	First	Last	Chequebook ID GENERAL	GENERAL
Vendor Name	First	Last	Cheque Number EFT0003192	EFT0003232
Cheque Date	First	Last		

Sorted By: Cheque Number

Distribution Types Included:All

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Accu-Flo Meter Service Ltd.	EFT0003192	2021-02-23	\$7,408.80

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Water 2" & 10 5/8" meters	95124	\$7,408.80	

Acklands - Grainger Inc.	EFT0003193	2021-02-23	\$1,332.37

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Fire Joint Bins & Materials	9789127587	\$811.11	
Pool 10 Air Filters	9767337422	\$521.26	

Action Plumbing & Excavating	EFT0003194	2021-02-23	\$20,139.27

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Fire Joint Clamps & Couplings	I027366	\$317.33	
Trans Drain Acid	I027284	\$94.08	
WTP Replace Building Exhaust F	W35003	\$9,079.70	
Sewer Blockage Town Side	W35056	\$440.24	
Wtr Replace pump shack heater	W35092	\$3,895.50	
SRC Service Snow Melt Boiler	W35079	\$477.67	
Pool Summons Diverter	I027328	\$224.28	
Comm Hall Bathroom Fixture rep	I027357	\$34.40	
WTP Modify Heating System	W35004	\$5,576.07	

Air Liquide Canada Inc.	EFT0003195	2021-02-23	\$356.65

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Shop Oxygen/Acetylene bottles	72378125	\$356.65	

Alberta Animal Services	EFT0003196	2021-02-23	\$14,306.76

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Bylaw Jan Bylaw Enforcement	11879	\$14,306.76	

Alberta One-Call Corporation	EFT0003197	2021-02-23	\$59.54

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Water Trans January 1st Calls	IN164862	\$59.54	

AMSC Insurance Services Ltd.	EFT0003198	2021-02-23	\$205,679.55

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Misc Department Insurance	38568	\$199,685.47	
BOT Insurance	38566	\$1,593.20	
Stettler Flying Club	38567	\$1,263.90	
HYC Insurance	38569	\$3,233.60	

APEX Supplementary Pension Pla	EFT0003199	2021-02-23	\$369.92

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Supplementary Pension Plan Tr	PP03-21		\$369.92
=====			
Bagshaw Electric Ltd.	EFT0003200	2021-02-23	\$731.94
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Fire Joint 6 250W Metal Halide	IC019239	\$150.89	
Fire Joint 3 400W Metal Halide	IC019251	\$75.44	
Shop Extention Cords	IC019370	\$167.35	
WTS 25 Light Bulbs	IC019134	\$156.19	
Water Wire for camera #108	IC019770	\$16.73	
SRC Zamboni Propane	IC019059	\$101.02	
Lions Campground 2 Bulbs	IC019488	\$64.32	
=====			
Black Press Group Ltd.	EFT0003201	2021-02-23	\$504.28
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Plan & Dev Advertising	34029628	\$504.28	
=====			
Bounty Onsite Inc.	EFT0003202	2021-02-23	\$1,399.55
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

SRC Covid & Janitor Supplies	001-107150	\$560.93	
Shop Supplies	001-107930	\$124.93	
WTP Janitor Supplies	001-107175	\$302.80	
Water Guage Oil	001-107248	\$36.75	
Water Trans 4 pairs of gloves	001-107203	\$68.80	
Water Safety Supplies	001-107772	\$73.64	
Water Muster Point Signs	001-107989	\$103.87	
Water Dig Trailer Tools	001-107707	\$68.00	
Water Check Valve Gaskets	001-107525	\$59.83	
=====			
Brownlee LLP	EFT0003203	2021-02-23	\$3,088.23
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Bylaw Professional Fees	510233	\$3,088.23	
=====			
C & S Disposal	EFT0003204	2021-02-23	\$22,615.44
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Jan Waste & Recycling Collecti	676 REVISED	\$22,615.44	
=====			
Canadian Red Cross	EFT0003205	2021-02-23	\$150.00
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Pool WS Annual Renewal Fee	CRC-F-069818	\$150.00	
=====			
Canadian Union of Public Emplo	EFT0003206	2021-02-23	\$632.50
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Union Dues	PP03-21	\$632.50	
=====			
Cas Tech Inc.	EFT0003207	2021-02-23	\$180.61
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Admin UPS	1577	\$93.45	
Admin Switch & Cable	1597	\$52.50	
Water Dept & PR USB Drives	1720	\$34.66	

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Dean's Machine Inc.	EFT0003208	2021-02-23	\$911.36

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Trans Convert bucket Backhoe	44472	\$911.36	
=====			
Digitex Canada Inc.	EFT0003209	2021-02-23	\$83.17

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
SRC Photocopies 01.04to02.03	IN718039	\$83.17	
=====			
GFL Environmental Inc.	EFT0003210	2021-02-23	\$703.24

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Shop Waste oil collection	LQ00482935	\$703.24	
=====			
GT Hydraulic & Bearing	EFT0003211	2021-02-23	\$1,151.84

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Shop Brgs for hoist/Battery	000-347175	\$691.24	
Parks/Trans/Water Ass Filters	000-347302	\$301.82	
Trans Hydraulic hose repair	000-347873	\$158.78	
=====			
Heartland Auto Supply	EFT0003212	2021-02-23	\$2,369.99

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Fire Joint Hall Supplies	001-468821	\$120.91	
Shop Supplies/Tools/Gloves	001-469468	\$460.53	
Trans 5" grinding disk	001-471243	\$21.77	
Hydrovac Air line & Fittings	001-469884	\$11.29	
Trans Tail light unit #2	001-469454	\$8.64	
Trans Toggle switch #182	001-470853	\$8.63	
Trans Grease line unit #186	001-470808	\$12.35	
Water Air Fittings unit #26	001-470170	\$4.13	
Water Fan Belt & Rod unit #135	001-470728	\$274.32	
Water Oil & Wire Connector #10	001-471150	\$66.94	
Water Replacement Tools dig	001-470585	\$542.42	
P&L Sanitizer & Dispenser	001-465175	\$823.70	
Parks Wheel Seals unit #111	001-470219	\$14.36	
=====			
Heartland Express	EFT0003213	2021-02-23	\$526.85

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Trans Water Freight	11452	\$80.64	
Trans & Water Trans Freight	11474	\$327.94	
Trans & Parks Freight	11503	\$80.64	
Trans Freight	11528	\$37.63	
=====			
Hi Way 9 Express Ltd.	EFT0003214	2021-02-23	\$255.94

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Fire Joint Freight from Commer	12248433	\$54.64	
Fire Freight from Commercial	31828268	\$126.05	
Wtr Trns Freight from Chinook	12225400	\$75.25	
=====			
Stettler Home Hardware	EFT0003215	2021-02-23	\$310.54

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Office 4 water refills	123523	\$21.00	

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Office 3 water refills	123652		\$15.75
Trans 2 water refills	123593		\$7.50
Trans replace tools unit #137	123583		\$93.93
Water Shop Cat Food	123350		\$19.94
SRC Painting Supplies	123340		\$34.62
SRC Painters drop cloth	123378		\$41.98
SRC Contact Cement	123520		\$11.01
SRC Repair Materials/Safety Su	123590		\$64.81
=====			
i. d. Apparel	EFT0003216	2021-02-23	\$4,006.07

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

SRC Staff Uniforms (new Logo)	102167	\$4,006.07	
=====			
IJD Inspections Ltd.	EFT0003217	2021-02-23	\$4,762.23

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Plan & Dev Building Permits	ST2021-01	\$4,762.23	
=====			
Loomis Express	EFT0003218	2021-02-23	\$36.99

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Shop Freight	9319022	\$36.99	
=====			
Meridian OneCap Credit Corp	EFT0003219	2021-02-23	\$806.40

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

SRC Photocopier Lease	210301 454801	\$806.40	
=====			
Municipal Property Consultants	EFT0003220	2021-02-23	\$6,800.85

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Feb Assessor	17142	\$6,800.85	
=====			
Rally Rentals	EFT0003221	2021-02-23	\$41.32

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Shop Welding Rods	27106	\$41.32	
=====			
Rural Municipalities of Albert	EFT0003222	2021-02-23	\$5,354.43

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Admin Assoiat Membership Fees	RMA000875	\$204.75	
Trans 2lb U Coupler	AB041381	\$1,436.04	
Trans Filters unit #145	AB032814	\$559.20	
Trans Filters unit #182	AB041707	\$112.51	
Trans Step Bracket/Cover#182	AB042907	\$716.49	
Trans Grease Line unit #182	AB043942	\$58.55	
Trans Grader blades (Rental)	AB041592	\$519.98	
Trans Broom Wafers unit #42	AB041594	\$1,687.90	
Water Wheel Nuts unit #135	AB042928	\$59.06	
=====			
RMA Fuel Ltd.	EFT0003223	2021-02-23	\$8,833.03

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Misc Equip Gas Oil	PF-8891-89040	\$6,204.33	
Trans Engine Oil #86	PF-8909-89166	\$229.64	
Parks/Trans/Water Engine Oil	PF-8943-89302	\$1,043.56	
Parks/Trans/Water Diesel Marke	PF-8944-89328	\$889.81	

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Water Trsf Stn Engine Oil	PF-8974-89416		\$15.16
Water Trans Gear Lube #108	PF-9035-89584		\$450.53
Rollies Vac Systems	EFT0003224	2021-02-23	\$336.00
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Landfill Pumpout	21165		\$336.00
Stettler Agri-Centre	EFT0003225	2021-02-23	\$54.82
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Trans Grease Tips/Brushing Bla	11397S		\$54.82
Stettler Building Supplies Ltd	EFT0003226	2021-02-23	\$74.30
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
SRC Polly Floor Protection	AE6850		\$36.74
SRC Impact Sockets	AE6727		\$18.72
SRC Robertson Bits	AE6728		\$18.84
Stettler Dodge Ltd.	EFT0003227	2021-02-23	\$155.51
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
WTP Snap ring unit #151	149162		\$9.53
Water Ign Switch unit #145	149180		\$145.98
Stettler & District Handibus	EFT0003228	2021-02-23	\$299.41
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Bus Garage Jan Utilities	3420		\$299.41
Stettler Motors (1998) Ltd.	EFT0003229	2021-02-23	\$73.32
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Trans Wire connector unit #86	224366		\$73.32
Uptown Office Supply Ltd.	EFT0003230	2021-02-23	\$1,048.90
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Office Stationery	00052B		\$170.31
Office 2140 Victor Calculator	00178B		\$90.98
Fire Joint & Office Stationery	00257B		\$50.69
Shop Label Maker	00259B		\$80.28
Trans Safety Binder Indexes	00227B		\$11.68
Trans Stationery	00267B		\$25.94
WTP Stationery	00185B		\$213.82
Water Trans Stationery	00240B		\$20.95
Plan & Dev Stationery	00204B		\$168.64
Plan & Dev Office Supplies	00279B		\$36.83
P&L Stationery	00088		\$119.65
P&L Stationery	00248B		\$59.13
Wet Water Industries Ltd.	EFT0003231	2021-02-23	\$377.17
Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	
Fire Joi8nt Salt & Service	AR27534		\$300.28
Fire Joint Mar Wtr Treat Equip	AR28045		\$76.89

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
=====			
Yost, Dustin & Maria Cristine	EFT0003232	2021-02-23	\$1,800.00

Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount	

Community Hall Feb Janitor	2021.02.01	\$1,800.00	
	Total Cheques		----- \$320,129.09 =====

Ranges:	From:	To:	From:	To:
Vendor ID	First	Last	Chequebook ID	GENERAL
Vendor Name	First	Last	Cheque Number	ONL000392
Cheque Date	First	Last		ONL000396

Sorted By: Cheque Number

Distribution Types Included:All

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Access Gas Services Inc.	ONL000392	2021-02-19	\$28,348.68

	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount

	Joint Office Jan Gas Bill	202101-3693	\$1,747.07
	Fire Joint Jan Gas Bill	202101-3687	\$1,409.12
	Town Shop Jan Gas Bill	202101-3694	\$1,159.27
	Airport Jan Gas Bill	202101-3686	\$320.32
	WTP Jan Gas Bill	202101-3689	\$7,885.10
	Water Trans Jan Gas Bill	202101-3684	\$309.16
	Sewer 1 Jan Gas Bill	202101-3685	\$329.68
	Sewer 2 Jan Gas Bill	202101-3692	\$263.30
	SRC & Pool Jan Gas Bill	202101-3691	\$13,596.89
	Comm Hall Jan Gas Bill	202101-3690	\$595.30
	Parks Lion Jan Gas Bill	202101-3688	\$249.89
	Gear Up Jan Gas Bill	202101-3679	\$483.58

Corporate Payment Systems	ONL000393	2021-02-19	\$23,072.91
	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount

	BOT Corp Visa	2021.02.05.BOT	\$3,462.55
	Council Recycling Council	2021.02.05.767	\$408.00
	SVWS Corp Visa	2021.02.05.SVW	\$36.93
	Office Coffee room supplies	2021.02.05.425	\$512.53
	Water Asset Mapping/Sewer Trai	2021.02.05.149	\$4,621.16
	Roads USB/Trans Rplcmnt Tools	2021.02.05.727	\$560.80
	Road Roadbuilders Equip rate	2021.02.05.763	\$110.25
	Fitness Area Standard Pro Mont	2021.02.05.981	\$928.08
	SRC Training/Memberships	2021.02.05.343	\$1,086.55
	Fitness Area Equip/Office Supp	2021.02.05.768	\$85.15
	P&L Office Supplies/Snofest	2021.02.05.312	\$229.90
	Pool Covid Supplies/Training	2021.02.05.762	\$1,020.20
	Park Registration #83 Floor ma	2021.02.05.623	\$699.81
	Admin Training	2021.02.05.492	\$155.00
	Plan & Dev SDABTraining	2021.02.05.164	\$719.16
	Fire Joint Magsafe Charger AME	2021.02.05.292	\$2,578.61
	Fire Joint Apple Thunderbolt	2021.02.05.655	\$4,733.21
	WTP Box LED Lights/Nozzels	2021.02.05.832	\$1,125.02

Shaw Cable	ONL000394	2021-02-19	\$468.35
	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount

	SRC WiFi Jan 15 to Feb 14	2020.12.15	\$179.60
	SRC WiFi Mar 15 to Apr 21	2021.02.15	\$288.75

Shaw Cablesystems GP	ONL000395	2021-02-19	\$218.30
	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount

	Fitness Area Feb Cable TV	2021.01.01	\$109.15
	Mar Fitness Cable TV	2021.02.01	\$109.15

United Farmers of Alberta	ONL000396	2021-02-19	\$162.88
	Invoice Description	Invoice Number	Invoice Amount

Vendor Name	Cheque Number	Cheque Date	Cheque Amount
Shop Supplies	SOINV1383391		\$8.54
Water Safety Shelf Materials	SOINV1415741		\$77.53
Water Paint Brushes	SOINV1376486		\$76.81
	Total Cheques		----- \$52,271.12 =====

[Edmonton](#) / [Alberta](#)

Change of command: Prospect of Alberta police force raises concerns over cost, rural crime

“This isn’t us versus them, or us versus Ottawa ... We’re not solving anything by throwing mud at each other”

Trevor Robb

Feb 11, 2021 • Last Updated 1 week ago • 13 minute read



Paul McLauchlin, Reeve for Ponoka County and President of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, is seen with his family’s horses on their farm near Pigeon Lake south of Edmonton, on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. The county has seen high rural crime rates and rising unemployment due to the oil price crash and the COVID-19 pandemic. McLauchlin feels a provincial police force would be expensive and complicated to replace existing RCMP policing in the area. PHOTO BY IAN KUCERAK /Postmedia

“I’m 30 minutes from a police officer.”

This is the day-to-day reality for thousands of rural and small-town Albertans, including Paul McLauchlin, a county councillor and reeve for Ponoka County in central Alberta, which boasts a population of just over 9,000.

“This is about some of us who do not have the same service as you do in an urban centre, and that is no fault of the police,” said McLaughlin, who also serves as the president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA). “That is a lifestyle choice that I have, but at the same time, that is my reality — I’m paying for a service that ultimately may not get here during the time of a crime.”

In an effort to define itself within a Confederation it claims has left them behind, the Alberta government under United Conservative Party Premier Jason Kenney is exploring the idea of re-establishing its own provincial police force — the original Alberta Provincial Police (APP) was founded in 1917 and dissolved in 1932 — to address the concerns of rural Albertans and gain some semblance of autonomy from Ottawa.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

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In June 2020, Kenney stood at a podium with “A Fair Deal Now” plastered on the front of it in white bold lettering as he laid out the 25 recommendations made by the province’s Fair Deal Panel.

It was a “demand for fairness,” Kenney pleaded. “More Alberta, less Ottawa.” He touted a non-binding referendum on equalization payments and vowed to move forward with two of the report’s recommendations — pulling out of the Canada Pension Plan and re-establishing a provincial police force.

possible transition to an Alberta provincial police service” at a cost of \$2 million. The study will be completed by April 30.

“Both Ontario and Quebec have their own police forces, as do most major cities in Alberta,” said Blaise Boehmer, spokesman for Alberta Justice Minister and Solicitor General Kaycee Madu, in an emailed statement to Postmedia. “We are considering whether Alberta — as a major province over 100 years in age — should also have its own provincial police force, as opposed to depending on Ottawa.

“The Alberta government will then be able to make an informed, evidence-based decision on how best to deliver police services that are in the best interests of Albertans.”

Archive photos of the Alberta Provincial Police force which operated in the province for a brief period in 1917-1932. (Supplied photos/Provincial Archives)

How policing is funded today

Alberta currently pays \$262.4 million for its RCMP service, with the federal government paying \$112.4 million annually in a 70-30 split. A 20-year contract with the RCMP was signed in 2011 under the Stelmach government and is set to expire March 31, 2032.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

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Under changes announced in December 2019, in response to the rise of rural crime in the province, the UCP tweaked the funding model to require communities under 5,000 people to chip in towards the cost of policing, totalling more than \$286 million over five years, with the federal government contributing an additional \$85.6 million to rural policing.

The plan aims to add an additional 400 “boots on the ground” to assist RCMP and other police services. Municipalities will now be responsible for \$15.4 million of policing costs in 2020, \$60.3 million in 2023, and rising to \$200.6 million by 2024.

McLauchlin referred to it as a “ramped-up phase approach.”

But in the era of COVID-19, already cash-strapped municipalities, some of which pay up to a quarter of their budgets on policing, are questioning the timing of the new funding model and are pleading for a reprieve.

Barry Morishita, president of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and mayor of the city of Brooks, describes the new funding model as an “irritant” and says the province has already begun to take in the \$15.4 million for 2020 without providing the full amount back in policing resources.

“We don’t think it’s right that they’re collecting that money and not putting it directly towards frontline workers,” Morishita told Postmedia in a November interview. “They keep asking us ‘don’t raise taxes, keep taxes low and be more efficient with your service delivery’ but here they are forcing us to collect money for a service we’re not even getting — how do you justify that to a ratepayer?”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

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AUMA has been lobbying the government to pause changes to the funding model and revisit the plan after the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind.

“Because they’re going to be collecting more next year, we expect the problem to get bigger,” said Morishita. “Even before COVID-19, we said there was a really low likelihood of them being able to achieve the result they’re talking about, but they insisted they could ... now we know they didn’t and they can’t and so we should be re-visiting the plan.”

The RCMP detachment is seen in the town of Rimbey, Alberta, on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. Officers in the detachment are about 30 minutes away if they had to respond to Paul McLauchlin's farm. Distance to calls can contribute to rising rural crime problems, seen in the province. PHOTO BY IAN KUCERAK /Postmedia

How much is this going to cost?

This is the crux of the issue.

When searching for a comparable, the province often points to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Sûreté du Québec, both of which have annual budgets exceeding \$1 billion.

more established services which make comparisons difficult. She points to the recent formation of the Surrey Police Service as a more recent example and one that highlights just how difficult it is to start a police force from scratch.

She estimates the cost of establishing a provincial police force in Alberta is likely to be in the billions. Those costs add up quickly when you factor in building, equipment, and most especially, training costs; not to mention the costs of establishing special units, including a provincial anti-terrorism unit, major crimes unit and forensics units.

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“It’s not just regular routine policing. It’s all of those special units, and training and staffing of those special units,” says Dr. Huey. “It’s going to cost a ton of money just to start it up and that’s why the OPP has a billion-dollar budget — they do everything.”

Kenney has even pointed to the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) as an example Alberta can draw from, but Dr. Huey says Newfoundland is not a good comparison because the RCMP actually still polices most of the province’s outlying regions.

“

“We would hope that this is a study that’s being done versus ticking boxes for a foregone conclusion.”

NPF PRESIDENT BRIAN SAUVÉ

“There’s a debate whether or not they’re even the provincial police service there,” Dr. Huey says.

more control over how things are done.

“You can have a Pinto or you can have a Cadillac — what are you willing to pay for it?” says Dr. Huey. “If you have a local complaint with a RCMP detachment in rural Alberta, your complaint goes to Ottawa and it takes two to three years in many cases to receive a letter saying that your complaint was investigated and dismissed. So that’s not satisfactory for a lot of people, and it’s probably not satisfactory for the Alberta government.”

It’s no secret Alberta is seeking greater autonomy from Ottawa. But that desire for autonomy comes with a cost, one that is likely to be passed down to taxpayers, says Dr. Huey.

“That’s the bottom line with this. This all sounds fantastic in theory, but you have to pay for it, and if you’re paying increased costs, where is that money coming from? It’s has to come from taxes,” says Dr. Huey.

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“Yes, you’re going to have autonomy but that comes with costs, and I’m not convinced necessarily that people understand and appreciate how enormous those costs are, and that those costs are ongoing and forever.”

Archive photos of the Alberta Provincial Police force which operated in the province for a brief period in 1917-1932. (Supplied photos/Provincial Archives)

The Fair Deal panel notes short-run costs could be absorbed by “efficiencies of scale and scope” and that any costs passed on to municipalities should not be done without consent. However, in the event Alberta cancels its agreement with the RCMP — the report says the province can do so as early as March 31, 2022 — the current federal contribution amount would still have to be “fully or partially absorbed by the province and municipalities.”

This is the prime concern for Alberta’s small towns and cities.

“The fact remains that we only have so much money and we can’t be spending money on things we already have, so to speak,” said Morishita. “We could be saddled with some immense costs going forward without federal contributions.”

The potential politicization of police

With increased control comes the risk of politicization, says Dr. Huey.

One advantage provinces gain by employing the RCMP is that the RCMP is ultimately governed by the RCMP Act, not politicians. In Ontario, Premier Doug Ford’s government drew accusations of political interference in the hiring process that resulted in Toronto police Supt. Ron Taverner being appointed head of the OPP. Taverner ultimately withdrew his name from consideration for the job, citing the controversy around his appointment and the need to protect the integrity of front-line OPP officers.

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“One of the downsides of having a provincial police service, and we saw that here in Ontario, is that that independence is not the same (as the RCMP),” said Dr. Huey.

“That insulation between politicians and police becomes less, or finer, when they’re the ones making the decision as to who’s going to be appointed to those positions ... and that’s an issue. So if Alberta wants to do this, one of the things the province needs to do is to make sure that there is some thicker insulation between the politicians and the police, unless you want to have politicized policing.”

It’s an issue that also concerns NDP Justice critic Irfan Sabir.

“I think the province shouldn’t be controlling directly how these police forces operate. There needs to be a certain level of independence so that there’s confidence that these institutions are working independent of any political interference,” said Sabir.

NDP Justice critic Irfan Sabir in Edmonton on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. PHOTO BY ED KAISER /Postmedia

Some of the motivations behind the pursuit of an Alberta provincial police service are also political, argues Derek Fildebrandt, former MLA for Strathmore–Brooks and publisher of the Western Standard,

“This government was promised as a new era, that it was going to be a significant break from the past and be a historic premiership like that of (Ralph) Klein or (Peter) Lougheed — we haven’t seen very much of that yet,” says Fildebrandt.

“There’s not very much right now that the government can be able to point to in 2023 and say ‘that is a legacy of this government, this is something big that we’ve achieved.’ So I think perhaps they’re mindful of the need to leave some positive mark, and this would be it.”

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Do Albertans even want it?

Recent polling data suggests the desire for a provincial police force within Alberta isn’t quite there.

Anecdotally, the Fair Deal Panel report highlights stories of frustrated Albertans who find the RCMP too bureaucratic, and questions its effectiveness in responding to local needs. It also mentions concerns from gun owners who question the RCMP’s “heavy-handed” enforcement of gun laws.

“The bottom line was that Alberta needs to be treated with respect, and this lack of respect led to injustice,” reads the report.

At the same time, as part of its online engagement — totalling more than 42,000 submissions from December 2019 to March 2020 — establishing a provincial police force ranked 14th in a list of 15 priorities respondents were asked to rank would help Alberta improve its place in the federation, with 35 per cent of respondents supporting the idea. Only separation from Canada, either alone or with other western provinces, polled lower (34).

labour relations organization in Canada representing 20,000 RCMP members across the country, including 4,500 members in Alberta. The NPF is one of the groups being consulted in the Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) Canada audit.

More than 1,300 Albertans over the age of 18 responded with 81 per cent saying they were satisfied with RCMP policing in RCMP-served communities.

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Seventy per cent of Albertans polled said they have a favourable impression of RCMP officers, with the highest favourability found in the Edmonton suburbs (81 per cent) and the Calgary suburbs (83 per cent), and moderately high favourability in the rural north (78), rural central (77), and rural south (70) area.

Fifty per cent of respondents said Alberta should stay the course when it comes to RCMP policing, 36 per cent supported retaining the RCMP with significant improvements and six per cent supported outright replacing the RCMP with an Alberta police service. However, 44 per cent of respondents said they had a favourable view of RCMP management. The poll has a relative margin of error of +/- 2.7 per cent.

“The majority of respondents thought it wasn’t important at all and shouldn’t be a priority — it’s actually quite overwhelming,” said NPF president Brian Sauvé.

On the flipside, Fildebrandt argues autonomy from Ottawa is a still strong driver for many Albertans, especially those in rural areas.

“I think there is a clamouring for something to change, said Fildebrandt. “There are some people who would consider this too much of a half measure, that it doesn’t go far enough in the overall efforts to distance ourselves from the influence of Ottawa.

At the end of the day, Sauvé hopes the government will indeed analyze fact-based arguments and make the right decision for Albertans.

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“We would hope that this is a study that’s being done versus ticking boxes for a foregone conclusion.”

Archive photos of the Alberta Provincial Police force which operated in the province for a brief period in 1917-1932. (Supplied photos/Provincial Archives)

The 'revolving door' myth

One of the criticisms Kenney has routinely made of the RCMP surrounds a supposed "revolving door" of officers in the province who simply don't have enough time to establish themselves in a community before being re-posted elsewhere.

"We are reviewing plans for an Alberta police force, which will ensure community policing in rural areas that people can depend on, rather than the unfortunate revolving door that we too often experience with RCMP officers," Kenney said on Nov. 5 when speaking ahead of the RMA 2020 Fall Convention.

According to the Fair Deal Panel report, posting officers in small communities, then relocating them anywhere in Canada, is a disincentive for many applicants.

"Officers would become more invested in their local settings, allowing them to better connect with local citizens and gain insights into where and how criminal elements operate in each community," reads the report.

But Sauvé says those concerns are largely out-dated and hearken back to a time when the RCMP was less family-friendly.

"Thirty years ago, that was probably the truth. It wasn't until 1974 that we were able to get married or not seek permission from our boss to get married. So over the last 40 years, you've seen quite an evolution," said Sauvé, noting there is a requirement for officers to re-locate if they're posted to an detachment considered to be an isolated post.

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“In today’s RCMP, it’s actually fairly routine to see someone spend their entire career in and around the hub of Edmonton. You might go from the international airport to Leduc, to Sherwood Park, maybe out to Westaskiwin, perhaps a stint at Edmonton headquarters and maybe even out at Whitecourt, Mayerthorpe, Hinton — those particular areas.

“With a provincial police service, you wouldn’t see any difference. The comparators would be the Sûreté du Québec and the Ontario Provincial Police, and those members do not stay in a particular posting their entire career. They also move around.”

Dr. Huey also described the revolving door theory as an “old-school mentality.”

“There’s a lot of myths around policing that I hear over and over again and this is just another one,” said Dr. Huey.

Paul McLauchlin, Reeve for Ponoka County and President of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta, is seen with his family’s horses on their farm near Pigeon Lake south of Edmonton, on Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. PHOTO BY IAN KUCERAK /Postmedia

Ultimately, rural crime remains a real concern for many Albertans.

In its 2017 crime report, Statistics Canada says rural crime rates in the Prairies are between 36 per cent and 42 per cent higher than in urban areas. Those numbers improved slightly after a \$10-million RCMP strategy in 2018 under the previous NDP government led to a 9.8 per cent decrease in property crime rates in rural detachments. A comparison of crime between 2017 and 2018 showed 480 fewer homes broken into, nearly 3,500 fewer thefts and more than 1,200 fewer vehicle thefts, the provincial report read.

Sabir says this is an example of how government can tackle rural crime reduction without playing political games.

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“Studying about setting up a provincial police force doesn’t help us address rural crime,” said Sabir. “Those who are getting victimized by the crime, I don’t think they’re better off waiting another couple years for that report to come out and for the province to get ready to set up that police force — they need action from this government now.”

For McLauchlin, this problem is about far more than a badge or the colour of an officer’s uniform. The problem is multi-faceted: courts need to become robust and ensure those arrested of violent crimes stay in jail rather than being put on bail and out the next day, while at the same time recognizing the need for increased mental health supports and social workers to establish a social safety net and support police.

“If a provincial police force fixes that, then awesome, bring it on,” said McLauchlin. “Except all I’m hearing about is “screw Ottawa” and that makes no sense.

“This isn’t us versus them, or us versus Ottawa ... We’re not solving anything by throwing mud at each other.”

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VIEW ON EDMONTON SUN

THIS WEEK IN FLYERS

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Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Acadia

FEB - 8 2021

AR 181871

His Worship Sean Nolls
Mayor
Town of Stettler
PO Box 280
Stettler AB T0C 2L0

Dear Mayor Nolls:

Thank you for your letter to Premier Kenney regarding emergency medical services (EMS) dispatch integration. As Minister of Health, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta. I apologize for the delay.

I understand that you are concerned about potential impacts to patient outcomes for communities where dispatch will transition to Alberta Health Services (AHS) EMS, and I want to assure you that EMS users will notice no change. Further, the technology used by AHS EMS is the same as that used by municipal dispatchers, so paramedics will experience no additional difficulties locating people in rural and remote areas. Throughout the last decade of EMS dispatch transition in Alberta, EMS research and data has shown that this change will not result in service delays or decreased levels of care. In fact, a borderless system complemented by an integrated dispatch system provides improved medical oversight and better continuity of care.

EMS dispatch services for the Town of Stettler, City of Red Deer, and a number of other central Alberta municipalities successfully transitioned from Red Deer Emergency Services to the AHS South Communications Centre in Calgary on January 12, 2021.

As you are aware, both the Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA) and the Ernst and Young review of AHS identified that integration of EMS dispatch services improves system performance and overall patient outcomes due to gains in efficiency, coordination, and integration with the health system. The HQCA consulted with municipalities throughout their review.

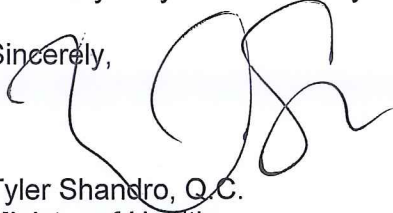
Please be assured this is a fiscally responsible transition that will maintain patient safety and ensure consistency and sustainability for dispatch services across all communities. If you have additional questions about the transition, I encourage you to reach out to AHS EMS Chief Paramedic, Darren Sandbeck, at darren.sandbeck@ahs.ca or 403-701-3070.

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Mayor Sean Nolls
Page 2

Thank you again for taking the time to express your concerns about this issue, and for your advocacy for your community and east central Alberta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TS', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tyler Shandro, Q.C.
Minister of Health

cc: Darren Sandbeck, AHS EMS Chief Paramedic
Nate Horner, MLA, Drumheller-Stettler