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The Beaver County Chronicle

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Tofield Minor Hockey speaks to county council

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County Council recently met with the Tofield Minor Hockey Association concerning Tofield's decision to join Strathcona minor hockey on a one-year trial period.

A joint letter from the Tofield Agricultural Society and the Town of Tofield was sent to Hockey Alberta and Beaver County decrying this decision, and asking for the county's support for its stance on the issue. As the letter was cc'd to Beaver County, county council met with Jason Pope, the local hockey association president at council's June 19 meeting.

The letter stated: "This decision is to join Strathcona Minor Hockey Association on what is being termed as a 'One Year Trial.' If this 'Trial' is successful this could lead to the dissolution of the Tofield Minor Hockey Association."

The letter went on: "I'm sure you can appreciate our shock and displeasure with this decision...and it extends to the fact that none of the parties were consulted or given advance notice of this intent. Truly, communication was non-existent in this regard on all levels."

Reeve Kevin Smook explained to Pope that, although the issue isn't in their area of governance, it affects many people within the county as well as Tofield itself. For that reason, he said council had an interest in the issue.

Pope called the move to Strathcona "a pilot project," adding: "The intent is to enhance user availability for the arena in Tofield." He predicted that teams from Strathcona would also be coming to the rink to play, there would be a 45 per cent increase in its use, or an equivalent to 1,000 more hours of use.

He added that under the previous system, parents have had to travel excessively to places like Jasper

(three times in one season) and pay for that travel as well.

With the players joining Strathcona, "all the travel will be done in a reasonable amount of time (going) to Edmonton and surrounding towns," he said. "It's the reason why parents voted to give it a try this year."

The decision had been made at the Tofield Minor Hockey Association Annual General Meeting this spring.

"Thanks for stepping up," said Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3), noting he has been a travelling hockey parent himself when his children played hockey.

Hrabec said the county has received a request from the Town of Tofield and the Tofield Ag Society to support their letter to Hockey Alberta.

"It's not our building but it does affect our residents," he said. But he added: "I appreciate you stepping up...and I know you can't please everyone," with this decision.

The Holden Ag Society has also been dealing with the question of whether to close their ice arena as participation numbers dwindle and facility costs increase. In fact, the county and the village contributed funds to keep the doors open January and February this year until the season ended in March. The Ag Society has since gone on record as determined to maintain their ice in the Holden Complex rink next season. Hrabec, who is a Holden Ag member, has himself expressed doubts of the viability of that goal.

Pope indicated that "some kids from Holden Minor Hockey are going with us to Strathcona," adding he "prefers they come to Strathcona and give it a try."

Hrabec also said that minor hockey numbers are dwindling in Viking over the last few years, as Holden players, who have joined Viking

teams in the past, start going elsewhere.

Pope replied that Holden players "will try this pilot out... and give it a shot," adding that boundaries would have to be "rejigged" if the pilot project "moves forward" and becomes permanent.

Hrabec also expressed the desire for Viking players to join as well. "I hope if somebody from Viking would look to come that way," he said, stating, "That would be okay."

Pope agreed but said Viking players often go north to teams in Vegreville or south to the Battle River Knights in Flagstaff.

But Reeve Smook came back to the original discussion, calling the change to Strathcona "a generational decision," adding:

"In my opinion we will lose something along the way," he said, noting the millions of dollars spent on upgrades to the Tofield Arena were made by the ag society, "without knowing this was going to happen."

And, "with no minor hockey in Tofield would they still be able to host Provincials?" he asked.

Pope replied that "there would be an opportunity to host Provincials with the Strathcona group."

And, "with the one year trial, many hockey teams from Edmonton and surrounding communities would come to Tofield," he said, calling it "good for local business. It shouldn't leave the ice empty as has happened in previous years."

Pope also stated that "If it works 100 per cent, business feels supported and people feel better...It will be playing hockey under the Strathcona banner but they will be playing in Tofield."

Smook countered that his concern was mainly for the younger players. He took his kids to minor hockey as youngsters and they stayed close to home in those days, he said.

Pope said there will be a meeting Tuesday, June 25, this week where the associations would be ironing out details. But he expected the "local flavour" would be kept with the U7's staying in Tofield, along with the U9's "as much as possible within the Tofield arena."

Smook said that, although the county supports minor hockey, there is no official support for the decision taken by the Tofield association to join Strathcona.

"We don't (officially) support or take an official position on the decision by the organization," he said, noting recent reports about the county giving official support were not accurate.

Pope said everyone was welcome to attend the meeting this week and ask questions.

"This decision wasn't made lightly it's a trial project," he said. "If it doesn't go well we will be back here to play minor hockey at the end of the day."

The Tofield Ag Society and Town of Tofield felt differently as expressed in their letter requesting county support

"The lifeblood, or fabric of a community can be tied to youth, their families and the support these in conjunction bring to their towns villages, etc.

"This can be felt as part and parcel for Tofield. This fabric is felt in no greater fashion than at the Tofield Arena," stated the letter.

"This facility has acted as a hub for community activities, functions, and a gathering spot for families and friends to not only partake in sporting events but also camaraderie."

The letter goes on to explain that all this would be in jeopardy if the pilot project proves successful and there would no longer be a minor hockey association in Tofield.



RURAL RESIDENTIAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECT FUNDING

Did you know acreage owners in the Beaverhills Biosphere can apply for cost-shared funding for projects like wetland and riparian zone enhancements, planting native species or restoring or enhancing existing native plant communities on your acreage?

Learn more about the Rural Residential Stewardship Program funding opportunity to support on-acreage stewardship here:

<https://www.beaverhills.ca/learn/projects/project/rural-residential-stewardship-program>



JOIN OUR TEAM!

• **Community Peace Officer - Level 1**

For more information, and details on how to apply, visit our website > Government > Careers

1993 INTERNATIONAL 4900 FIRE ENGINE PUMPER



Beaver Emergency Services Commission has posted an International/Navistar DT466 Diesel fire truck for sale via online auction.

For more information and to view this posting, follow the link below or scan the QR Code above with your phone camera.
<https://www.govdeals.com/beaveremergencyservicescommissionab>

Everyone is invited to participate in this online auction. Bids will be accepted via online auction until 12:00 PM July 12, 2024.

2024 COUNTY CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

(SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

	START DATE	EST. END DATE
Culvert Maintenance	Ongoing	Nov 1
Patching oil roads throughout the season	Ongoing	Sep 29
Terra-Cem		
Constructed in the following phases:		
Phase 1 (Cement)		
Phase 2 (Chip Seal - 1st Lift)		
Phase 3 (Chip Seal - 2nd lift)		
Phase 4 (Final sweep of Chips)		
• Twp 490 between Rge Rd 124 & Rge Rd 120 ◦ Phase 1 Complete	Ongoing	Jun 3
• Rge Rd 120 from Twp 490 north for 1 KM	June 13	Jun 17
• Holden Streets	Jul 2	Jul 4
• Rge Rd 161A between Hwy 14 & Hwy 855	Jul 5	Jul 9
• Rge Rd 200 between Hwy 630 & Blackfoot Grazing Reserve entrance	Jul 11	Jul 21
• Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 30	Aug 8
Rechip 2 miles TBD (Contracted for late summer)	Aug 12	Aug 23
Shoulder Pulls		
• Shoulder pull Rge Rd 202 between Twp 502 & Twp 504	Jul 24	Jul 29
Backsloping (location TBD)	Oct 2	Nov 1
Gravelling	Ongoing	Dec 22
Dust Control- 1st Application		Complete
Dust Control- 2nd Application	Aug 8	Aug 15

TBD - To be Determined

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Township Road 490, between Range Road 124 & 120, and Range Road 120 from Township Road 490 for 1 mile: The soil stabilizing for the road base with soil cement is now complete and will be receiving the first layer of chip seal, there may be delays as work crews' direct traffic in order to work safely. There will be many loose rocks after the chip seal layer is applied and speed limits will be reduced on these roads once opened until the project is complete.

During this construction period, parts of the roads may be closed for crew safety. Please use alternative routes; detours will be clearly marked. If you must drive through construction zones, proceed with caution (local traffic only). Beaver County's goal is to provide a healthy, injury free work environment for all employees, contractors, visitors and general public. Already this year we have had people exceeding the posted speed limit through our construction zones, endangering staff, contractors and the public.

There are potential hazards to the public and vehicles during the construction process. This can include heavy machinery, dust or mud, road material such as gravel, asphalt coatings and rock chips.

We apologize for the inconvenience that road maintenance and upgrading causes, but the same roads that receive the most traffic also need the most maintenance. Thank-you for your patience and understanding during construction. If you have any questions, please call the Beaver County Service centre at 780-663-3730.



Landfill & Ryley Transfer Station:

50117 Rge Rd 173 (HWY 854) Box 322, Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Weekdays 9:00am - 4:30pm;

Saturdays / STATS 9:00am - 3:00pm; Closed Sundays

NOTE: customers must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing;

Administration building

Mon to Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm, Closed from 12:00 - 1:00pm

Toll Free: 1.855.221.2038 Ph: 780.663.2038

Lindbrook Transfer Station:

51008 Rge Rd 201 Ph: 780.662.2704

Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Thurs 11:30am - 6:30pm;

Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Tofield Transfer Station:

51032 Rge Rd 191 Ph: 780.662.2731

Wed, Fri & Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Viking Transfer Station:

12503 Twp Rd 480 Ph: 780.718.7956

Tues 10:30am - 5:30pm; Sat 10:30am - 5:30pm

Kinsella Transfer Station:

46418 Rge Rd 113 Ph: 780.226.6802

Wed 11:00am - 5:00pm; Fri 11:00am - 5:00pm

Please note: All transfer stations except for the Ryley Transfer Station are closed on Statutory holidays.

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY COUNTY

Discover the perfect canvas for your dream home on this expansive 4.05-hectare property, located at 48208 Range Road 143 in Beaver County. This unique piece of land offers an exceptional opportunity for those looking to build a new residence in rural Alberta. Find more info on the County Website > Business > RFPs, Tenders, Leases & Sales



IMPORTANT DATES

June 27

- 2 - 4:30 PM: Ag Service Board Meeting

July 17

- 9:30 AM - 12 PM: Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting
- 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Regular Council Meeting

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY



Book Club

Location: Ross Creek Community Hall, 531041 Rge Rd 191
Rural book club that meets the first Tuesday of each month. Meetings run from 7PM - 8PM, all ages welcome!

Tofield AA - Thursdays, 8 - 9 PM

Basement of Bardo Lutheran Church, 4737 57 Ave, Tofield.

Viking AA - Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Zoom option also available.

Golden Valley Lutheran Church, 5327 56 Ave, Viking.

<https://area78aa.org/meetings/147-3>

Submit your event/s, meetings and/or gatherings to the events calendar on the website! Just head to the website, under the Explore menu click on County Region Events Calendar. We have partnered with Go East to share local events on our website!

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - JUNE 19

Proclamation Acknowledgement – Longest Day of Smiles

Council recognized June 20, 2024, as the Longest Day of Smiles to raise awareness and funds for children with cleft conditions.

Bylaw #24-1152 - (Land Use Bylaw Amendment)

- Public Hearing
 - The hearing was held to discuss the repeal of Bylaw #20-1076. There were no submissions and no public attendance.
- Readings
 - Council completed the second and third readings of Bylaw #24-1152 to repeal Bylaw #20-1076. Bylaw #20-1076 has been repealed because the proposed redistricting is no longer needed.

Tofield Minor Hockey Association (TMHA)

J. Pope, President of TMHA, attended the meeting via teleconference. He addressed the pilot project between TMHA and Strathcona Minor Hockey Association, highlighting the various concerns and benefits of the one-year trial merger.

Bylaw #23-1136 – Road Closure South of S 1/2 18-50-17-W4

Council passed third reading of Bylaw #23-1136 regarding the consolidation of a road allowance into the adjacent parcels. This bylaw is now in effect and the road has been closed.

Equity Industrial Park Engineering (Waterline Capacity)

Council approved an unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$50,000 from the Industrial Parks Reserve for engineering work related to regional waterline capacity and the Equity Industrial Park.

Council Chambers Upgrades

Council approved an unbudgeted expenditure to upgrade outdated equipment in the Council Chambers to enhance live streaming and public participation opportunities. These upgrades include audio/visual, flooring, and furniture improvements with a budget of \$250,000 funded from the Administration (Claystone) Reserve.

For more information on items discussed at the Council Meeting, please review the full Agenda Package for this meeting at beaver.ab.ca. New and/or amended Policies and Bylaws are uploaded to the [County website](http://beaver.ab.ca) after they have been signed.



Mailing list

Get news, meeting highlights, the road construction schedule, the Chronicle, and more - direct to your inbox!

Website

Information on County programs and services can be found on our website, along with the latest news.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

The following Development Applications have been APPROVED (except where otherwise noted) by the Development Authority under the provisions of Land Use Bylaw No. 98-801, subject to the right of appeal to the relevant appeal body - Subdivision and Development Appeal Board or Land and Property Rights Tribunal.

APPEAL DEADLINE JULY 17, 2024

Appeal Body	LPRT
Application No.	020020-24-D0037
Applicant	Lemay, Serge and Laurie
Location	Plan 112 2201; Block 1; Lot 3 in NW 22-50-20-W4
Development	Solar Collectors, Ground Mount (over 10m2 floor area)

Any person wishing to appeal an application may do so by serving written notice on the prescribed form (stating reasons for the appeal) to the relevant appeal body. For information on how to appeal can be found on our website under **Services > Planning & Development > Appealing Planning Decisions**

Further information regarding the above decisions may be obtained from the County Office, Ryley, Alberta.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are currently looking for a:

Labourer

Beaver County is looking for Labourer in the Public Works and Infrastructure Department for the 2024 road maintenance and construction season.

Duties may include but are not limited to: shop hand, brushing, road oil patching, packer operator, bridge maintenance, drainage improvement, culvert replacement, and beaver dam removal.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- As per beaver county's policies and the collective agreement with the i.u.o.e. local 955
- Works under assigned supervisor as a labourer and may be required to perform other duties.
- Available to work non-regular hours if required, as per section six (6) "hours of work" of the Collective agreement with i.u.o.e. local 955
- Position could be between 4 and 6 months

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Valid Class 5 Drivers License with an acceptable driving record
- Willing to train and learn to operate light and heavy duty equipment and work with crews
- Mechanically Inclined considered an asset
- Opportunity to gain valuable work experience
- Must be willing to work in fluctuating climates (hot, cold, wet) and environmental conditions.
- Ability to lift 50 lbs. or more
- Safety conscious attitude

POSITION DETAILS:

- Position Type: Full Time – Temporary
- Salary: \$21.18 - \$25.77
- A driver's abstract check will be required for successful applicants.
- Closing date: Until suitable candidate is found.

TO APPLY FOR THIS POSITION:

Submit a cover letter and resume, referencing the name of the position, to the following email: careers@beaver.ab.ca

Applications can also be submitted in-person or by mail to:
PO Box 140, 5120 50 Street
Ryley, AB T0B 4A0

Beaver County thanks all applicants for their interest however only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

Social media

Find us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.



Council Chambers to get number of upgrades

Patricia Harcourt

Beaver County's council chambers is getting a facelift this year with help from council motions made following discussion on the renovation's parameters June 17.

Administration was seeking a previously unbudgeted amount of \$250,000 for audio/visual, flooring, and furniture upgrades to council chambers.

The funds would come from the Claystone reserves, and not from taxes, said Deputy Reeve Gene Hrabec (Division 3), stressing this was important for ratepayers to know.

Dan Blackie, General Manager of infrastructure, gave a report detailing the renovations required.

The council chamber's current audio/visual system was installed during large scale renovations to the county office building in 2013.

"Unfortunately, technology changes very quickly and the system is now obsolete," he said. "With demands for online access and recent provincial legislation to enable virtual public participation at hearings the system must be replaced with current technology."

After researching different options and visiting other municipalities to see their systems, administration is recommending the Televic system be adopted.

Reasons for this included the technical support

provided (the current system is unsupported) and its ability to expand with changing needs.

Currently electrical chords on the floor are becoming tripping hazards, with all electrical outlets installed into the concrete flooring, making it difficult to change the room around or the furniture.

Custom made desks would help with space needs and prevent the need for more expensive construction later to enlarge the room.

Also recommended were small privacy screening along the front of the desks for a more professional look. The report included the need for individual microphones, which would also contain a welcome screen for user and meeting introductions, a timer for speaker or presenter, a voting screen, voting results, and individual speakers. Individual cameras were also recommended.

Hrabec said he felt the process presented was "putting the cart before the horse," and proposed starting with an RFD first with figures attached for the different aspects of the project.

Blackie said there were "ball park numbers" provided for council in the report presented.

"Timing is an issue," added Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kayleena Spiess. "We can't do it in the timeline we are offering if we do it his (Hrabec's) way."

And the county doesn't know at this point if other

problems will be discovered during the renovation phase which could further delay things.

She also said the upgrades will be an incentive for other groups in the community to use the council chambers, addressing Hrabec's concern that renovations aren't needed when the chambers are only used by council 20 times a year.

"We need to get up with the times," she said, noting the county has had "good quotes from reputable vendors," adding: "We are far behind the times."

Council did go into closed session to provide Hrabec with more information.

After coming out of closed session, two motions were passed with Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) directing administration to proceed with the cited upgrades, and Reeve Kevin Smook's (Division 1) motion to approve a budget of \$250,000. Both motions were passed by council.

"I think this is a very good investment," said Councillor Barry Bruce (Division 4), He noted that the recent open house held in Bruce showed the people are very interested in what council is doing.

"So everyone tuning in at home (during meetings) will get much better pictures," he said, of the coming new audio/visual equipment.

Smook added that, "the province expects council to have better visuals for the viewing public."

Engineering initial start to building water capacity at industrial park

Patricia Harcourt

Equity Industrial Park has a newly updated area structure plan as a step toward increasing economic growth there.

Another step was for Beaver County Council to accept the contents of a report on short-term agriculture and short-term fire suppression plans presented by administration.

A further step was taken at the June 19 meeting of council to address water needs by businesses within the industrial park who can't expand without more capacity built into the system.

Administration asked for council to approve up to \$50,000 from the Industrial Parks reserve fund to provide engineering work needed before work is done to expand the regional waterline capacity as it relates to the industrial park.

This water viability project is part of the long-term focus for increasing water capacity in the park, a necessary component for expanding light industry

there.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kayleena Spiess told council the area structure plan "was the first step towards another of council's goals - economic development for industrial parks."

When the Equity park was getting an updated area structure plan, "it included an analysis and discussions with the Highway 14 Regional Water Services Commission regarding the current water supply and future capacity of water to businesses in the EIP," stated CAO Spiess.

"A natural extension of this project is a detailed engineering assessment of the existing water supply," she said, involving "infrastructure and recommendations for optimizing water supply to the park and other areas in the county," including the use of drought mitigation.

She recommended hiring the consultants used for the area structure plan, Beairisto and Associates, "for time's sake," as they are familiar with the parameters involved.

With no discussion, Councillor Lionel Williams (Division 2) made the motion approving the expenditure requested for the reasons provided. The motion was carried without debate.

The water viability project will include "discussions with and support for the other municipalities' needs," said Spiess, as all of the four urban areas in the county also receive their water from the regional waterline.

"In particular, the engineer will be required to work with the Village of Ryley regarding its purchase of the waterline (distribution pipes within the village), which will have an impact on the water supply to the EIP," her report stated.

And "time is of the essence," she added, due to the fact there are businesses within the industrial park "that are facing expansion challenges, due to limited capacity."

And the threat of a drought still persists, she said, even with the rains experienced this spring helping to mitigate this in the short-term.

Council to support deputy reeve's bid as RMA president

Patricia Harcourt

The deputy reeve of Beaver County sought and received official support from his fellow councillors in a bid to run for president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta board.

Gene Hrabec, who represents Division 3, has served as Chair of the RMA's Zone 5 in the past. He explained at council's May regular meeting, that he "was looking for council support in the fall," at the RMA convention. The bid is being made due to an upcoming vacancy in the president's chair.

Hrabec also said it would be an opportunity to get some "local movement" on topics of importance to the county.

"I think there is some value of involvement for the community," he said.

A motion by Division 5 Councillor Dale Pederson

"that council support Deputy Reeve Hrabec in his efforts to seek nomination to the position of president of the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Board," was then passed by council.

One of the issues Beaver County is looking for movement on - home care in local senior lodges - was also discussed at the meeting.

Council agreed with a motion by Reeve Kevin Smook (Division 1) to support the Beaver Foundation Board in its efforts to meet with the Minister of Seniors, Communities and Social Services with respect to 24/7 home care support in the Beaver Region's lodges and supportive living accommodations.

Chief Administrative Officer Kayleena Spiess explained that the resolution would be presented at the RMA convention in the fall.

Hrabec, who is chair of the Beaver Foundation

overseeing the seniors' facilities in the county, spoke in favour of the motion.

"It's more than just meeting with the minister," he said. "It's a cross ministry effort. And it's more than just a seniors thing, it's health care in general," that is important.

For that reason, Hrabec said he "wants the health minister included as well," in the meetings. "Their department is needed to make the changes. It's a bigger, broader effort," he explained.

Smook's original motion was amended to include "the minister of health" at the proposed meetings.

Hrabec made the second motion to support the submission of resolutions to both the Alberta Municipalities and the RMA conventions regarding the provision of full-time home care support in seniors lodges and supportive living accommodations. This motion was also carried.