

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 8, 2007**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday January 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers.

In attendance were the following: Mayor Deborah Ewald, Councillors Gerry Marchuk, Gord Armstrong, Brent Anderson and Marilyn McAlister. Also in attendance were Ken Johnston from the Rainy River Record, Inspector Dave Lucas from the OPP and citizen Ron McAlister.

**Opening of Meeting**

Mayor Ewald opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a salute to the Queen.

**Minutes**

The minutes were recorded by Chief Administrative Officer, Veldron Vogan.

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda**

None were presented.

**Motion #07-0001     Marchuk – Armstrong**

“That the agenda be accepted as presented.”

**Carried**

**Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**Delegations**

**Inspector Dave Lucas - OPP**

Mayor Ewald welcomed Inspector Lucas to the meeting and turned it over to him. Inspector Lucas had indicated that he had been involved in policing for the past 17 years and started with the RCMP in B.C. He was actually born and raised in Kenora, Ontario. He came back to the area in 1992 and has been in Fort Frances for the past year. During the past years he has had various positions, including the emergency response team, etc.

## Rainy River District Detachment

He presented Council with a report detailing the various duties being covered by the local detachments. Currently there is no sergeant in Rainy River, but the way it works the sergeants on duty and the constables on duty are a lot more flexible. They can move around the area between Rainy River, Fort Frances, and Atikokan as required. This has evolved following the review done in 2005. The sergeants are not specifically sent to any one community, but spend time and divide their time among all of the communities if necessary. There is at least one officer on duty at all times in each of the zones. The Rainy River zone extends through to Highway 613 but that does not mean that they are necessarily restricted to that zone. They can shift around depending on the need. It was noted that in Rainy River, Officer Earl Cole mans the station in Rainy River from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and handles walk-ins or any phone in calls which may arise. Various resources are available to the Rainy River District Detachment, which is the new name for the detachment which handles Rainy River, Fort Frances and Atikokan and the ten municipalities from within that area. They also have access to a Drug Enforcement team and also have a criminal investigation team. Any other resources which they require can be brought in, if needed. It was noted that we seem to suffer a lot of vandalism at Hannam Park. The Town was requesting that more presence and more visibility of officers through the park or near the park would detour some of the vandalism and the Town was open to any suggestions which he may have.

Part of the presentation included a costing summary for Rainy River. It was noted that this is approximately 10% more than was budgeted in 2006. Inspector Lucas indicated that the calculation is based on the calls for service, specifically the more major occurrences which required man hours. Based on the number of calls, it was calculated that the Town of Rainy River required 1.34 full time equivalent constables. That amount was used to determine the additional staffing which was required, (ie) sergeants, inspector, caretaker, warden, guards, etc.

Please note, there is a credit for provincial services usages. Inspector Lucas explained that members of the Rainy River District Detachment can be taken out of the area on some of the special team projects.

He also noted that he is interested in being part of a district wide emergency control group. This would deal with emergencies that arose which affected all or the majority or most or some, more than one community in the district. The CAO noted that this had already been discussed and the Town of Rainy River had passed a motion in the fall lending their support to the creation of such a district wide control group. Inspector Lucas thought that that was a great idea and will continue working with the area to develop such a control group. He wanted to make sure that Council realized that the priorities in the Rainy River District were the prevention or solving of violent crimes, property crimes, drug enforcement and to develop the Emergency Management Practices.

Councillor Brent Anderson expressed thanks for what the OPP has done for the community and hoped that the relationship could continue.

A question was raised regarding the drug enforcement. Inspector Lucas noted that a presentation will be made at the Rainy River District Municipal Association annual meeting on January 27, 2007.

Inspector Lucas closed by indicating that he welcomed the opportunity to attend and Mayor Ewald thanked Mr. Lucas for coming. He left the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

#### **Motion #07-0002     Armstrong - Marchuk**

“To approve the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of December 4, 2006, as presented.”

Carried

#### **Motion #07-0003     Armstrong – Marchuk**

“To approve the minutes of the regular council meeting of December 11, 2006, as presented.”

Carried

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

#### **Eavestrophing – Rainy River Clinic**

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the first quote had been received by Riverside and it was very high. Therefore, Riverside is seeking additional quotes. We will continue discussions with Ed Cousineau regarding having these repairs completed.

Little Street

The Chief Administrative Officer was asked whether or not CN or Transport Canada had acknowledged the Municipalities commitment to closing the crossing. The CAO noted that CN had acknowledged the letter in December and they were compiling new and current estimates for the work to be completed. It was also noted that very few complaints had been received regarding the closure.

## Bob Cat Attachment

The sander which had been purchased is not working properly and a vibrator is required to shake the sand down into the auger portion of the sander. The crew had been shaking the sand down manually which caused stress and some damage to the brackets. This has been fixed by Stratton Equipment and it was put through warranty.

## Mutual Aid Agreement

The CAO is still looking into the insurance and had not yet checked into the pre-clearance of fire department volunteers crossing the border.

## Accounts

A few questions regarding the scaffolding ensued and why were we paying that much for rental to insulate the garage. Also, the website design, but it was noted that these costs had been refunded to the Town through the RRFDC and a donation back from one of the design team.

## Motion #07-0004     **Armstrong - Marchuk**

“That the accounts for the month of December 2006, having been paid in the following amounts, be hereby approved.”

Town General	\$ 146,310.48
Water	\$ 22,786.41
Sewer	\$ 1,529.13
Cemetery	\$ 890.00

## Carried

## Correspondence

A listing was included with the agenda.

## Committee of the Whole Reports

**Finance/Personnel/Health & Safety Committee** – Chairperson Brent Anderson

## Finance

Councillor Brent Anderson noted that a budget timeline had been drafted and it was hoped that a budget would be completed by June 2007. It is the prerogative of the Council to assist businesses in the community by bringing our rates more comparable in line to other municipalities and keeping the residential increase as low as possible.

## **Personnel**

### Chief Administrative Officer Vacation Request

#### **Motion # 07-0005    Armstrong - Marchuk**

“That the vacation schedule for the Chief Administrative Officer for the 2006/2007 year be accepted.”

#### **Carried**

### Health & Safety

Nothing to report at this time.

### **Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling** – Chairperson Gerry Marchuk

#### **Public Works**

Councillor Marchuk noted that the home inspections were well under way and that they should be completed by the end of January, except for possibly people who haven't been home and they were unable to get in and do the inspections.

#### **Water & Sewer**

The current water and sewer rate schedule is being reviewed and the current “unit” allocations will be revised, however, until it has been finalized, the administration will continue to follow the policy as set out.

### **Property/Medical Centre/By-law/Cemetery** – Chairperson Marilyn McAlister

#### Property

#### Fire Extinguisher Recharging & Safety Inspections

#### **Motion #07-0006    Anderson - McAlister**

“That the Town of Rainy River move ahead with the inspection of fire extinguishers and safety inspections at all Municipal properties utilizing the services of Spark Check Fire Suppression Services.”

#### **Carried**

Dentist

**Motion #07-0007      Anderson - McAlister**

“That the Town of Rainy River renew the rental lease for the Rainy River Dental office for a period of six months beginning January 1, 2007 and ending on June 30, 2007.

Further, the rent being \$1,400.00 per month.”

Carried

By-law

By-laws which require updating have been placed under the appropriate committee.

**Cemetery**

Cemetery By-law

The first reading of the new cemetery By-law #1479-07, was given by Marilyn McAlister, Brent Anderson, Gord Armstrong, Gerry Marchuk and Mayor Debbie Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #07-0008A      Marchuk – Anderson**

“That By-law #1479-07 be considered to have been read a second and third time in open Council.”

**Carried**

**Motion #07-0008      Anderson - McAlister**

“That By-law #1479-07, having been read the required number of times, hereby be approved.”

**Carried**

**Economic Development/Tourism/Beautification – Chairperson Gord Armstrong**

Strategic Plan

Councillor Gord Armstrong indicated that the Strategic Plan has been reviewed and changes are currently being made and would like to have it ready for the Committee of the Whole meeting at the end of January.

Tourism

Nothing to report at this time.

Beautification

Nothing to report at this time.

**Fire Department/OPP** – Chairperson Marilyn McAlister

Renewal of OPP 9-1-1 C.E.R.B. Services Agreement

By-law #1478-07 was given its first reading by Mayor Deborah Ewald.

**Verbal Motion #07-0009A Armstrong – Marchuk**

“That By-law #1478-07 being deemed to be given its second and third reading.”

Carried

**Motion #07-0009 McAlister - Anderson**

“That By-law # 1478-07, having been read the required number of times, hereby be approved.”

**Notification of Marijuana Grow Operation Protocol**

**Motion #07-0010 Anderson - McAlister**

“That the Town of Rainy River enter into an agreement with the Police Services regarding “Notification of Marijuana Grow Operation Protocol.”

Carried

Marilyn McAlister noted that they had missed under Fire Department that a letter had been received regarding a fire protection meeting in Fort Frances on January 31, 2007. Mayor Ewald noted that herself and CAO Veldron Vogan have plans to attend.

**COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

**Chamber of Commerce** – Chairperson Marilyn McAlister

Councillor Marilyn McAlister noted that she had just attended the monthly Chamber meeting and had brought in an application for membership for consideration. The

Chamber had been questioned as to whether or not or if a new brochure was being planned. Councillor Armstrong indicated that the brochure is in the Strategic Plan and would like to see it done by the end of April 2007. Councillor McAlister noted that the Chamber is arranging a meeting with Ken Boshcoff and would like the Town and the Chamber representatives to be present. It is tentatively set for Friday January 26, 2007 at the Border Gasthaus.

Some topics of the discussions would most likely include the abbatoir and also the public transportation issue in our area.

### **Rainy River District Municipal Association – Chairperson Debbie Ewald**

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held on Saturday January 27, 2007 at the Emo Legion Meeting Hall in Emo, Ontario. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Conference starts at 9:00 a.m. local time.

#### **Motion #07-0010A Armstrong – Marchuk**

“Move that Deb Ewald, Marilyn McAlister, Gord Armstrong, and Gerry Marchuk attend the RRDMA meeting in Emo on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with expenses paid.

#### **Carried**

#### **DSSAB – Chairperson Debbie Ewald**

Mayor Ewald reported that the renovations to the new RRDSSAB building in Fort Frances had caused some controversy in Fort Frances. The matter will be dealt with at the RRDMA meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. This will ensure that all municipalities are getting the same information.

Mayor Ewald also reported that an ambulance garage in Emo is being leased on the basis that it will be a lease to purchase down the road. They felt that the garage is very useful and fits their needs very well.

#### **AMBIS – Chairperson Gerry Marchuk**

Councillor Gerry Marchuk noted a meeting will be held on Tuesday January 16, 2007 in Chapple to discuss the proposal by Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing-Ne-Yaa-Zhing Advisory Services.

The contract being discussed is substantially higher in cost than previous contracts. It was noted that Chapple has backed out of the AMBIS agreement and it would appear that Dawson was considering pursuing other options.

#### **Recreation Board – Chairperson Gord Armstrong**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Library Board** – Chairperson Debbie Ewald

Mayor Debbie Ewald indicated that she would be talking to Penny Shumaker regarding the budget requests.

**Rainycrest** – Chairperson Brent Anderson

Nothing to report at this time.

Council would like a motion put forth at the next council meeting to remove this committee as it is redundant.

**Unfinished Business**

Nothing.

**New Business**

**CIBC-Credit Agreement and Borrowing By-law**

The credit agreement between CIBC and the Town of Rainy River needs to be signed and returned by January 15, 2007.

**Motion #07-0011      Anderson - McAlister**

“That the Town of Rainy River enter into a credit agreement with CIBC for 2007.”

**Carried**

By-law #1480-07, the borrowing by-law, was given its first reading by Mayor Deborah Ewald.

**Motion #07-0012      McAlister - Anderson**

“That By-law #1480-07, having been read the required number of times, hereby be approved.”

Carried

**Motion 07-0013      Marchuk - Anderson**

“There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.”

**Carried**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

Chief Administrative Officer