

## COUNTY OF ST. PAUL

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*Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences*

### December 19, 2022 Council Highlights

The meetings are lived streamed on YouTube under 'County of St. Paul No. 19'.  
The public is welcome to observe the Council proceedings from the Public Gallery  
in the Council Chambers located in the Administration Building.  
Council and Public Works meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

Council approved the **2023 Interim Municipal Budget** as follows:

Operating and Capital Revenues	\$ 35,525,501
Net Book Value of Disposed Capital Assets	544,300
Funding from Reserves	107,500
Funding from Restricted Surplus	0
Operations Expenditures	28,904,257
Operating Reserves	200,000
Replacement Reserves	383,000
Capital Debenture Repayment	844,368
Capital Expenditures	5,661,172
Surplus	184,504

Council approved a 3% **Cost of Living adjustment** for all staff effective January 1, 2023 which is included in the 2023 Interim Budget.

Following the annual **CAO Evaluation**, Council approved a one-time wage adjustment of \$5,000 for 2022 only. Council also approved a 4.5% salary step increase effective January 1, 2023.

Council passed **Bylaw 2022-25 Borrowing Bylaw – Current Expenditures** which authorizes borrowing of up to \$7,000,000 from Servus Credit Union to finance the short-term operations of the County for the financial year commencing January 1, 2023. This bylaw must be approved annually.

Council passed **Bylaw 2022-27 Fee Schedule** that includes a fee for snow removal service for residents requesting snow removal who have not purchased an annual snow removal flag. The fee will be at custom equipment rates with a minimum charge of \$50 per clearing. The cost of private gravel sales will also increase, plus various other changes. The bylaw comes into effect on January 1, 2023. The Bylaw can be found on the County's website at 'Bylaws/Fee Schedule'.

Council passed **Bylaw 2022-24 Elk Point Regional Allied Arts Society Loan Guarantee**. The bylaw guarantees a loan and line of credit on behalf of the Elk Point Regional Allied Arts Society, jointly with the Town of Elk Point, for the 2023 financial year.

Council approved a contribution of \$108,000 for the **County Library Board** for their 2023 budget.

Council accepted the 1.5% library levy increase from the **Northern Lights Library System** and will submit payment of \$32,752.08 for 2023. The NLLS levy is \$5.31 per capita (6168 x \$5.31).

Council approved the allocation of the **2022 Recreational Facilities Grant** for a total of \$108,230. The allocation can be found on the County website under 'Governance & Transparency/ 2022 Budget'.

Council approved the allocation of \$75,000 for **Elk Point Recreation Grants** for 2022 as follows: Elk Point Curling Club \$25,000; A.G. Ross Arena \$31,000; C.G. Baker Arena \$10,000. The remaining \$9,000 in this allocation was provided to AG Ross arena in September.

Council approved to tender equipment that is no longer required by Public Works for a minimum of 30 days. ***Please do not make inquiries until the tender is advertised with tender information, such as closing date, et al.***

The equipment includes:

TH-04 (JD-290) – 2011 John Deere 290GLC Excavator – 11508 hours

CT-04 (Cat D7) – 2006 Caterpillar D7R XR11 – 16909 hours

Council appointed Roger Beaudin and James Preston as members-at-large to sit on the **Agricultural Service Board** for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Council approved the amended license agreement submitted by Vertex on behalf of **MCSnet** for the MCSnet Tower SP-MG-WR-VPS 22L-00831 located at SE 14-60-10 W4M.

Council awarded the **Lease by Tender** of County-owned land located on NE 2-62-12-W4 for a two-year term for 2023 and 2024 commencing January 1, 2023 to Peter Mikolajczyk and Michelle Winter at \$425.00 per year.

Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding for the **St. Michael Cemetery** which stipulates the Lac Bellevue Community Group, who are members of the St. Michael Cemetery, be responsible for performing certain administrative duties for its members of the Cemetery and the County would be recognized as the owner of the cemetery to regulate and manage.

Council approved ATCO installing streetlights on poles 733286 and 733279 at no cost to the County and paying the monthly fee at the invested rate, which is \$14.88 per light higher than the non-invested rate. The lights would be installed adjacent to the **Ashmont Skating Rink**.

Council approved paying for the RETScreen for the **A.G. Ross Arena** up to \$30,000 with assistance from the Municipal Energy Manager to lead the project. The RETScreen will help to analyze, plan, implement and monitor energy projects.

Council ratified the letter of support submitted to Fire Chief Trevor Kotowich dated November 25, 2022 to accompany his application for the **Fire Service Training Grant** for 2022-2023.

Council approved renewing the lease with the **Elk Point Elks Club** for 108.60 acres in NW-24-58-7-W4 and 117.96 acres in the SW 24-58-7-W4 for a five-year term for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2027.

Council approved a Silver Sponsorship at \$1,250 for the **2023 Community Planning Association of Alberta Conference**. This sponsorship includes one registration valued at \$550.

Council heard from a group of landowners who expressed opposition to the **Northern Power: Pihew Wacy Wind Project**. The delegation requested that Council take a position against the project and support the landowners who are opposing it. Council and Administration explained to the landowners that this project is under the umbrella of the Alberta Utilities Commission. The County of St. Paul is not the approver of the project. Should the Alberta Utilities Commission approve this project, the *Municipal Government Act* requires the County to approve the project. The County will have authority over the approval of a development permit based on the items that were recently included in the County's Land Use Bylaw, which the public had the opportunity to provide input and comment on. There was no public comment on changes to the County's Land Use Bylaw to accommodate Alternate Energy when the Public Hearing was held on June 14, 2022. Additionally, if the development does proceed, the County will be requiring that the developer enter into a Road Use Agreement to ensure that the County's road infrastructure is maintained in good condition.

#### **Additional Information**

**Christmas Closure** The County of St. Paul Administration and Public Works Offices will be closed to the public from December 26 to January 2, inclusive. All payments made to the County will be processed before year end. *County Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2023.*

**Transfer Station Seasonal Hours** The County Transfer Stations will operate on reduced hours of 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 31. Ashmont Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, January 1 (New Year's

**Fire Permits** Residents can apply for a Fire Permit online through the County website. See 'For Residents/Fire Permits' for the link. Fire Permits are required year-round for all types of open burning and are issued for 14 days at a time. When approved, the fire permit will be emailed to the applicant. **Please plan ahead. Fire Permits will be reviewed/approved on December 28, 29, and 30 only until County Offices open after the Christmas break on January 3.**

**Transfer Station Seasonal Hours** The County Transfer Stations will operate on reduced hours of 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24 and on Saturday, December 31. Ashmont Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day), and on Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day). Otherwise, the Stations will operate as scheduled.

For more information contact:

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