



## Council

Conducted Electronically Via MS Teams

Tuesday, May 4, 2021  
4:00 PM

## Agenda

**Please Note: The May 4, 2021 Council Meeting is a continuation of the April 27, 2021 Council Meeting. To view the entire meeting Agenda and materials please select the April 27, 2021 Agenda Packet.**

### Public Participation for May 4, 2021 Council Meeting

Council will be conducting the May 4, 2021 meeting through electronic communications in accordance with the Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation, Order in Council 99/2020.

- The meeting will be conducted through MS TEAMS platform.
- Residents can listen to the live audio stream at [www.rmwb.ca/Council](http://www.rmwb.ca/Council)
- Anyone wishing to participate in the meeting is encouraged to do so by registering to speak as a delegate via MS Teams, or by submitting their delegation comments by email.
- To register to speak via MS Teams:
  - Anyone wishing to speak via MS Teams to an eligible item on the May 4, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda must pre-register by 12:00 noon, Tuesday, May 4, 2021.
  - To register to speak via MS Teams, please email [Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca](mailto:Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca) or call 780-743-7001.
  - You must provide the name of the agenda item that you wish to speak to.
  - All registrants will be emailed the details on how to participate via MS Teams prior to the start of the meeting.
  - Each registrant will be given a maximum of **5 minutes** to address Council.
- To make written submissions as a delegation before or during the live meeting:
  - Please complete the online form found at [www.rmwb.ca/writtendelegations/](http://www.rmwb.ca/writtendelegations/) or email [Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca](mailto:Legislative.Assistants@rmwb.ca)
  - Please note that written comments for eligible agenda items must be received prior to the start of that item during the meeting. Emails that are received after the agenda item has been introduced or are not relevant to an agenda item, will not become part of the record of this meeting.
  - All written submissions are public and will be included in the Council Meeting Agenda Package as part of public record.

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of Section 33 (a) & (c) of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The personal information will be used as contact information. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information contact the Chief Legislative Officer, Legislative Services, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Jubilee Building, 9909 Franklin Ave. T9H 2K4, or call (780) 743-7001.

**8. New Business****8.1. Tax Relief Request - 10019 Fraser Ave.**

THAT the request for tax relief, in the amount of \$2,663.82 comprising of municipal tax, education tax and seniors requisition, for the property located at 10019 Fraser Avenue in Fort McMurray, be approved.

**8.2. Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory Recognition Signs**

THAT up to \$34,000 be allocated from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve for design and installation of up to \$17,000 per sign; and

THAT Administration conduct Indigenous engagement that would ensure the inclusion of design elements and wording that respectfully acknowledges Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory.

**8.3. Rural Egress Roads - Anzac and Janvier**

THAT the Rural Egress Roads for Anzac and Janvier Report be accepted as information.

**9. Councillors' Motions****9.1. Local Economy Relief and Recovery (Mayor D. Scott)**

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration a series of actionable measures that will offer economic relief and jumpstart the recovery of the local economy including but not limited to consideration of a municipal property tax freeze for residents and businesses and such other economic relief or stimulus measures designed to benefit the residents and businesses of our Region.

**9.2. Amendment to Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy - OPE-050**

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward an amendment on May 11, 2021, to the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-050, to expand the eligibility criteria (section 3.6.5.1.) to include anyone who has entered into a tax repayment plan and is in good standing.

**10. Councillor Reporting/Information Updates****Adjournment**



## COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: May 4, 2021

**Subject: Tax Relief Request - 10019 Fraser Ave.**

**APPROVALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the request for tax relief, in the amount of \$2,663.82 comprising of municipal tax, education tax and seniors requisition, for the property located at 10019 Fraser Avenue in Fort McMurray, be approved.

**Summary:**

The assessment of this property was incorrect for 2019 and 2020 therefore the taxes charged were overstated. A refund in the amount of \$2,663.82 should be processed to correct the administrative error.

**Background:**

The owner contacted the Assessment Branch in 2019 regarding the assessment value of the property. The account was adjusted to take into consideration the assessment error. Unfortunately, the adjustment did not take into consideration all of the original concerns and therefore the property was assessed for 2019 and 2020 incorrectly. The taxes calculated based on the incorrect assessment were too high and should be refunded to the resident.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

The refund of the property tax portion at 10019 Fraser Avenue results in a decrease in property tax revenues of \$2,663.82. This will have no impact on existing budgets.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Section 347 (1) of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the Council, where it deems it equitable, to cancel or refund all or part of a tax. The issue was brought forth to the assessment branch but was not adequately addressed. Consequently, the owner paid higher taxes.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government



## COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: May 4, 2021

### **Subject: Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory Recognition Signs**

#### **APPROVALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

#### **Recommended Motion:**

THAT up to \$34,000 be allocated from the Capital Infrastructure Reserve for design and installation of up to \$17,000 per sign; and

THAT Administration conduct Indigenous engagement that would ensure the inclusion of design elements and wording that respectfully acknowledges Treaty 8 and Unceded Métis Territory.

#### **Summary:**

Treaty No. 8 was signed between various First Nations and the Federal Government on June 21, 1899. It covers a vast and diverse geographical area that encompasses portions of three provinces and one territory: Northwest Saskatchewan, Northern Alberta, Northeast British Columbia, and the Southern Northwest Territories. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo falls within the boundaries of Treaty 8.

#### **Background:**

During the 2021 Budget development meetings in December, Council passed the following motion:

"THAT Administration work with the Provincial Government regarding the land acquisition for the placement of a sign on Highway 881 and 63 recognizing Treaty 8 and the Unceded Métis Territory and report back to Council by the end of March 2021 with the financial costing for consideration."

Indigenous and Rural Relations (IRR), Planning and Development, Public Works, and Communications and Engagement have worked together to identify potential costs for consideration. Planning and Development estimates that approximately \$10,000 would be required for land surveying, land acquisition, and regulatory and environmental work for each location. Public Works has provided estimates ranging from \$3,500 to \$7,000 for a sign, depending on the size and type. IRR would undertake Indigenous engagement and does not anticipate additional departmental costs outside of its

approved operational budget.

One sign would be erected on Highway 881 South, after the Highway 63 turnoff. A second sign would be erected along Highway 63 North as you enter Fort McMurray. Exact locations would need to be determined in conjunction with Planning and Development and in consultation with the Province.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

Based on the exploratory work completed by IRR, Public Works, and Planning and Development, the total cost for the project could range between \$13,500 to \$17,000 per sign.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Land acknowledgements are an honest and historically accurate way of recognizing and expressing gratitude to Indigenous peoples for the land on which we reside. They are a means to commemorate Indigenous peoples' kinship to the land and honour its original occupants. A land acknowledgement is a very basic and fundamental step towards reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government  
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships



## COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: May 4, 2021

**Subject: Rural Egress Roads - Anzac and Janvier**

**APPROVALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Rural Egress Roads for Anzac and Janvier Report be accepted as information.

**Summary:**

Administration has posted a request for proposal (RFP) on April 1, 2021 to retain an engineering consultant to complete detailed design and Land Acquisition services for the Rural Egress Roads in Anzac and Janvier.

**Anzac**

The scope of the Anzac Egress road will consist of 8 metres wide carriageway, 30 metres right-of-way, 60 kilometres per hour design speed, gravel surface and 3.4 kilometres length extending between Cheecham Drive and Long Lake Access Road. The proposed road will cross wetlands where 50 metres right-of way is required. The preliminary estimated cost of this egress road is approximately \$9.3 million.

For the portion of the egress road located on Crown land, a Department License of Occupation (DLO) disposition approval is required, including First Nations consultations as per Provincial guidelines. The estimated time to receive this DLO approval is six (6) to twelve (12) months.

**Janvier**

The scope of the Janvier Egress road consists of 8 metres wide carriageway, 30 metres right-of-way, 60 kilometres per hour design speed, gravel surface and 4.8 kilometres length extending between Janvier Reserve Road and Highway 881. The proposed road will cross a muskeg area where 50 metres right-of-way is required. The proposed egress road crosses the Christina River and two (2) creeks. A major bridge structure is needed at the Christina River crossing and two (2) bridge size culverts are needed at the creek crossing. The preliminary estimated cost of the Janvier Egress road is approximately \$23.5 million.

## COUNCIL REPORT – Rural Egress Roads - Anzac and Janvier

The egress road alignment uses an existing First Nations road that passes through Janvier Reserve land and Crown land.

- The portion east of Highway 881 to the Janvier Reserve boundary, a DLO disposition approval is required from the Province, including First Nations consultations as per Provincial guidelines. The estimated time to receive this DLO approval is between six (6) to twelve (12) months.
- Federal and Provincial approval is required for the portion of the road that passes through the Janvier Reserve and crosses the Christina River.
- As per *Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act*, there is a restricted activity period (between March 1 to August 31) for all portions of the road related to tree clearing.

The project plan in Anzac and Janvier is shown in the below table:

Project Plan	
	Timeline
RFP Posted	April 01, 2021
RFP Close	April 27, 2021
Project Award	July 2021
Completion of Detailed Design	September 2022
Start Construction	2023
Substantial Construction Completion	2025

### **Background:**

After the Horse River Wildfire, the RMWB Wildfire Recovery Plan was put in place to guide the recovery of the region. One of the key action items in this plan was to mitigate risk and provide resiliency.

A major project identified post-wildfire was to build permanent egress roads in the rural communities to provide access in the event of an emergency. Administration has already



completed a preliminary design report for the Anzac and Janvier Egress Roads.

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

To complete construction of the egress roads in both communities (Anzac and Janvier), a total cost of approximately \$32.8 million will be required. These funds are included in the Capital Budget and plan for the Secondary Egress Roads project.

**Strategic Priorities:**

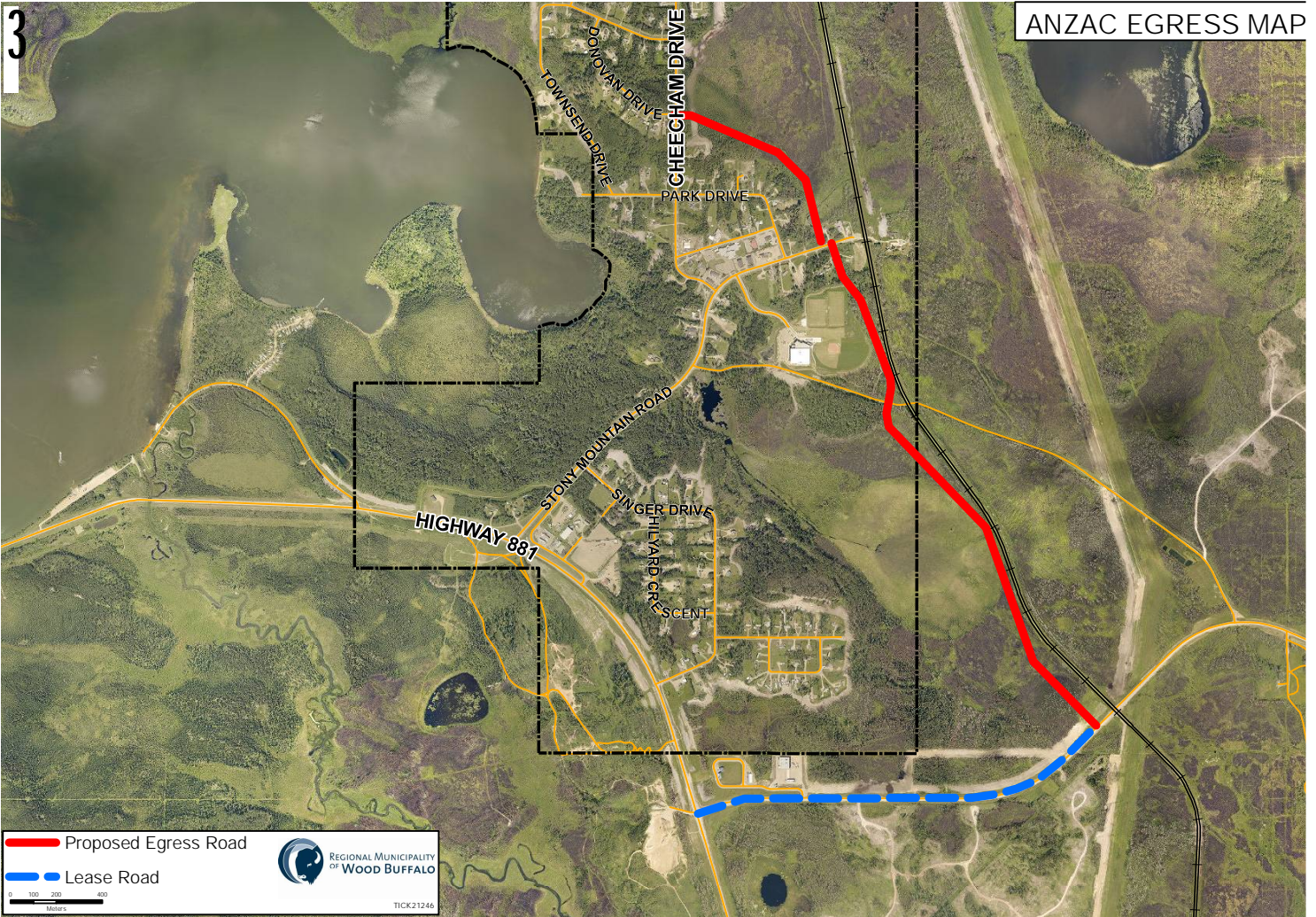
Responsible Government  
Rural and Indigenous Communities and Partnerships

**Attachments:**

1. Anzac Egress Road Alignment
2. Janvier Egress Road Alignment

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ANZAC EGRESS MAP



Attachment: 1. Anzac Egress Road Alignment (Rural Egress Roads)



JANVIER EGRESS MAP  
Option 6



Attachment: 2. Janvier Egress Road Alignment (Rural Egress Roads)



## COUNCIL REPORT

Meeting Date: May 4, 2021

**Subject: Local Economy Relief and Recovery (Mayor D. Scott)**

**APPROVALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration a series of actionable measures that will offer economic relief and jumpstart the recovery of the local economy including but not limited to consideration of a municipal property tax freeze for residents and businesses and such other economic relief or stimulus measures designed to benefit the residents and businesses of our Region.

**Summary:**

At the April 13, 2021 Council Meeting, Mayor D. Scott served notice of his intention to bring forward the following motion for consideration at the April 27, 2021 Council Meeting:

THAT Administration bring forward for Council's consideration a series of actionable measures that will offer economic relief and jumpstart the recovery of the local economy including but not limited to consideration of a municipal property tax freeze for residents and businesses and such other economic relief or stimulus measures designed to benefit the residents and businesses of our Region.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

Pursuant to Procedure Bylaw No. 18/020, the motion is now before Council for consideration.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Regional Economic Development

# Local Economy Relief and Recovery

## Written Submission

- Kevin Weidlich, Chief Executive Officer, Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development and Tourism



# FORT M<sup>c</sup>MURRAY WOOD BUFFALO

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

RMWB  
Mayor and Council  
9909 Franklin Ave.  
Fort McMurray, AB

May 4, 2021

Dear Mayor and Council,

I would like to thank you for your leadership and strong collaboration with indigenous leaders to cause the Alberta government to take meaningful action to end the pandemic in Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo. Indeed, when we consider all the business recovery efforts that we can undertake, they pale in comparison to measures to end the pandemic. Following public health restrictions and getting vaccinated when eligible are key to re-opening our economy.

I had hoped to give you a presentation on the current motion in front of council (item 9.1 of the May 4th agenda), but as the timing was changed, I have an unavoidable scheduling conflict. Please accept this letter that will address the following motion:

“THAT Administration bring forward for Council’s consideration a series of actionable measures that will offer economic relief and jumpstart the recovery of the local economy including but not limited to consideration of a municipal property tax freeze for residents and businesses and such other economic relief or stimulus measures designed to benefit the residents and businesses of our Region.”

You will recall that Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism (FMWBEDT) struck a Business Recovery Task Force in March 2020. Last summer we produced a report with a series of recommendations that can be undertaken to support business recovery. The Task Force continues to meet to ensure that our recommendations remain valid, and they indeed do. Also, in many cases our recommendations have come to fruition, including such items as increasing the Small Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant (SMERG), undertaking shovel-ready projects to spur economic activity, offer business coaching services, and promoting and assisting businesses with accessing government grants, to name a few. Also, in 2020, the Business Recovery Task Force supported the RMWB administration’s initiative to significantly lower rural non-residential taxes which was accomplished.

In conjunction with Community Futures Wood Buffalo, The Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce, Northeast Alberta Aboriginal Business Association, and the Fort McMurray Construction Association, we developed a Business & Economic Recovery Plan. FMWBEDT funded approximately \$2 Million for key elements of that plan to be executed by these same partners. FMWBEDT through Startup YMM also

## FORT M<sup>c</sup>MURRAY WOOD BUFFALO

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

delivers important services to entrepreneurs & businesses that support this plan. We are very pleased to let you know that each of these organizations has been delivering business recovery services that support the plan. Some have concluded, some are currently underway and more will be undertaken in the immediate future.

On May 27th at 6:00 PM. We will be hosting an online webinar for local businesses to obtain more information about the programmes and services available to them. The Chamber of Commerce, NAABA, Fort McMurray Construction Association, Community Futures, RMWB Planning & Development, and ourselves will participate in a panel to share this important information. The Mayor and Councillors are welcome to join us as well. Details for the session will be promoted to businesses through each of the organization's communication channels.

I would also like to remind council that FMWBEDT is also currently drafting a 5-year Economic Development & Tourism strategy. We are currently gathering input from key business and community leaders and will welcome any feedback.

As you consider this motion, please also consider the broader business community-led efforts that are underway and the significant progress that your administration has made to date. These are uniquely challenging times, and it will take the entire community to work together to recover our economy.

Kevin Weidlich  
President & CEO  
Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism  
kevin@choosewoodbuffalo.ca

cc: Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce  
Northeast Alberta Aboriginal Business Association  
Community Futures Wood Buffalo  
Fort McMurray Construction Association  
RMWB Planning & Development

Attachment: Written Submission - Local Economy Relief and Recovery (Written Submission)

Council meeting agenda

April 27, 2021

Item 9.2:

THAT Administration be directed to bring forward an amendment on May 11, 2021, to the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-050, to expand the eligibility criteria (section 3.6.5.1.) to include anyone who has entered into a tax repayment plan and is in good standing.

Councillor M. Allen