

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2024

9:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
3. ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - A. Regular County Meeting November 26, 2024
4. PUBLIC HEARING
 - A. None.
5. DELEGATIONS
 - A. Silver Springs Colony 9:00 a.m.
6. BUSINESS
 - A. RFD Adoption of 2025 Operating and Capital Budget
 - B. RFD County of Paintearth Organizational Structure, January 1, 2025
 - C. RFD Establish a Waste-Water Capital Reserve
 - D. RFD Purchase of Diamond Utilities Module
 - E. RFD Write off Outstanding Taxes for 2021 and 2022 for Customer #ALB048 and Roll 46000130
 - F. RFD Write Off Outstanding Taxes For 2021 Through 2023 for Customer #CAN007 and Roll # 70005629 and 70005630
 - G. RFD Write off Outstanding Taxes 2021 Through 2023 for Customer #QUA001 and Roll # 70009080
 - H. RFD Write off Outstanding Taxes 2021 for Customer #TRI001 and Roll # 70004010
 - I. RFD Write off GIPOT Roll #40163410
7. BYLAWS
 - A. None.

8. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

- A. Verbal Reports.

9. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

- A. Chief Administrative Officer Report
- B. Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Report
- C. Director of Public Works

10. FINANCIAL

- A. None.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Notice of Proposed Municipal Development Plan Town of Coronation
- B. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs Rick McIver Regarding Halkirk Dissolution
- C. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs Rick McIver Regarding Halkirk Millrate

11. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

- A. *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000 Chapter F-25: Part 1, Div 2, Sec 16(1)(a)(i), 24(1)(a), (b)(i), (c), (d)*

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates – January 10, 2025. Council Meeting dates are subject to individual change and commence at 9:00 a.m.

COUNTY OF PAINT EARTH NO. 18
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2024

The Regular meeting minutes of the Council of the County of Paintearth No. 18 held in Council Chambers in the municipal office on November 26, 2024, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Reeve:	Stan Schulmeister
Councillors:	Terry Vockeroth, Sandy Shipton, Diane Elliott, George Glazier, Dale Norton, Maurice Wiart
Chief Administrative Officer:	Michael Simpson
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer:	Lana Roth
Public Works Director:	Bryce Cooke
Community Services Director:	Todd Pawsey
Bylaw Enforcement Officer:	Colm Fitz-Gerald
Administrative Assistant:	Courtney Algot

CALL TO ORDER:

Reeve Schulmeister called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

11.26.24.953 **Regular Council Meeting Agenda – November 26, 2024** - MOVED by Councillor Glazier to adopt the Regular Council Meeting Agenda of November 26, 2024, as presented.
Carried

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

11.26.24.954 **Regular County Council Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2024** – MOVED by Deputy Reeve Wiart that the Previous Regular County Council Meeting Minutes for November 12, 2024, be approved as presented.
Carried

PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2024

DELEGATIONS:

Basit Rizwan, of Ascend LLP, entered chambers at 9:00 a.m. and delivered a presentation to Council regarding the audit planning letter sent to council for the County of Paintearth's 2024 audit.

- 11.26.24.955 **MOVED by Councillor Norton that the presentation from Mr. Rizwan be accepted as information.**
Carried

Basit Rizwan exited chambers at 9:08 a.m.

Sgt. Jeremy Houle, RCMP officer, entered chambers at 9:09 a.m. and delivered a presentation to Council regarding a general update from the Coronation RCMP detachment.

- 11.26.24.956 **MOVED by Councillor Norton that the information from Sgt. Houle be accepted as information.**
Carried

Sgt. Jeremy Houle exited chambers at 9:38 a.m.

C. Fitzgerald exited chambers at 9:38 a.m.
C. Fitzgerald entered chambers at 9:43 a.m.

BUSINESS:

- 11.26.24.957 **RFD – Funding Application Recreation and Community Service Grant –1A Boys High School Volleyball Provincials– MOVED by Councillor Elliott that the support request for \$500 to the applicant be approved.**
Carried

BYLAWS:

None.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

- 11.26.24.958 **Councillor Reports – MOVED by Councillor Shipton to adopt the verbal Councillor Reports as information.**
Carried

Recess – the meeting recessed at 10:04 a.m.

Reconvene – the meeting reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:

- 11.26.24.959 **Chief Administrative Officer's Report – MOVED by Councillor Vockeroth to approve the Chief Administrative Officer's Report as presented.**
Carried

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 26, 2024

11.26.24.960 Assistant Chief Administrative Officer's Report – MOVED by Councillor Glazier to approve the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer's Report as presented.

Carried

11.26.24.961 Director of Community Services – MOVED by Councillor Norton to approve the Director of Community Services Report as presented.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

11.26.24.962 Closed Session – MOVED by Councillor Norton that the County move to closed session at 10:45 a.m. to discuss items under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter F-25: Part 1, Div 2, Sec 16(1)(a)(i), 24(1)(a), (b)(i), (c), (d)

Carried

Recess – the meeting recessed at 12:09 p.m.

Reconvene – the meeting reconvened at 1:37 p.m.

All staff excluding the CAO departed chambers at 2:10 p.m.

The CAO exited chambers at 2:45 p.m.

The CAO returned to chambers at 2:50 p.m.

11.26.24.963 Closed Session – MOVED by Councillor Norton that the County return to an open meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Carried

Recess – the meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m. to allow return of the public.

Reconvene – the meeting reconvened at 2:56 p.m. with no public present.

ADJOURNMENT:

Reeve Schulmeister adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Adoption of the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

Under the Municipal Government Act section 242(1) and section 245, each council must adopt an operating budget and capital budget for each calendar year.

Please review the 2025 operating and capital budgets attached to this RFD.

2025 Final operating budget has operating costs of \$16,879,853 and operating debt interest of \$10,000 funded from operating revenues of \$2,185,959, and a draw from restricted operating surplus of \$482,000.

2025 Final capital budget has capital expenditures of \$8,209,000 to be funded from capital revenues of \$1,933,000, sale of capital assets of \$584,000, and a draw from restricted surplus of \$5,692,000

The final operating budget presented includes a future capital requirement (transfer to restricted surplus for future capital replacement) of \$1,739,912.

Financial:

Policy/Legislation:

Recommendations:

1. Council approves the 2025 operating and capital budgets as presented.
2. Council provides administration with further direction

Prepared By: Lana Roth, Assistant CAO

**PROPOSED/DRAFT
COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18
2025 DRAFT BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025**

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Increase/(Decrease)	
OPERATING CASH REQUIREMENTS:				
1 Operating costs	\$ 15,189,386.00	\$ 16,879,853.00	\$ 1,690,467.00	
2 Less Operating Revenue	\$ (2,225,655.00)	\$ (2,185,959.00)	\$ 39,696.00	
3 Operating debt interest	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	
Net Operating Cash Requirements	<u>\$ 12,973,731.00</u>	<u>\$ 14,703,894.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,730,163.00</u>	
4a Anticipated draw from restricted operating surp	\$ -	\$ (482,000.00)	\$ (482,000.00)	
4b Anticipated draw from unrestricted surplus	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
		<u>\$ (482,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ (482,000.00)</u>	
CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS				
5 Capital expenditures	\$ 8,333,000.00	\$ 8,209,000.00	\$ (124,000.00)	
6 Capital debt interest	\$ -			
7 Capital debt principal payments	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		
	<u>\$ 8,333,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,209,000.00</u>	<u>\$ (124,000.00)</u>	
8 Less Capital revenue (grants, etc.)	\$ (3,783,250.00)	\$ (1,933,000.00)	\$ 1,850,250.00	
9 Less Proceeds on sale of capital assets	<u>\$ (561,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ (584,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ (23,000.00)</u>	
	<u>\$ (4,344,250.00)</u>	<u>\$ (2,517,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ 1,827,250.00</u>	
10 Proceeds from new debt (Capital)	\$ -			
11a Anticipated draw from restricted surplus	\$ (3,988,750.00)	\$ (5,692,000.00)	\$ (1,703,250.00)	
11b Anticipated draw from unrestricted surplus	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
	<u>\$ (3,988,750.00)</u>	<u>\$ (5,692,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ (1,703,250.00)</u>	
Net Capital Requirements	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	
FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANS				
12 Operation stabilization/specific operating future expenditures Capital Replacements	\$ -		\$ -	
13 Annual amortization expense/write-downs/ on TCA	\$ 2,379,200.00	\$ 2,565,800.00		
	<u>\$ (2,379,200.00)</u>	<u>\$ (2,565,800.00)</u>		
14a (Gains)losses on disposals of TCA	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00		
	<u>\$ (60,000.00)</u>	<u>\$ (60,000.00)</u>		
15 Add: Future capital requirements intended	\$ 1,975,075.00	\$ 1,739,912.00	\$ (235,163.00)	
15 Add: Future requirements	\$ -		\$ -	
15 Add: Waterline projects			\$ -	
15 Add: Gravel depreciation			\$ -	
	<u>\$ 1,975,075.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,739,912.00</u>	<u>\$ (235,163.00)</u>	
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	<u>\$ 14,948,806.00</u>	<u>\$ 15,961,806.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,013,000.00</u>	7%
16 TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$ 14,948,806.00	\$ 15,961,806.00	\$ 1,013,000.00	7%
PROJECTED SURPLUS/(Deficit)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>		

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18
MUNICIPAL BUDGET REPORT - REVENUE BY FUNCTION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
REVENUE			
GENERAL	1,321,004.00	1,137,842.00	-183,162.00
LEGISLATIVE	-	-	0.00
ADMINISTRATION	99,750.00	106,000.00	6,250.00
FIRE PROTECTIVE SERVICES	30,000.00	42,500.00	12,500.00
DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES	60,000.00	-	-60,000.00
AMBULANCE SERVICES	-	-	0.00
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	8,000.00	8,500.00	500.00
PUBLIC WORKS	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
WATER SUPPLY	140,460.00	159,560.00	19,100.00
WASTE WATER	3,744.00	18,610.00	14,866.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT	-	18,000.00	18,000.00
FCSS	78,000.00	83,500.00	5,500.00
CEMETERIES	-	700.00	700.00
MUNICIPAL PLANNING & DEVT	20,000.00	22,000.00	2,000.00
CROWFOOT SUBDIVISION/FLEET SUBDIVISION	210,000.00	210,000.00	0.00
ASB	196,697.00	214,247.00	17,550.00
RECREATION BOARD	-	-	0.00
PARKS & RECREATION	43,000.00	54,500.00	11,500.00
CULTURE	-	-	0.00
REQUISITIONS	-	-	0.00
GAS PRODUCTION	0.00	95,000.00	95,000.00
	<u>2,225,655.00</u>	<u>2,185,959.00</u>	<u>- 39,696.00</u>

-1.78%

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18
MUNICIPAL BUDGET REPORT - EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Change
EXPENDITURES			
GENERAL	371,500.00	471,500.00	100,000.00
LEGISLATIVE	1,076,700.00	1,316,700.00	240,000.00
ADMINISTRATION	2,219,250.00	2,539,900.00	320,650.00
FIRE PROTECTIVE SERVICES	288,500.00	338,605.00	50,105.00
DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES	65,750.00	19,250.00	-46,500.00
AMBULANCE SERVICES	12,500.00	54,175.00	41,675.00
BYLAW ENFORCEMENT	474,000.00	506,295.00	32,295.00
PUBLIC WORKS	10,229,286.00	10,847,438.00	618,151.99
WATER SUPPLY	758,400.00	820,840.00	62,440.00
WASTE WATER	88,000.00	96,700.00	8,700.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT	-	9,800.00	9,800.00
FCSS	105,000.00	110,500.00	5,500.00
CEMETERIES	-	13,750.00	13,750.00
MUNICIPAL PLANNING & DEVT	222,800.00	272,900.00	50,100.00
CROWFOOT SUBDIVISION	117,000.00	117,000.00	0.00
ASB	758,200.00	846,300.00	88,100.00
RECREATION BOARD	554,000.00	623,500.00	69,500.00
PARKS & RECREATION	106,700.00	199,000.00	92,300.00
CULTURE	42,000.00	42,000.00	0.00
REQUISITIONS	149,000.00	206,700.00	57,700.00
GAS PRODUCTION	0.00	62,800.00	62,800.00
	<u>17,638,586.00</u>	<u>19,515,653.00</u>	<u>1,877,067.00</u>
Less: Depreciation	2,379,200.00	2,565,800.00	186,600.00
Less: Loss on Sale	64,500.00	60,000.00	- 4,500.00
Less: Bank charges	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
	<u>15,184,886.00</u>	<u>16,879,853.00</u>	<u>1,694,967.00</u>
			11.16%

COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH NO. 18
CAPITAL PROJECTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

	Budgeted Expense	Possible Funding Sources			
		Operating (Taxes)	Grant - MSI Capital	Restricted Surplus	Sale of Equipment
COUNCIL					
Council tablets	14,000.00			14,000.00	
Fibre construction project	3,500,000.00			3,500,000.00	
Purchase Towers from PEPS	80,000.00			80,000.00	
ADMINISTRATION					
Plotter	15,000.00			15,000.00	
Server (software and hardware replacement)	25,000.00			25,000.00	
P2P	30,000.00			30,000.00	
Utilities module	40,000.00			40,000.00	
Bylaw					
ASB					
Equipment					
Degelman Mower (replace A69)	55,000.00			40,000.00	15,000.00
Side arm	40,000.00			32,000.00	8,000.00
Vehicles					
Dodge 1500					
PUBLIC WORKS					
Buildings					
East County Shop	750,000.00			750,000.00	
Equipment					
160M AWD grader	855,000.00		585,000.00		270,000.00
160M AWD grader	855,000.00		585,000.00		270,000.00
mulching head for skid steer	56,000.00			41,000.00	15,000.00
Mower for Halkirk	20,000.00			20,000.00	
Vehicles					
3/4 Ton Regular Cab (replacement for 8085)	87,000.00			81,000.00	6,000.00
Road Construction					
Bridge Projects					
BF8711 Design	30,000.00			30,000.00	
BF Culvert replacement using county forces (Schilling, Heidecker, Younger)	50,000.00			50,000.00	
Culvert liners and augering	300,000.00			300,000.00	
WATER/WASTE WATER					
Village of Halkirk water/sanitary line replacement and road repair	763,000.00		763,000.00		
Flowpoint system for Halkirk reservoir	16,000.00			16,000.00	
DEVELOPMENT					
SUBDIVISION					
Crowfoot Site development	500,000.00			500,000.00	
RECREATION					
Burma Outhouse construction	50,000.00			50,000.00	
Dock huber dam extension	10,000.00			10,000.00	
Huber playground	88,000.00			88,000.00	
FIRE					
2022 TOTALS	8,209,000.00	0.00	1,933,000.00	5,692,000.00	584,000.00
		0.00	1,933,000.00	5,692,000.00	584,000.00
					8,209,000.00



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: County of Paintearth Organizational Structure, January 1, 2025

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 10, 2025

Issue/Background:

The County of Paintearth requires an organizational chart to visualize the relationships between the Council, CAO, Staff and various boards and committees. With the pending dissolution of Halkirk Administration is recommending that a new Organizational Chart be approved to reflect the additional staff taken on, the additional departmental functions that are being added.

Recommendation:

1. That Council approve a new County Organizational Chart as presented to take effect January 1, 2025 with the proposed salary grids as discussed.

Alternate Options:

2. Council may choose to reject this organizational chart and request a new arrangement be made assigning new roles and responsibilities in a fashion different from the recommended version provided.

Prepared By:  Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Establish a Waste-Water Capital Reserve

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

The County of Paintearth No. 18 recognized that a critical component of fiscal stewardship is the establishment of reserve accounts. These accounts provide financial resources to protect against the need to reduce service levels or raise taxes and fees due to temporary revenue shortfalls or unpredictable one-time expenditures. Reserve funds also provide resources for repairs/replacement/upgrading or construction of new capital assets/infrastructure. Restricted reserves are funds set aside by a municipality for a specific future project, or as a contingency for excess costs in a specific area. As noted by RMA, restricted reserve funds should not be perceived as a measure of a municipality’s wealth, as they maybe the product of many years of saving and advance planning to fund the purchase or construction of a major asset, or to carry out projects identified in a municipality’s long range capital plan.

Operating reserves are those reserves that are generally established to fund one-time expenditures an operating nature or to provide stabilization to the budget.

Capital reserves are those reserves that are generally established to fund expenditures of a capital nature including repairs/replacement/upgrading or construction of new assets/infrastructure.

Administration is recommending that Council establish a waste-water capital restricted reserve account. The waste-water restricted Reserve would be to help fund the capital costs in relation to waste-water assets, as well as the ARO obligation in relation to the Brownfield lagoon that was set up in fiscal 2023.

Financial:

Policy/Legislation:

Section 283.1 of the MGA requires municipalities to develop at minimum a three-year operating plan and five-year capital plan each year. The intent of this requirement is to encourage municipalities to make day-to-day and annual budgeting, spending and service delivery decisions with guidance from a long-term plan. The use of reserves can support municipalities in developing realistic and achievable capital plans and can ensure they have contingency funding in the ability of unforeseen economic instability that may impact taxation revenues.

Recommendations:

1. Council establishes a waste-water capital restricted reserve account
2. Council transfer \$250,000 from the restricted surplus – water projects GL (4-41-00-09200) to the new waste-water capital restricted reserve account (4-42-00-09200)
3. Council provides further direction or required changes/amendment.

Prepared By: Lana Roth, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Purchase of Diamond Utilities Module

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

The County of Paintearth is preparing to take over operations for the Village of Halkirk as the community voted for dissolution earlier this fall. With this, the County will now need to bill approximately 80-90 Halkirk residences for water, natural gas, sewer and garbage. Currently, the finance department has been preparing approximately 40 monthly water utility bills manually using the Diamond Accounts Receivable module, which is quite time consuming and provides for the opportunity for user input error.

With the purchase of the new utilities module, it will allow for the uploading of meter readings into the software, which will reduce the time needed to prepare the bills and will reduce the chance of input errors.

Financial:

The Diamond Utility module will cost \$34,980 and will be funded from capital reserves as per the 2025 capital budget.

Policy/Legislation:

Recommendations:

1. That the County of Paintearth approve the purchase of the Diamond Utility module for \$34,980 to be funded from administration equipment and furniture capital reserves.
2. Council provides further direction or required changes/amendment.

Prepared By: Lana Roth, Assistant CAO



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Write off Outstanding Taxes for 2021 and 2022 for Customer #ALB048 – Roll # 46000130

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

After efforts made, we have been unable to collect the outstanding taxes and penalties on the above noted tax roll. This was a new owner in 2021 which received assessment in 2021 and 2022, then has received \$0 assessment in 2023 and 2024. There has never been a payment made by this company. Per Accurate Assessment this tax roll was made inactive in our system.

Financial:

A total of \$2,389.73 will need to be recognized as a bad debt, with the corresponding expense under the general department in bad debt taxes general ledger.

Policy/Legislation:

MGA 347 (1)(a) If a council considers it equitable to do so, it may, generally or with respect to a particular taxable property or business or a class of taxable property or business, do one or more of the following, with or without conditions:

- (a) Cancel or reduce tax arrears

Recommendations:

1. Council give approval to write off the above stated 2021 and 2022 outstanding tax amounts totalling \$2,389.73.
OR
2. Council directs Administration accordingly.

Prepared By: Linda Bauer, Finance Manager



County of Paineearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Write off Outstanding Taxes for 2021 through 2023 for Customer #CAN007

Roll # 70005629 and 70005630

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

After efforts made, we have been unable to collect the outstanding taxes and penalties on the above noted tax rolls. The last payment received on either tax roll was December 13, 2018, council wrote off bad debt taxes in 2021 and 2022. There was \$0 assessment in 2024 and the County made these rolls inactive in our system, per Accurate Assessment.

Financial:

A total of \$861.01 will need to be recognized as a bad debt, with the corresponding expense under the general department in bad debt taxes general ledger.

Policy/Legislation:

MGA 347 (1)(a) If a council considers it equitable to do so, it may, generally or with respect to a particular taxable property or business or a class of taxable property or business, do one or more of the following, with or without conditions:

- (a) Cancel or reduce tax arrears

Recommendations:

1. Council give approval to write off the above stated 2021 though 2023 outstanding tax amounts totalling \$861.01.
OR
2. Council directs Administration accordingly.

Prepared By: Linda Bauer, Finance Manager



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Write off Outstanding Taxes 2021 through 2023 for Customer #QUA001 - Roll # 70009080

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

After efforts made, we have been unable to collect outstanding taxes and penalties on the above noted tax roll. The last payment received on this tax roll was July 2, 2013, council wrote off bad debt taxes in 2017, 2020, 2021 and 2022. There was \$0 assessment in 2024 and the County made this tax roll inactive in our system per Accurate Assessment.

Financial:

A total of \$331.67 will need to be recognized as a bad debt, with the corresponding expense under the general department in bad debt taxes general ledger.

Policy/Legislation:

MGA 347 (1)(a) If a council considers it equitable to do so, it may, generally or with respect to a particular taxable property or business or a class of taxable property or business, do one or more of the following, with or without conditions:

- (a) Cancel or reduce tax arrears

Recommendations:

1. Council give approval to write off the above stated 2021 though 2023 outstanding tax amounts totalling \$331.67.
OR
2. Council directs Administration accordingly.

Prepared By: Linda Bauer, Finance Manager



County of Paintearth No. 18

Request for Decision

Title: Write off Outstanding Taxes 2021 for Customer #TRI001 - Roll # 70004010

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

After efforts made, we have been unable to collect outstanding taxes and penalties on the above noted tax roll. The last payment received on this tax roll was June 29, 2018, council wrote off bad debt taxes in 2021 and 2022. There was \$0 assessment in 2022 through 2024 and the County made this tax roll inactive in our system per Accurate Assessment.

Financial:

A total of \$97.32 will need to be recognized as a bad debt, with the corresponding expense under the general department in bad debt taxes general ledger.

Policy/Legislation:

MGA 347 (1)(a) If a council considers it equitable to do so, it may, generally or with respect to a particular taxable property or business or a class of taxable property or business, do one or more of the following, with or without conditions:

- (a) Cancel or reduce tax arrears

Recommendations:

1. Council give approval to write off the above stated 2021 outstanding tax amounts totalling \$97.32.
OR
2. Council directs Administration accordingly.

Prepared By: Linda Bauer, Finance Manager



**County of Paintearth
No. 18**

Request for Decision

Title: Write off GIPOT Roll #40163410

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

Issue/Background:

In 2019 the Provincial Government announced a funding cut of 25% for GIPOT, with a further 25% cut in 2020 and future years. They have requested that municipalities make no changes to the tax notices that are sent into the Province, they will adjust the payment that they forward to us.

Financial:

Write off the remaining 2024 outstanding tax balance of \$150.77 for tax roll #40163410.

Policy/Legislation:

Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act, 2000, c. 8, s. 4

Recommendations:

Write off the amount of \$150.77 for tax roll #40163410.

Prepared By: Linda Bauer, Finance Manager



County of Paintearth No. 18

CAO Report

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

1. Nov 27 – Present:

- a. Budget review and adjustment discussions with Asst. CAO. Revisions to draft-2 budget documents and preparation of materials.
- b. Meeting at Clearview Public Schools with Dept. Superintendent re: establishment of dual-credit offerings, understanding program criteria and also County support to achieve primary-learning ag-centered outcomes.
- c. Summary revisions to Public Engagement report for Halkirk townhall with Council on Nov. 25th with staff public engagement team. Has Council had a chance to review the report and does Council wish to add anything into the document prior to finalization?
- d. Discussions with contractors regarding solar installation, fiber construction, etc. for ongoing capital projects. Electricians will be working between the Public Works and Admin sites over the next two weeks.
- e. Palliser AGM with Councillor Norton on November 28, in Hanna provided an insight into how our supporting organization is doing. CEO Devin Diano is leading his team very smoothly and bringing up the quality of offerings to clients in planning, GIS and education. Planner Tracy Woitenko gave excellent information on training for MPC members, E-site permitting, use of their GIS webmapping, development manuals, useable templates and also acting as a regional leader in collaborating with E-Site to streamline their permitting system for ease of use, as well as AMDSP on their database of civic addresses, of which for example, Halkirk is in dire need of an update. Webmapping usage at Palliser is up 10% over last year to 65,000 logins across all member municipalities. In 2024 subdivision activity in Paintearth accounted for one-quarter of all subdivision activity in the Palliser region which covers the whole southeast portion of Alberta – the highest percentage of all members for the year, in fact.
- f. Since Halkirk’s open house and last Council meeting, administrative staff have been working thoroughly on audit tasks, gathering Halkirk data for implementation into our system and answering questions from the public. Paintearth continues to support regional projects from related organizations of which we will be missing the Halkirk presence on these boards in the new year’s work ahead – it will be an adjustment to lose colleagues that we respect from the Village of Halkirk.
- g. Question to Council on the Halkirk information – having had it in your inbox for the past week, is Council willing to release that document to the public on our website, and by email to those who attended the open house?

Report Prepared By: Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer

Halkirk Open House Discussion Guide

November 27, 2024

GOVERNANCE

Elected Representation

Municipal Affairs typically places dissolved hamlets in an existing electoral division when drafting dissolution orders, and so Council anticipates Halkirk will be placed in Division 4. Residents in Halkirk will be able to run in their electoral division in the 2025 fall municipal election or vote for candidates in their electoral division based on the language used in the Ministry's Dissolution Order.

Q: Are there any reasons County Council should consider as to why Halkirk should not be included in Division 4 once it becomes a hamlet?

Comments: Ratepayers were given information on accessing administration and Council for meetings and needs including a laminated card with prominent-use phone numbers, social media contacts, and email. No objections to the anticipated electoral boundary changes were raised.

Q: Do Halkirk residents foresee any barriers to accessing County information that Council should be aware of?

Comments: Village newsletter continues to be an important regular source of info. It is the expectation of residents that their affairs be represented in County newsletters once Halkirk becomes a hamlet. The County will create a point of contact in Administration for Halkirk groups wishing to highlight their community events, and issue news items relevant to Halkirk citizens in the Bulletin and on social media and the website.

Development and Building Permits/Processes

All Development items will flow through the County Administration in line with the current County processes. At the time of dissolution, the Halkirk Land Use Bylaw will still be in effect until amended or repealed by County Council.

It is probable that the County will review and update it's own Land Use Bylaw to include components of the current Halkirk Land Use Bylaw during the course of the year in 2025, and subsequently repeal the Halkirk LUB.

Q: Are there any regulations within the current Halkirk Land Use Bylaw that residents feel need review by Council and Administration?

Comments: Residents were introduced to the County Development Officer, Todd Pawsey, who explained our general processes and requirements for development permits. Residents seeking information prior to starting a development on their property are encouraged to contact the County, via Mr. Pawsey, to understand the regulatory piece as it concerns their development.

Mill Rates and Cost Recovery for Services

The County Council understands that taxation for Halkirk should be handled reasonably, with clear rationales attributed to any Special Tax rates or Local Improvement Tax Rates *if* they are to be utilized.

County Council may, by Ministerial Order:

- Establish a special tax rate to recover the costs associated with certain projects or services applicable to Halkirk residents,
- Provide the same municipal tax rate to Halkirk hamlet residential properties as the rest of Paintearth County and set no separate taxes for Halkirk residents.

As a general rule in any municipality in Alberta, unreasonable utility rates are subject to appeal by users, by way of the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC), and at a ratepayers request the County can provide contact information for residents wishing to appeal their utility rates.

Q: What is the preference of Halkirk residents with respect to taxation?

Comments: Residents did not voice support for paying higher tax or utility rates, nor did they strongly object. The soft consensus was that residents would appreciate lower taxes the same as anyone else, however if there were to be increases it must be connected to a clear and rational purpose. There was mention of the fixed-income nature of many residents and how sharp increases in rates would negatively impact those households.

Bylaw changes (Process)

Residents are always welcome to share their thoughts on the structure, efficacy and practicality of County bylaws with their Councillors and the Administration. Feedback is typically given through emails and delegation presentations to Council at regular council meetings.

Every County resident is able to request a bylaw be amended or reviewed at any time once Halkirk becomes a hamlet of the County by phone, email or in person at the Administration Office, or by reaching out to an elected official of the County.

Bylaws of the Village of Halkirk will remain in effect after dissolution until such time as County of Paintearth Council chooses by resolution to alter, amend or repeal them. This is a standard component of Ministerial Dissolution Orders issued by Municipal Affairs.

Q: Are there any bylaws currently in effect in Halkirk that residents would want County Council to review once Halkirk is a hamlet?

Comments: Animal Control Bylaw regulations were cited as potentially onerous for a small town atmosphere. Administration indicated it could review the bylaw regulations as impacts arise on pet owners, however also indicated that community policing and common sense are the first tools used in Bylaw enforcement when a contravention has occurred. Residents understood that it is not the intention of the County to take a hard line on the enforcement regulations in bylaws unless necessary.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Bank/Post Office building

County Council understands the need for Halkirk residents to continue to send and receive mail and make payments at a Halkirk location. Council does not have plans to alter the current arrangements between the Village and Canada Post or ATB.

Q: Do Halkirk residents have any needs with respect to Canada Post and ATB that are not presently being met that the County should be aware of?

Comments: Facility needs for the Canada Post and ATB building were brought forward for an air conditioning system and a new paint job. Service in these facilities has met residential needs thus far, and the County was encouraged to look at ways to continue to support the operation of these facilities.

Municipal Office Accessibility

County Council must assess the need of residents in Halkirk to have in-person service at the Halkirk office and also consider keeping costs low for Halkirk residents, with a desire to find balance between the two.

Q: What are the advantages to residents in continuing to keep the Halkirk office open on a regular basis?

Comments: Residents can understand the eventual closure of the Village municipal office as a contact point for County services, however indicated a period of a few months for at least a day per week is strongly preferred as a transition period.

Q: Can residents accept using the Halkirk ATB and Canada Post to remit payments to the County for utilities and taxes etc. if the municipal office is closed to the public?

Comments: Residents indicated this was the logical alternative for those accustomed to paying at the Village office.

Seniors Center

It is understood by the County that there is an application in queue for the New Horizons Grant to assist in costs associated with the roof repair valued at \$25K. Additional repairs are needed respecting the foundation, and so on. The County is willing to include feedback from the community when developing a plan to address both building and group needs.

Q: How would Halkirk residents/service clubs like to see the facility used in future years, once repairs have been addressed?

Comments: Residents indicated a high value towards the Seniors Center, as it is used frequently for bridal showers, weddings, community gatherings and leisure. Residents would like to see the facility maintained for many future years of use.

Halkirk Community Hall

After dissolution, the County will own the hall. It is understood by the County that the Hall Association operates and collects revenues and the village pays the insurance and contributes for larger capital expenses.

It is understood by the County that the Hall Association also does its own fundraising at present, and that there are no annual municipal grants to the Association for operating expenses.

Comments: The Association attends fundraising casinos every three years. Elks club are big volunteer support base. Operating expenses are covered by the hall Board at present. Residents highlighted future maintenance needs such as a new stove in the kitchen, and expect to continue the current arrangement, working with County staff as required. Rent does not cover operating expenses. Between hosting community bingo and casinos the association raises funds of \$5-7K per year. The Municipality pays insurance, and it was discussed that this arrangement, at minimum, would continue. Possible community grants were discussed under the County, similar to arrangements made for current County recreation boards and hall associations.

Mini Arena

At present, it is not used for public ice-related activities. The County would like to hear from residents on how they would want to see the facility be used, if different from the current practice.

Q: How would Halkirk residents like to see the mini arena utilized?

Comments: Has power, no heater working in winter but gas service active (?)

There is a small demand to see either the mini arena or an alternate location selected for winter outdoor skating activities for families and general adult use in the future as a possible rec service upgrade for Halkirk.

Rodeo/Fair Grounds

It is understood by the County that ownership of the Rodeo/Fair grounds must continue to be held by the Municipality. Council has not indicated that they would divest this asset and will be adding a fiber drop point for broadband servicing of the grounds, which may expand the types of events that can be held or enhance the visitor experience/convenience such as being able to connect ATMS during events for the convenience of attendees.

It is understood that the Halkirk Elks Service Club operates the grounds during their event, but the Village is still maintaining it.

Comments: Occasional beer garden rentals for family gatherings, 4-H Rodeo Events also take place there. Usage levels are expected to remain about the same at the present. Residents were informed that there is now a fiber drop to the property which expands possible event hosting.

Church

It is understood by County Council that this space continues to have historic value for Halkirk and area and that residents would welcome upgrades to the building to allow for use in ceremonies and social events.

It is understood by the County that recently, the Church windows have been replaced. Any plans to upgrade/repair other components of the structure will be based on the information contained in the Infrastructure Audit. It is understood that there is no water, heat or sewer to the building, and that power has been deactivated at the site.

Q: Are residents in favour of plans to make/keep the Church available for use, with the Municipality taking bookings from users?

Comments: There is an informal volunteer group that keeps it in shape, ie painting, new windows and doors etc. The interior is well kept. Was put onto a new foundation several years ago.

No major drive to see it upgraded and serviced in comparison other needs at the moment more critical. Residents would ask it be maintained to an open-air seasonal use standard to continue to be used during warmer months for private or public events/bookings.

Curling Rink

It is understood by the County that the curling facility is used annually for bonspiels by the Halkirk Curling Club. It has been suggested that there is a higher proportion of County residents that comprise the Halkirk Curling Club.

Comments: Village covers insurance, club goes to casinos every 3 years. Residents indicated that younger members are coming in, which may or may not expand scope of events in the future. A new compressor was added 10 years ago, and the club feels they can operate the ice plant for another season or two without major issues, but contend that long-term needs should be discussed and planned for. The Curling Club has kept good maintenance records of work done to support the planning process.

Campgrounds

It is understood that the Municipality operates the campground adjoining the Rodeo/Fair grounds, and behind the Community Hall.

Q: Would residents like to see any improvements made to Halkirk campgrounds that Council should consider in subsequent years?

Comments: Stalls will require electrical service upgrades for new capacity of motorhomes that frequent the campground in the summer, and considerations about a new water hydrant and increases to stall sizes to accommodate larger/longer units would increase ease of access and quality of user experience. The RV campground behind the community hall has been very helpful for booking weddings and family events during the summer, and would like to see operation of the site continue.

MUNICIPALLY OWNED BUILDINGS

Municipally Owned Facilities in Halkirk

Facilities of the Village will become property of the County and must be reviewed by Council and Administration to create a workplan to address building deficiencies in each location. Residents must consider competing priorities in terms of which buildings are addressed first.

Q: In the opinion of Halkirk residents, which buildings do they feel need immediate attention?

Comments: Residents felt it would be wise to address any and all the safety code requirements in buildings used by the public as soon as possible.

Residents understood structural issues also bear consideration and acknowledged costs dictated that priorities would have to be established in the repair schedule. It was said that the curling rink has had some of its issues fixed by volunteers and the County will speak to the curling club to determine what issues identified in the 2021 Infrastructure Audit have since been completed.

CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Water, Sewer and Road Infrastructure

Based on critical priority, Council will create a construction plan that strikes a balance between reasonable costs to beneficiaries of the water/sanitary sewer system and expected end of functionality of the system. The 2021 estimated cost¹ to repair/replace water and sewer infrastructure exceeds \$4.1M.

Council appreciates the best practice is to repave each block of road once infrastructure work is done, however road repaving costs are estimated in the Infrastructure Audit to be around the \$4.7M mark, which impacts either costs to taxpayers or timelines to taxpayers to have fully replaced blocks of water, sewer and roads throughout the hamlet.

Council may establish a special rate class for Halkirk utility account holders associated with Capital Infrastructure costs for water and sewer etc., however understands that rates must be reasonable and tied to a clear and rational purpose such as cost-recovery over time for major water and sewer repairs.

¹ MPE Engineering Report "Village of Halkirk Infrastructure Assessment and 10-year Capital Plan" Project Number: 4460-005-00 Release Date: September 30, 2021

Q: How would residents prefer to address the requirement to repair/replace water and sewer infrastructure in Halkirk? I.e: Multi-year approach vs ASAP approach?

Comments: Residents would like an approach that maintains or improves their service, such as better water pressure, relined sewers or replaced pipe and valves. It was explained that some homes along a main sewer line that were built in the 1960's may have tarpaper sewer connections and the owners may need to replace their tarpaper connection from their property line to their residents once the ground has been disturbed by construction repairs. Residents understood that replacements to infrastructure on their private property will be their cost to bear. The Municipality cannot force homeowners to replace connections on private property during the project.

Q: What is the level of support from Halkirk residents to be subjected to specialized utility rates to recover water and sewer reconstruction costs in Halkirk's boundaries identified in the Infrastructure Audit?

Comments: Residents indicated they understood that this mechanism is legitimate for a Council to enact, but stressed to Council that increases must be related to water and sewer replacement costs, and asked that if there are to be higher rates, that they be reasonable for those living on fixed incomes. The County indicated they understood this line of thinking and would keep this point in mind when reviewing utility rates in the future. At present, current rates will remain in place until changed by Council.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Garbage Pickup

The County understands there are residents with personal mobility issues that prevent them from bringing household garbage to the transfer station. Council has no plans to change frequency of pickups for residents in Halkirk, and that service as usual is the preference of the community.

Comments: Residents are happy with their service level and do not want changes made to this. Council indicated they would make no changes to service levels in this area.

Cemetery

Current practice is the municipality notifies the Cemetery Association contact when a burial site needs preparation, and volunteers from the Association make arrangements for the equipment to bore/dig holes and then mark the burial plot to be excavated.

Q: What is the opinion of the Halkirk Cemetery Association regarding long-term operation of the cemetery - business as usual or have a discussion regarding delivering the services in a different fashion?

Comments: The municipality will retain control of cemetery records, and the current process used by the Cemetery Association will continue. The Public Works director will be the point of contact for the Cemetery Association.

Bylaw Enforcement

Q: What are the most prevalent issues that residents feel need to be addressed in the community in terms of Bylaw Enforcement?

Comments: Animal Control Regulations and Land use Bylaw zoning regulations were mentioned as being unclear at times to residents, or too heavy handed (Animal Control regulations especially) and that residents simply wanted reasonable rules to follow without high-levels of municipal interference.

Street Cleaning/Maintenance

County employees currently provide road clearing during the winter at no cost to the Village.

Q: How satisfied are Halkirk residents with the current level of street/alley cleaning and snow clearing service currently provided by the County?

Comments: Residents are accustomed to the current practice of snow clearing but requested during major snowfall events that the crews be working to open roads as soon as possible. The County will consider how to meet this request with manpower and equipment on hand. Some residents voiced concerns about seniors who get stuck and can't push their vehicle out as a barrier under the current service standard. Consideration was requested also for ambulance access in heavy snowfall events.

Residents don't want to see vehicles stuck in intersections, as has been the case in the past since the County has delivered the service on the Village's behalf.

There is no current sidewalk winter maintenance plan in place. There are some gaps in the sidewalk, however many were recently redone. The County will review the state of sidewalks as compared to the 2021 report to update the sidewalk study data and create a future plan to pour new sidewalks on a rotating basis annually during summer months once more pressing needs have been addressed.

Residents understand sidewalks take a secondary priority to roads cleared and that funding for water and sewer before sidewalk repair is reasonable.

Grass Mowing/Landscaping of public spaces

County Council understands that residents take pride in Halkirk's appearance as an orderly, tidy community.

Q: Do Halkirk residents wish to maintain the current service levels for mowing and landscaping?

Comments: A cemetery association member pointed out that mowing in the cemetery in the early part of the season seems like every ten days is necessary. Funerals can also drive the schedule, as can mother's day and father's day when the cemetery may see more visitors. In general, residents are proud of their cemetery and wish the current standard to be maintained once the County assumes ownership of the property from the Village.

Community festive decorations etc.

Q: Are Halkirk residents satisfied with the current level of festive décor around the community?

Comments: Winter – Xmas lighting would like to keep, may need to replace some festive lighting decorations due to age. Council will consider this.

Summer – residents enjoy the flower pots/ floral displays during the warm months would like to keep those. Council will consider this.



County of Paineearth No. 18

Assistant CAO Report

Meeting: Regular Council

Meeting Date: December 10, 2024

1. Follow up meeting with AMSC regarding benefit renewal for 2025
2. Discussions with legal on tax instalment payment plan default payments. Letter of Default has been sent and waiting for a response.
3. Received a quote from Diamond for the utilities modules and it came in at \$34,980. We have began working with Central Square to get this module up and running.
4. Review draft minutes from November 26, 2024 council meeting.
5. Work with HR specialist, CAO and PW director in reviewing the Union agreement and how certain clauses will be implemented
6. Update Budget document - 2025 operating and Capital Budget as presented in the RFD earlier this meeting
7. Discussions with Ascend regarding establishing an Asset Retirement Obligation policy similar to what we have for a TCA policy. Asset retirement obligation is the liability that comes with the end of an assets life (ie Lagoon asset retirement has many environmental impacts/liabilities)
8. November 27 – BREOC meeting at the Castor BRIC centre
9. December 6 – submitted final assignment for Org Design and Management course (2nd course completed out of 4 for the NACLAA Level 2 program)
10. December 9 – receptionist orientation has been completed

Prepared By: Lana Roth, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer



County of Paintearth
No. 18

Director's Report

Department: Public Works

Meeting: Regular Council Meeting

Date: December 10, 2024

1. Hauling gravel from Handhills to Castor Colony
2. Supply of 100,000 t getting site prepped and ready to start crushing
3. Cutting firewood for the parks in two different locations. Gravel reclaiming is under way and ditch mulching.
4. Graders out with sandvex blades for a few days fixing up some rough spots

Prepared By: Bryce Cooke



November 28, 2024

Dear Mr. Simpson:
msimpson@countypaintearth.ca

**RE: Notice of Proposed Municipal Development Plan
Town of Coronation**

You are being circulated this letter as an adjacent municipality that may potentially be affected by the preparation of a new Municipal Development Plan for the Town of Coronation. Palliser Regional Municipal Services (PRMS), on behalf of the Town of Coronation, is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the Village's Municipal Development Plan.

The Town's most recent comprehensive review of its Municipal Development Plan was approximately 15 years ago. A Municipal Development Plan is typically reviewed and updated every 10 years to ensure it remains current and applicable. PRMS is proposing significant changes to the Town's Municipal Development Plan, which would result in the current bylaw being replaced by an entirely new plan.

Prior to presenting the proposed new Municipal Development Plan to the Coronation Council for approval, PRMS would like to provide Paintearth County, as an adjacent municipality, the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Municipal Development Plan. Your feedback will be thoroughly considered before the final draft new Municipal Development Plan is prepared for Council approval. Your feedback must be submitted to PRMS by January 10, 2025.

A copy of the proposed new Municipal Development Plan is available for viewing on the Town of Coronation's website (www.coronation.ca).

If you have any questions regarding the proposed new Municipal Development Plan or the potential impact on the Coronation-Paintearth County boundary, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Tracy Woitenko
Senior Planner
Palliser Regional Municipal Services
Email: twoitenko@palliserservices.ca
Phone: 1-877-854-3371 – Ext 207



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

AR117092

November 29, 2024

Reeve Stanley Schulmeister
County of Paintearth No. 18
PO Box 509
Castor AB T0C 0X0

Dear Reeve Schulmeister:

Thank you for meeting with me during the Rural Municipalities of Alberta Fall 2024 Convention. I appreciated you taking the time to discuss your questions regarding the ability to levy a separate mill rate for the Village of Halkirk should it be dissolved into the county.

I valued our discussion and learning more about the perspectives of your municipality. I strongly believe in continuing to strengthen and maintain a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation with municipal leaders to serve all Albertans.

As we discussed during our meeting, Municipal Affairs intends to dissolve the Village of Halkirk, effective January 1, 2025. Regarding your funding concerns, the Local Government Fiscal Framework does not need to be linked to a project in the year it is allocated, and the county would have five years to use the funding. I also understand that our respective administrations have been collaborating since the convention on potential drafting language regarding the dissolution Order in Council.

Thank you again for meeting, and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ric McIver".

Ric McIver
Minister

cc: Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Paintearth No. 18
Gary Sandberg, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division



ALBERTA
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Hays*

December 4, 2024

AR116487

Reeve Stanley Schulmeister
County of Paintearth
PO Box 509
Castor AB T0C 0X0

Dear Reeve Schulmeister and Council:

I am writing to confirm that Cabinet has approved the dissolution of the Village of Halkirk, which will become a hamlet in the County of Paintearth, effective January 1, 2025. Attached for your records is a copy of the Order in Council (OC) 362/2024 which is available on the King's Printer website at www.alberta.ca/orders-in-council.aspx.

Effective October 15, 2024, I appointed an official administrator to support the Village of Halkirk during the transitional period until December 31, 2024, or the date of dissolution, pending Cabinet's decision, whichever occurs later. Until then, the powers, duties, and functions given to the Village of Halkirk remain in effect. In the weeks leading up to the dissolution, I encourage the county to work with the Village of Halkirk to prepare for a seamless transition.

Following January 1, 2025, the County of Paintearth is eligible to apply for grant funding under the Alberta Community Partnership program to assist with transitional and infrastructure costs for Halkirk.

If you have any questions before or during the transition, please contact the Municipal Capacity and Sustainability Branch of Municipal Affairs, toll-free at 310-0000, followed by 780-427-2225.

I wish council and the residents of the county, including the new hamlet, much success and prosperity in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ric McIver".

Ric McIver
Minister

Attachment: OC 362/2024

cc: Michael Simpson, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Paintearth