



COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

PAGE 1

Page

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Adoption of Agenda.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of minutes of the regular Council meeting held February 20, 2024.

PROCLAMATIONS

DELEGATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PUBLIC NOTICE MATTERS/ORDERS

ITEMS FOR ACTION

- 1 Accounts.
- 3 Report regarding Amendment to Cemetery Bylaw No. 3 – 2017.
- 7 Report regarding Appointment of Integrity Commissioner.
- 9 Report regarding Cancellation of Council Meeting.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

BYLAWS

- 10 Bill No. 4 – 2024 A bylaw to establish a Remuneration for Integrity Commissioner Policy Bylaw.
Notice given February 20, 2024.
Will receive three readings – Councillor Switzer
- Bill No. 5 – 2024 A bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 24 – 2014 by adding existing mobile homes as a permitted principal use in a UR – Urban Reserve District.
Notice given February 20, 2024.



COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

PAGE 2

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- 15** Swift Current & District Chamber of Commerce Meeting Agenda from February 21, 2024.
- 16** Southwest Municipal Government Committee Meeting Minutes from November 3, 2023.
- 24** Southwest Municipal Government Committee Meeting Agenda from February 29, 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS

ITEMS REQUESTED TO BE DISCUSSED EN CAMERA

- 25** Request regarding Land Purchase Proposal.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS/ENQUIRIES

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, March 18, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

February 21, 2024

TO: Council

FROM: Kari Cobler, General Manager of Corporate Services

RE: Accounts

Enclosed are the General Revenue Fund Disbursements for the period
Feb 10 - 21, 2024

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Regular Accounts	197,306.06	801,663.10
Payroll Benefits	322,898.56	1,475,664.77
School Payments (Holy Trinity RCSSD #22)	-	111,167.73
School Payments (Minister of Finance)	-	472,441.17
Sask Power - (Energy Purchase)	1,455,295.85	2,687,935.76
Sask Power	-	2,813.63
SaskEnergy	103,670.42	166,795.02
SaskTel	-	33,654.09
General Contractors:		
Aevitas Inc	-	20,901.12
B & A Petroleum	38,032.26	78,162.74
Chemtrade West Ltd	17,984.99	53,516.99
CloudPermit Inc	-	21,090.00
Delco Automation Inc	-	32,317.65
Eecol Electric Ltd	10,632.96	48,661.27
Flocor Inc	-	14,767.70
FP Teleset Francotyp	-	36,750.00
GFL Environmental Inc	51,138.85	164,030.36
Integrity Electrical Services	-	13,927.68
KK Golf Management Inc	-	12,313.80
Knudsen Excavating	-	47,126.63
Leeville Construction Ltd	-	49,365.47
Len's Plumbing & Heating	-	24,339.20
Paradise Pools	-	16,644.45
PTI Utility Supply Ltd	-	17,723.75
Redhead Equipment Ltd	-	33,509.08
Riverside Electric Ltd	-	39,066.43
Rock Solid Trucking Ltd	19,602.45	52,684.53
Saskatchewan Abilities Council	57,825.00	113,430.89
Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency	-	35,175.00
SGI	-	65,167.68
Southern Star Trucking & Excavation Ltd	-	35,413.90
Southwest Cultural Development Group Inc	-	60,000.00
SUMA	-	21,395.93
Superior North America Inc	-	15,348.23
Tourism Swift Current	-	60,500.00

Triways Disposal Services	-	108,778.40
Uline Canada	-	13,598.05
United Paving (1983) Ltd	-	62,310.29
Valmont West Coast Engineering	90,057.45	90,057.45
Vertex Inc	11,820.39	11,820.39
Vigilant Consulting Services	-	71,832.86
Wastequip (Toter LLC)	-	55,783.52
Wheatland Machine Shop	-	51,209.98
Wiebe Contracting	-	23,584.90
Y & K Cleaning Ltd	10,224.21	20,448.42
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,386,489.45</u>	<u>\$ 7,444,890.01</u>

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that \$2,386,489.45 in disbursements be approved.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Lisa Hagen, Accounts Payable Supervisor

SIGNATURE:

APPROVAL:

I concur with the recommendation

Jim Jones, CAO



City of Swift Current

C.A.O. Report

Date: February 13, 2024
To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: Nicole Spenst, General Manager of Community Services
Subject: **Amendment to Cemetery Bylaw No. 3 – 2017**

BACKGROUND

The City of Swift Current owns and operates three (3) cemeteries including Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Burial Park and Hillcrest Cemetery.

In 2017 City Council passed a new Cemetery Bylaw to establish control and regulations of Cemeteries owned and operated by the City of Swift Current in accordance with *The Cemeteries Act* and *The Cities Act*.

This past year, this Bylaw was flagged for review under the Community Services Division bylaw audit. This review was commenced by Parks Manager, Micheal Newell, and cemetery staff. Upon review some areas were identified for updates and changes.

DISCUSSION

Due to increased demand for Cremation interment options, City have staff re-surveyed lots in Mount Pleasant Burial Park to accommodate double Cremation lot options. The Bylaw has been updated to reflect the addition of these new lots.

Other amendments include deferment of interments due to inclement weather and poor ground conditions, and restriction on the number and type of interments in a child lot.

In addition, as a matter of housekeeping all Cemetery Rates & Fees shall be incorporated within a schedule and attached to the said Bylaw.

This was presented to City Council at the February 14th, 2024 Governance and Priorities Committee meeting for Council's discussions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Notice of Motion be given at this time by advising the public of Council's intention to amend Cemetery Bylaw No. 3 - 2017 as shown in the attached Schedule "A".



Nicole Spenst, General Manager of Community Services

CAO Recommendation:

I concur with the recommendation.



Jim Jones, CAO

SCHEDULE “A” – changes shown in red

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CEMETARY BYLAW NO. 3 - 2017

1.1 By deleting Section 10 (e) and replace with:

10. (e) No person shall inter or cause to be interred more than one body in a casket.
- (i) Each lot shall contain no more than one (1) casket and two (2) cremated remains.
 - (ii) **A child lot shall contain no more than one (1) child interment.**
 - (iii) No more than three (3) occupancies shall be permitted in a single lot.
 - (iv) Interment of cremated remains must occur either following or during interment of a casket.

1.2 By adding a new subsection under Section 10 as follows:

- (k) **interment(s) shall be deferred due to inclement weather or poor ground conditions.**

1.3 By deleting Section 12 and replace with:

12. INURMENT AND INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS
- (a) A single urn shall contain only the cremated remains of one (1) person or one (1) child.
 - (b) No more than three (3) cremated remains may be interred in a single lot.
 - (c) Only one (1) cremated remains may be interred in a single cremation lot.
 - (d) **Up to two (2) cremated remains may be interred in a double cremation lot.**
 - (e) Cremated remains may be interred in a columbarium niche, a separate single lot, cremation lot or in an existing grave in which a member of the family has been interred.
 - (f) In the section of Mount Pleasant Cemetery known as the Veterans’ section, the cremated remains of both a husband and wife, either one being a Veteran, may be interred in a single lot or cremation lot, provided at the time of the first interment, the City is notified in writing that one half of the lot will be reserved for a second interment of cremated remains.

- (g) No person shall inter or cause to be interred cremated remains in a grave which shall be no less than 30 centimeters (twelve (12) inches) from the surface of the ground surrounding the grave to the top of the urn.
- (h) Registration of Death, prescribed by the Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Statistics, has been filed with the Registrar of Vital Statistics.
- (i) Upon receipt of payment of the appropriate fees thereof as may be specified by resolution of Council, the City Tax Roll Clerk shall issue an Order for Interment of cremated remains.

1.4 By deleting Section 17 and replace with:

17. FEES FOR GRAVE LOTS AND CHARGES FOR CEMETERY SERVICES

All rates and fees associated with this Bylaw shall be set by resolution of Council, and incorporated as Schedule "B" attached hereto.



City of Swift Current

C.A.O. Report

Date: February 13, 2024
To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: City Clerk
Subject: **Appointment of an Integrity Commissioner**

BACKGROUND

The City's Code of Ethics for Members of City Council and Council Committees Bylaw states that the City shall appoint an Integrity Commissioner to investigate any complaints of alleged contraventions of the said Bylaw by a member of Council and make a recommendation to the Compliance Committee of Council as to the actions to be taken upon completion of the investigation.

A member of Council or an employee of the City may report any alleged contraventions of the Code of Ethics to the Integrity Commissioner. In conducting the investigation, the Integrity Commissioner may interview anyone having knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation and may examine any and all relevant evidence including any documents. Upon concluding the investigation, the Integrity Commissioner shall make a recommendation to the Council Compliance Committee.

DISCUSSION

Harvey Lomax was appointed as Integrity Commissioner in February, 2019 and has maintained this appointment for the past four (4) years. However, after these years of service, Mr. Lomax advised he will not be seeking reappointment.

Mr. Glen Herman has been identified as a qualified candidate to fill this vacancy. Glen graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with degrees in Commerce and Law in 1979 and 1980 respectively. He was a Crown Prosecutor for 32 years with the Government of Saskatchewan, spending seven (7) years in Regina and the last 25 years of his service in Swift Current. Glen was named Regional Crown Prosecutor in Swift Current in 2004 and retired from the Crown Office in 2016.

Currently Glen works within the RCMP City Detachment, reporting to the Detachment Commander, acting as a Liaison with Court Officials, prosecutors, defense counsel and other police agencies to complete Court related duties for the City detachment and surrounding RCMP detachments.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT City Council approves the appointment of Glen Herman as the City's Integrity Commissioner effective immediately, and until such time Council deems otherwise.



Jackie Schlamp, City Clerk

CAO Recommendation:

I concur with the recommendation.



Jim Jones, CAO



City of Swift Current

C.A.O. Report

Date: February 13, 2024
To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: City Clerk
Subject: **Cancellation of Council Meeting**

BACKGROUND

In 1906, the Union of Saskatchewan Municipalities (now known as SUMA) held their first convention. This Association has been in continuous operation since that time, serving the needs of members of Councils in providing leadership in advocacy, education and service excellence, while representing the collective strength and recognition as the voice of Saskatchewan's communities.

This year the annual SUMA convention is being held in Regina on April 14th – 17th, 2024 for members of Council and Senior Administration to attend.

DISCUSSION

It is noted that a regular meeting of Council is scheduled for April 15th, 2024 and, given the dates stated above, it will be necessary to cancel this meeting. If required, a special Council meeting can be called to deal with time sensitive matters.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council meeting of Monday, April 15th, 2024 be cancelled.



Jackie Schlamp, City Clerk

CAO Recommendation:

I concur with the recommendation.



Jim Jones, CAO

BYLAW NO. X – 2024

A BYLAW of the City of Swift Current, in the Province of Saskatchewan, to establish The Remuneration for Integrity Commissioner Policy Bylaw.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SWIFT CURRENT, SASKATCHEWAN, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

PART I **GENERAL**

1. Title

This Bylaw may be cited as the **“The Remuneration for Integrity Commissioner Policy Bylaw”**.

2. Legislative Authority

This Bylaw has been created pursuant to Section 8 of *The Cities Act* which enables Council the authority to pass bylaws for purposes such as the peace, order and good government of the City.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this Bylaw is to establish a policy to provide the parameters for remuneration to the appointed role of Integrity Commissioner and create a uniform and transparent practice that allows for fair and equitable compensation for time spent on City business.

4. Definitions

In this Bylaw and in any resolution of the Council passed pursuant thereof, unless the context otherwise requires, the term or expression:

- a) **“City”** means the corporation of the City of Swift Current.
- b) **“Integrity Commissioner”** means the person or persons appointed by City Council to fulfill the duties and responsibilities assigned to that role.
- c) **“Policy”** means the Remuneration for Integrity Commissioner Policy attached as Schedule “A”.

5. Interpretation

- 5.1 Headings are for reference purposes and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of the provisions of this Bylaw.
- 5.2 Any other words shall, insofar as they are not consistent with this Bylaw, have the same meaning as in *The Cities Act*, and amendments thereto.
- 5.3 Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa.

PART II
ENACTMENT OF POLICY

6. Remuneration

The City will provide remuneration as required in accordance with the Policy attached as Schedule “A”.

PART III
EFFECTIVE DATE OF BYLAW

7. Effective Date

This Bylaw shall come into force and take effect upon on the day of final passing thereof.

_____ **MAYOR** _____ **CITY CLERK**

INTRODUCED AND READ a first time this --- day of March, 2024.

READ a second time this this --- day of March, 2024.

READ a third time and finally passed this --- day of March, 2024.



City of Swift Current
Statement of Policy

APPENDIX "1"

Policy Title:	Remuneration for Integrity Commissioner	Policy No. X
Date of Adoption:	March ---, 2024	Resolution No. X – 2024
Date of Amendment:		Resolution No.
Supporting Department:	Office of the City Clerk	Review Date: March ---, 2029
Approved by:	City Council	

1. POLICY

1.1 This policy establishes the remuneration payable to the appointed Integrity Commissioner.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 Council Policies and City Bylaws support the strategic priorities of Council and govern the activities within the City. This policy will create a uniform and transparent practice for remuneration to the appointed role and allows for fair and equitable compensation for time spent on City business.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 **Bylaw** means any bylaw on record established and passed by City Council.

3.2 **City** means the corporation of the City of Swift Current.

3.3 **City Clerk** means the individual appointed by City Council pursuant to section 85 of *The Cities Act*.

3.4 **City Council** means the Members of Council for the City of Swift Current consisting of the individuals elected pursuant to *The Local Government Elections Act*.

3.5 **Full Day** means no less than four hours, but does not exceed eight hours, of time spent on City business.

3.6 **Half Day** means four hours, or a fraction thereof, of time spent on City business.

3.7 **Integrity Commissioner** means the person or persons appointed by City Council to fulfill the duties and responsibilities assigned to that role.

3.8 **Meeting** means any regular, special, committee or other meeting.

3.9 **Policy** means any policy on record established by City Council or Administration.

3.10 **Report** means any written materials, whether public or as requested by Council, prepared in accordance with any Bylaw on record as required by the Integrity Commissioner.

4. SCOPE

4.1. This Policy applies to any person appointed as Integrity Commissioner by the City pursuant to any Bylaw on record.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. This Policy resides within the Office of the City Clerk and shall be led by the City Clerk.

5.2. Payment of remuneration will be made by submission of a Fee Claim Sheet, attached to this Policy, and forwarded to the Office of the City Clerk.

6. REMUNERATION

6.1 The rate of remuneration for the Integrity Commissioner shall be as set out on the attached Fee Claim Sheet.

6.2 Any adjustment to the rate of remuneration will be at the discretion of City Council.

SCHEDULE "A"



**INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER
FEE CLAIM SHEET**

Remuneration: *\$240 for a Full Day and \$120 for a Half Day.*
 \$75 for a Meeting.
 \$20/hr for Preparation of a Report.

Date	Meeting Fee	Reporting	Full Day	Half Day	TOTAL CLAIM
_____.	\$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	____ hrs x \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$240.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____.
_____.	\$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	____ hrs x \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$240.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____.
_____.	\$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	____ hrs x \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$240.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____.
_____.	\$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	____ hrs x \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$240.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____.
_____.	\$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	____ hrs x \$20 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$240.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$120.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____.

Commissioner's Signature: _____

Date: _____



FOR INTERNAL OFFICE USE:

Account No. _____

Authorization: _____

Date: _____



SWIFT CURRENT & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday February 21, 2024 | 5:00pm

Chamber of Commerce Board Room or via TEAMS - Swift Current, SK.

1. Welcome Scott Anderson – Development & Major Gift Coordinator with Dr. Noble Irwin
Regional Healthcare Foundation 15 min.
2. Approval of the Agenda 2 min.
3. Approval of Minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting 2 min.
4. CEO Report and General Update 5 min.
 - a. CEO Report (Karla)
 - b. Executive Assistant Report (Heidi)
5. City of Swift Current update – Pat 5 min.
6. RM of Swift Current #137 update – Butch 5 min.
7. Group Reports:
 - a. Administration (Doug, Logan, Vim, Ashley) 5 min.
 - b. Advocacy (Warren, Patrick) 5 min.
 - c. Communications (Lindsay, Bryce, Logan) 5 min.
 - d. Financial (Chelsey, Alicia) 5 min.
 - i. General update
 - ii. Review of January financials and **MOTION** to approve:
 - e. Membership Value (Mark, Garry, Monty) 5 min.
 - i. **MOTION** to approve new members:
 - f. Networking & Connections (Bryce, Lindsay, Ashley) 5 min.
8. New Business
 - i. AGM -March 22 updates 10 min.
 - ii. SWFF updates 10 min.
 - iii. Miscellaneous updates 10 min.
9. Adjournment

*****Next Chamber Board meeting March 20, 2024 – Chamber Boardroom or via TEAMS

MINUTES OF MEETING
SOUTHWEST MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Mark Hughes and Michelle McKenzie called the meeting to order at Great Plains College with 37 members in attendance.

REPORTS

SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COUNCIL

Since our last meeting, the SWTPC has been part of three initiatives to enhance transportation issues province wide and within the southwest. In late August, Duane flew, along with other ATPC chairs, and representatives from Highways, to communities in the Athabasca Region of Northern Saskatchewan. There, we met with community leaders to discuss their roads. In October, several members of our committee attended the provincial transportation conference held in Saskatoon. Finally, just last week, our council went on our annual road tour, in much different conditions than we had planned when our tour was postponed from June. All three events help to shape our understanding of the issues and pressures that face our communities both here and across the province.

This was my third trip to the Athabasca since I became chair of the SWTPC, and I wish I could report on vast improvements to road development in the north, but unfortunately that is not possible. The one road to Stony Rapids is still narrow, rough, and winding, occasionally with blind corners, with the 900 kms taking 13 or 14 hours from Prince Albert. Black Lane is just 21 kms away, but the road joining the two communities is rough, narrow, and difficult to drive in wet weather, with rocks strewn along its ditches. Residents in these communities would be very happy with a road like the thin membrane roads we are so familiar with in the Southwest. There is still only a winter road to Fond du Lac, and very few signs that an all-season road is in anyone's plans. The best they can hope for at the present time is a 52 km road from Stony Rapids to Shasko Bay, where barges on Lake Athabasca would meet trucks carrying goods intended for Fond du Lac, still an expensive and trying means of commercial transport. The young woman who drove James Trobert and Duane back to the Fond du Lac airport, asked "Do you know what we're waitin for?" James guessed, "A road?" Her response, "We're waiting for our next suicide." What desperation in her words.

Wollaston Lake is another community with no all-season at present, but there are promising beginnings of a road. It has been a struggle to unite provincial and federal resources to get a road built, but through imaginative use of employee training dollars, and the desire to turn a winter road into an all-season road, 65% of muskeg, the foundation of a road can be seen stretching into the distance from a hill just outside the community of Wollaston Lake, while the

construction completed at the other end is visible from the air. With the road-building begun, the understanding that a road is going to be completed before long eases the desperation in Wollaston Lake. Here there is some hope.

The situation in these communities in Northern Saskatchewan adds remarkable perspective to our view of road issues in the southern half of the province.

The provincial conference in Saskatoon illustrated the bustling nature of industrial activity around that city. The enormous impact of the potash industry was on full display, as BHP took centre-stage as the major sponsor of the conference. BHP's \$6.4B investment in the second of three phases of their mine at Jansen has been committed, even as the first stage is only 1/3 complete. This second phase will double production to 8.5 million tonnes per year, and after the third stage is complete, may employ 1600 people.

Other presenters included Pam Schwann from the Sask Mining Association, who predicted growth of 50% in the Sask Economy by 2030; Bill Huber, VP of SARM, Susan Ewart of the Sask Trucking Association, Darin Stene from Green Earth (MG30), Travis Sandeski from SaskPower who spoke about SNR's – nuclear power as an emission free source of power, Dr Shelley Kirychuk and Kendra Ulmer from the Ag Health Safety Network, Phil McElheran from Gravelock, Graham Reynolds from BHP, Jeremy Welter from APAS who spoke about the Transport Canada Rail Policy Review and an 18 month inter-switching trial, increasing inter-switching from 30 to 160 kms, and Blair Cummins from the RM of Blucher, just east of Saskatoon, who spoke about the growth in his RM in potash and Cargill's presence at Clavet. I have copies of all their presentations and would be glad to share with anyone who would like more information than this limited summary. SWPC may be stepping forward to host a similar event in the fall of 2024 or 2025, hopefully at Cypress Hills.

We undertook our annual road tour just last week after the snow, largely in the more north-easterly part of our jurisdiction. We travelled south from Swift Current, taking note of the need for a passing lane on highway 4 and west on highway 343 to Simmie, then taking grid road 631 south to highway 13. We followed highway 13 to Kincaid, then went north to Hodgeville, then east on highway 363 to Shamrock. From there we followed the gravel portion of highway 58 to Chaplin, and then drove the Trans Canada to Caronport, just outside our designated area, where we held our October meeting and spent the night. Next morning we took the gravel road west of Mortlach south toward Courval, a road used to haul grain up to highway 1, grid 627. Heading back south on highway 58 through Gravelbourg and Lafleche, we then took highway 13 to Shaunavon, then 37 back to Gull Lake and on to Swift Current.

Along the way we met with councils, administrators, and one mayor. No one is happy with TMS highways, even if the surfaces are decently smooth, because they are so narrow, and often are lower than the adjoining cuts. Some recognize that improvements are unlikely on roads that have limited traffic, while others are angry that their demands are not met. I can assure you that

our council is listening, and looking for solutions. We will be taking concerns to Highways, and will support municipalities with issues with their own streets and roads.

After thinking about the needs of small urbans, and how we might be of benefit to them, I have concluded that nearly every community is suffering from a limited tax base. Proper infrastructure and street maintenance is expensive, and frankly, towns and villages need help. Allowing pavement to fall to pieces is prohibitive to replace. But if scheduled maintenance and sealing, as well as load restrictions, are undertaken, the surface life of a street can be stretched out. I believe the provincial government has to step forward with grants that will promote regular infrastructure maintenance.

I will be providing further detail on our road tour, the provincial conference, and my trip to the Athabasca region in our fall newsletter. I hope you take time to peruse it.

SARM

SARM Convention will be held November 8 & 9. SARM Directors went to Ottawa October 23 to 27th. Larry Grant attended a reception by Port Authority in Regina. Discussed products shipped from Saskatchewan through Vancouver. In the last year, twenty two billion of Saskatchewan products were shipped through Vancouver. In the last six months, there was an 11% increase over the previous six months. Larry attended the Throne Speech on October 25th. Larry went to a meeting called Big Game extended hunt working group. This is Premier Moe's solution to the wildlife infestation of cattle producers feed stacks last winter. The government came under a lot of heat from delegates at SARM Spring Convention. Premier Moe made an announcement that depredation tags would be issued. This did not help the situation. SARM has been lobbying the government to reduce big game numbers in the province as a whole. This is a province wide issue not just one area. The working group is to put a plan together on how Premier Moe will deal with hot spots in the province. The feeling Larry received from Premier Moe at this initial meeting is that they are not going to reduce game numbers. Next meeting may be in January and nothing will happen until next year. Crop Insurance has assistance for fencing stacks. Contact them early. SARM met with the Ministry of Agriculture officials regarding changes to the Pest Control Act and Plant Health Act. A Pest Control Officer can enter onto land without permission. An authorized person can enter onto land with permission only. The list of pests now include club root, grasshoppers, warble fly, richardson ground squirrels, narway rat, feral pigs, ring rot in potatoes, and late blight in potatoes. There is a proposal to remove club root, grasshoppers, warble fly, and gophers. Consultations will be held early in the new year.

SUMA

Regional meetings were held. The new governance model that is moving forward and there will be a presentation on this at the SUMA Convention meeting in April. There was a great presentation on waste. The next meeting will be held on December 6 & 7th.

CHINOOK SCHOOL DIVISION

No report.

GREAT PLAINS COLLEGE

There are two programs that are strongly connected to all communities that Great Plains College (GPC) is working on. The first one is the Primary Care Paramedic program. There is a significant shortage across our province but especially in rural and in the Southwest. There is a rotation that exists for this training and this rotation is shared across different campuses throughout Saskatchewan. GPC is in the schedule to deliver the program for this in January 2030; however, there was a significant amount of money put into health back in the March budget. Therefore, three cohorts have been created for this program for 2023/2024. As a result, GPC has been moved up in the cue and will ask to see if they can potentially host this program here in 2025/2026 or 2026/2027. This is very encouraging! Equipment is at a shortage in terms as how this program is offered and space is a premium. GPC is trying to deal with this need. The Continuing Care Assistant program also had some money directed towards this program. Right now there is a full time offering as well as two part time offerings. The full time offering is full (24 seats) and the two part time cohorts; one has 21 seats and the other with 16 seats filled. In January, there will also be another part time offering that will be on Friday and Saturdays. GPC is very tight on space but program coordinators are working well with this space. GPC held their open house in October and there was a great turnout. Just completed the Fall Scholarship season across the GPC six campuses and \$105,000 was distributed across these campuses. \$86,000 was distributed to 86 students in Swift Current. There will be another \$25,000 to \$30,000 distributed in the winter and spring sessions, as well as some emergency bursary funding that is being made available to students who are having financial issues etc. Once again there will be high levels of scholarship and bursary funding thanks to the many municipalities who contribute to this program. Enrollments is up this fall across the six campuses. Most programs are sitting at above 80% fill rate. Practical Nursing, Admin Assistant, Continuing Care Assistant, Welding and Power Engineering are all full. In 2017 University of Regina discontinued the Bachelor of Nursing program. GPC has been actively involved with the Dean of Nursing at University of Saskatchewan to see if they are an opportunity. GPC just launched the Early Childhood Education program in Maple Creek. GPC is currently looking at a residence program and has put an offer in on a property in Swift Current that would provide a 10 unit residence and will find out by Tuesday or Wednesday.

CHINOOK REGIONAL LIBRARY

No report.

DAVID MARIT AND DOUG STEELE PRESENTATION

What is the provincial government's position on the merger of Bunge and Viterra? Does the provincial government have any voice regarding to the competition bureau's decision?

David Marit has reached out to Kyle Jeworski regarding this. There is a concern at the port side on what is going to happen between Bunge and Viterra. In Saskatchewan there may be isolated cases where there might be a consolidation in some communities. Everything that David Marit has been told by minister officials in Saskatchewan is that it is pretty diverse between Bunge and viterra and there is not too much overlap in some of the communities. Bunge has some canola crush facilities. Viterra is looking. We don't know where the crush facility Regina is at right now. Last time David spoke to Kyle everything is up in the air and they are working through the process. David said they will just watch it to see where it goes with the competition bureaus and federal side.

With regard to the Cleanfarms program and the recycling of plastics in the agriculture industry, there are growing concerns amongst producers that user fees will be increasing. Do you have any knowledge of this?

This is all ran through the Ministry of Environment. Some of the information received is that the collection fee was reduced. There may be more sites put in. David Marit will speak to the Minister and will have a letter sent to Southwest Municipal Government Committee.

With the fall calf run in full swing and prices at an all-time high, is the government worried about a declining herd number in the province? If so, what would the ministry do to help maintain provincial herd numbers?

David Marit was in Val Marie in July before the announcement was made regarding Ag-recovery for livestock. Ranchers were never expecting prices to be where they are now. Liquidation might happen because of the prices. Hopefully the ag-recovery program announced will alleviate pressure for ranchers. \$80/head will be paid. First payment between the feds and us. Feds came in at 77% and it is about \$150 million total. Initial payment will be \$150/head and then if there is money left over, ranchers that are still eligible for the full amount will receive a portion of what is left. In Alberta, the federal government is still at 77%. The Alberta government is not putting their full commitment in. They are putting the equivalent of what the feds put in at 77% and the Alberta government is putting their portion proportionate to that. Saskatchewan is not.

Has Government considered supplementing freight for feed in drought declared areas?

Federal Government made it clear that the only way they would participate is if it were receipt-base. They are still not ready. Applications are being accepted by the Saskatchewan government and some ranchers may see cheques as early as next week, if applications were received. The reason for using a receipt-base, is if a rancher bought hay or moved cattle, they will get compensated at the commercial rate, \$8.50/km. After 350 km the rate drops.

'As farmers are struggling to control the gopher infestation, Liquid Strychnine was removed from the market even though tests were conducted indicating that it is a relatively safe alternative that actually works in the eradication of this pest. Is there any consideration of further testing with the possibility of bring the product back?'

Strychnine will not come back because the federal government will not allow it back in. There are two different products that are providing good results.

'There are concerns in the area with increased irrigation, there seems to be a lack of policing of the current irrigation. Will there be a better policing policy put in place to go along with the increased irrigation?'

The Saskatchewan government will probably meter every pump. We are the only jurisdiction in North America that does not charge for water. There is an irrigation branch that can check the meters monthly or bi-monthly. For everyone's benefit, we will try to make sure irrigation is done correctly. Looking at new technologies; pivots, that will shut off if a pivot goes through a low spot and does not need water and turn on where water is needed.

The Water Security Agency proposes an expansion of irrigation on the Duncairn Reservoir of 4000 acre feet. Water is a resource that needs to be managed properly. Currently, water use by existing irrigation licensees is not enforced. How will the Water Security Agency guarantee that monitoring programs, metering systems and significant fines are in place for all licensed irrigators?

The properties on the Duncairn Reservoir contribute \$118,000 in taxes to the RM of Webb and an additional \$78,000 in school taxes to the province. There will be a significant effect on the RM tax base if the expansion of irrigation goes ahead on the Duncairn Reservoir. How can the Water Security Agency say there will not be any effect on the recreational use of the Reservoir if the Conservation Drawdown Level is reached on a consistent basis?

It is hopeful that Water Security Agency will do their due-diligence. If there is a drawdown of water, irrigators will be the first to be shut off if the dam hits a certain level. There is concern about the level of the dam for a multitude of reasons. It is hopeful that with the process being

put into place regarding maintaining the level of the dam at the base minimum for where the irrigators would be shut off, that this level will be acceptable to cabin owners and people. There have been meetings held and people have been vocally opposed to this. Therefore, we are starting out at a number that we feel will be acceptable on the irrigation acre side and we see will where things go from there before further expansion happens to this area.

There is talk that a feedlot will be accessing water if the expansion of irrigation on Duncairn Reservoir goes ahead. Is that true?

There is nothing about a feedlot south of Swift Current or an expansion of one. This would have to go through the process of permitting and would have to go through the rural municipality and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment if it were an expansion. Nothing has been seen by the Minister of Agriculture.

What does the province intend to do to attract and build pulse protein processing facilities in rural Saskatchewan?

What is in place with the value added tax incentives, has probably done more for the value added side for crops. Big players in Saskatchewan are ETG, Viterra, AGT. AGT is expanding their pulse processing now. ETG would like to do more but they are challenged with the railway. Pulse companies are concerned about supply. There is only way to remove the uncertainty with supply is to build a facility where the product is. There is a huge demand for the pulse side purely because of the protein side. Now oat processing is being done to extract the protein from oats. This powder is virtually tasteless and can be added to almost any food.

Does the provincial government have grant money available to help subsidize landfill closures?

Landfill closures are Government Relations department.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Membership was discussed. During the last couples of years with COVID, we decided to maintain a \$50 membership fee. Today, it is proposed that we increase the membership fee to \$150 in order to cover the cost of inflation and the cost of food. Lindsay Nobbs made a motion that we increase our 2024 membership, seconded by Bob Neufeld. Carried.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

ICS 402 Training

Crop Insurance Program Changes

Newly Appointed Minister of Environment

SaskTel Coverage

Minister of Public Safety – Sask Fire Arms Chief

Council Roles & Responsibilities

Landfills

Southwest Pride Group

SEDA – Assistance for Economic Development

NO ROUNDTABLE

Barclay Meinert moved that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

SOUTHWEST MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of November 3, 2023 Minutes
4. Presentation:
 - 10:00 a.m. Southwest Facility Foundation

(Jim Jones, Sasha Godenir, Travis Cuthbert, Nicole Spenst)
 - 1:00 p.m. Chinook School Division Board
5. Correspondence
6. Treasurer's Report
6. Reports:
 - Southwest Transportation Planning Council Report
 - SARM Report
 - SUMA Report
 - Chinook School Division
 - Great Plains College
 - Chinook Regional Library
 - Doug Steele-MLA Cypress Hills
7. New Business
8. Topics for next Meeting
9. Roundtable
10. Date of Next Meeting
11. Adjourn



REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED 'EN CAMERA'

Date: February 21, 2024
Subject: Land Purchase Proposal
Request from: Business Development & Tourism Officer

Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Justification:

Section 16

Request Justification: **Plans or positions related to pending management, personnel, policy or budgeting decisions.**

Denise Wall, Business Development
& Tourism Officer

Jim Jones, CAO

MEETING REQUESTED TO BE HELD: immediately following the Council Meeting on March 4th, 2024.

Staff Members to be in Attendance: Chief Administrative Officer, General Manager of Corporate Services, Director of Light & Power, General Manager of Infrastructure, General Manager of Community Services, General Manager of Cultural & Aquatic Services, City Clerk, Fire Chief, Business Development & Tourism Officer, and Assistant to the City Clerk.