



**Rural Municipality of Reynolds**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Regular Meeting of Council May 13, 2025 - 06:00 PM**

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF REYNOLDS-REGULAR MEETING- MINUTES**

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MAY 13, 2025**

**PRESENT**

**REEVE: RUSS GAWLUK**

**DEPUTY REEVE: BLAINE WEBSTER**

**COUNCILLORS:**

MICHAEL HUZEL

KIMBERLY GESELL

HARRIET YARMILL

CURT STELMACK

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: KIM FURGALA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: LAECIE LEVESQUE**

**REGRETS: COUNCILLOR JESSICA THURSTON**

**COUNCILLOR CURTIS BULEY**

**ASSISTANT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SHERRI PEARCH**

**1 CALL TO ORDER**

The May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council was Called to Order by Reeve Gawluk at 6:00 pm.

**2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Res. 25/161 M/S** Councillor Stelmack/ Councillor Gesell

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Agenda of the May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3 NOTICE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**4 MINUTES**

**Res. 25/162 M/S** Councillor Stelmack/ Councillor Gesell

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council and the May 6, 2025, Special Meeting of Council be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4.1 Regular Meeting of Council - April 22, 2025 Minutes - Draft**

**4.2 Special Meeting of Council - May 6, 2025 Minutes - Draft**

**5 DELEGATIONS / HEARINGS**

**6 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**7 COMMITTEES / REPORTS**

**Res. 25/163 M/S** Councillor Gesell/ Councillor Stelmack

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Committee and all other reports be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**7.1 Northeast Red Watershed District Minutes - March 20, 2025**

**7.2 Eastman Regional Municipal Committee - Minutes February 24, 2025**

**7.3 Whitemouth-Reynolds-North Whiteshell Waste Management Minutes - March 26, 2025**

**7.4 Rural Animal Management Report - April 2025**

**7.5 Whitemouth Reynolds Planning District - April 7, 2025 Minutes**

**8 BY-LAWS**

**9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**10 NEW BUSINESS**

**10.1 Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba - 15th Anniversary Celebration**

**10.2 Drainage Restrictions to Development - June District Proposed Resolution**

**Res. 25/164 M/S** Councillor Stelmack/ Councillor Gesell

**WHEREAS** in the Province of Manitoba, reconnaissance soil surveys were completed between 1926 and 1996 and detailed soil surveys were completed between 1972 and 2022, classifying surface soils by their agricultural capability in accordance with the Canada Land Inventory; and

**WHEREAS** the soil classifications from the Canada Land Inventory referenced in the Planning Regulation, the Water Rights Regulation, and the Nutrient Management Regulation are defined as: the mineral soils are grouped into seven classes according to their potentialities and limitations for agricultural use. Where Class 6 soils are capable only of producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not feasible and Class 7 soils have no capability for arable culture or permanent pasture; and

**WHEREAS** Manitoba Environment and Climate Change through the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch regulate drainage within the Province of Manitoba through the Water Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS** all persons including municipalities must obtain a valid and subsisting license as per the Water Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS** development of land cannot take place without obtaining a valid drainage license to construct pertinent development features such as roads and ditches; and

**WHEREAS** the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch, as of 2019, has implemented an internal policy in which drainage licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils cannot be approved, for registrable or licensable projects; and

**WHEREAS** the term “registerable project” is defined, separately from other licensable projects for drainage works, in the Water Rights Act. These are typically minor or less impactful drainage projects, often involving surface or subsurface drains. Registration allows for a streamlined process compared to full licensing, but still ensures compliance with regulations; and

**WHEREAS** licensable applications for water control works are not restricted on Class 6 and 7 soils, only “registerable projects” are restricted per the Water Rights Regulation; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities recognize the need to restrict development in environmentally sensitive areas and critical/significant wildlife habitats such as wetlands and habitats for migratory species; and

**WHEREAS** The Planning Act, The Planning Regulation, The Environment Act, The Water

Protection Act, The Water Rights Act, The Water Rights Regulation, and The Nutrient Management Regulation do not restrict the issuance of Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils; and

**WHEREAS** the municipalities recognize that some subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are strongly associated with the presence of wetlands, however development of wetlands is already limited per the Water Rights Regulation; and

**WHEREAS** many subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are often viewed as desirable for rural subdivisions, lakeside cottage developments, and campgrounds due to their lack of agricultural capability, including soils which:

- have a restricted rooting zone depth for crops,
- contain poisonous plants to farm animals,
- are heavily forested,
- are affected by drouthiness (sandy and gravelly soils),
- have high salinity,
- have high groundwater table,
- are too stony to permit cultivation, and
- have a topographic slope of greater than 31%;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canada Land Inventory soil classification system used in the reconnaissance and detailed soil surveys was published in 1965, this classification speaks only to agricultural uses, and predates current drainage practices and drainage regulations by 60 years; and

**WHEREAS** the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch is applying this internal policy to all undeveloped lands on Class 6 and 7 soils, regardless of current zoning designations; and

**WHEREAS** many municipalities are experiencing significant loss of developable land, portions of which have already been designated/zoned for development, from the implementation of this internal policy; and

**WHEREAS** this internal policy is unnecessarily restricting development and the potential for increased tax-base of municipalities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to only enforce current limitations published in the Acts and Regulations, and remove the internal policy denying Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Province of Manitoba engage AMM to participate as stakeholders in the preparations of future internal policies within the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch to adequately evaluate the impact of these internal policies on growth and future development.

**CARRIED**

### **10.3 AMM Resolution - Crown Land Public Access**

**Res. 25/165 M/S** Councillor Stelmack/ Councillor Gesell

**WHEREAS** agricultural producers lease Crown land from the Province of Manitoba specifically agricultural production and are prohibited from profiting by granting access to others for non-agricultural purposes;

**AND WHEREAS** these producers invest significant time and financial resources to enhance productivity, environmental stewardship, and biosecurity of the leased lands, while assuming full liability under the Manitoba Occupiers Liability Act, including for incidents involving unsolicited or unauthorized public access;

**AND WHEREAS** current Provincial policy allows public access to Crown-leased agricultural land without requiring notification to or permission from the leaseholder, resulting in risks such as personal injury, crop and soil damage, equipment interference, and potential contamination from non-agricultural vehicles and activities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Manitoba Hunter's Guide merely recommends, but does not mandate,

notifying leaseholders, leaving producers uninformed and legally vulnerable particularly during peak agricultural operations;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) lobby the Province of Manitoba to implement a policy requiring individuals seeking access to Crown-leased agricultural lands for recreational or other non-agricultural purposes—including but not limited to hunting, camping, and off-road vehicle use—to obtain prior permission from the leaseholder. This policy would recognize that these lands are designated exclusively for agriculture and would mitigate legal, environmental, and safety risks to both producers and the general public.

**CARRIED**

**10.4 Survey - Roll# 0196700.000**

**10.5 Community Futures AGM & Awards Invitation**

**10.6 Council Meeting Date Change**

**Res. 25/166 M/S** Councillor Gesell/ Councillor Stelmack

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves rescheduling the Regular Meeting of Council from Monday, June 9, 2025, to Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm, to accommodate Council's attendance at the 2025 Community Futures Winnipeg River Awards Night, held on June 9, 2025.

**CARRIED**

**10.7 2025 RM of Reynolds Bursary**

**Res. 25/167 M/S** Deputy Reeve Webster/ Councillor Yarmill

**WHEREAS** the RM of Reynolds has enacted Policy 54;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the 2025 bursary be awarded to:

1. Kaydence McNaughton - Seine River School Division

**CARRIED**

**11 FINANCIAL / ACCOUNTS**

**11.1 Combined A/P Payroll Cheque Register Report**

**Res. 25/168 M/S** Deputy Reeve Webster/ Councillor Yarmill

**BE IT RESOLVED** that cheques numbered 24893 to 24927 including the Electronic Fund Transfer payments, for a total payment of \$177,120.83 be hereby approved for payment on this day.

**CARRIED**

**11.2 March 2025 - Financial Statement**

**Res. 25/169 M/S** Deputy Reeve Webster/ Councillor Yarmill

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the March 2025 Financial Statement be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**12 CORRESPONDENCE**

**12.1 Signed Agreement - Northeast Red Watershed District & Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District**

**12.2 RAMS - Service Change Notice**

**12.3 SunGro Letter to Council**

**12.4 Application Approved - Speed Sign**

**12.5 Letter from Honourable Glen Simard**

**12.6 Community Wildfire Risk Clean Up Event - Ste Rita Friendly Hands Club**

**13 AGENDA ADDITIONS**

**14 NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**15 IN CAMERA**

**15.1 Move In Camera**

**Res. 25/170 M/S** Councillor Yarmill/ Deputy Reeve Webster

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Council now move “In Camera” as per Section 152(3) of The Municipal Act to discuss **Personnel and Legal Matters;**

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all matters discussed while in Camera are to remain confidential as per Section 83(1)(d) of The Municipal Act.

**CARRIED**

**15.1.1 Legal Matters 1**

**15.1.2 Personnel Matter**

**15.1.3 Legal Matters 2**

**15.1.4 Legal Matters 3**

**15.1.5 Personnel Matter 2**

**15.1.6 Personnel Matters 3**

**15.1.7 Legal Matters 4**

**15.2 Move Out of Camera**

**Res. 25/171 M/S** Deputy Reeve Webster/ Councillor Yarmill

**BE IT RESOLVED** that as per Section 152(4) of the Municipal Act, Council now re-opens the meeting to the public;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all matters discussed are to remain confidential as per Section 83(1)(d) of the Municipal Act.

**CARRIED**

**15.3 Personnel Matter**

**Res. 25/172 M/S** Councillor Yarmill/ Deputy Reeve Webster

**WHEREAS** Resolution 24/276 authorized the Part-Time position of an Economic Development Officer;

**AND WHEREAS** the CAO has advertised the vacant position;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council authorize the hiring of Cyndie Mitchell as the Economic Development Officer for the RM of Reynolds

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the position will be reviewed after one year.

**CARRIED**

**15.4 Tender - RM Land for Sale**

**Res. 25/173 M/S** Councillor Yarmill/ Deputy Reeve Webster

**WHEREAS** the RM has received an expression of interest in surplus municipal owned property Roll# 0128400.000 located at NW 5-8-15E;

**AND WHEREAS** Policy 41 – Land Sale Policy states if Council approves the property to be sold, they shall direct the CAO to advertise the property for sale by tender bids in the local newspaper;

**AND WHEREAS** if Council considers the property to have potential to assist in the sustainability of the future of the municipality by providing economic opportunities will instruct administration by resolution to indicate that it is sustainability offer for sale with the following to apply:

The offer to purchase shall include a business plan that indicates the purchaser’s plan for

use of the property being offered for sale. The business plan must include:

1. What will be constructed (if applicable) square footage, value of construction and when will the construction take place.
2. Proposed number of jobs to be created and the timelines of when the jobs will be initiated.
3. Identify development of property access

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council requests the CAO to advertise the property in the local newspapers as per Policy 41;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that a reserve bid be set at \$81,900.00;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the lowest or any bid will not necessarily be accepted.

**CARRIED**

#### 15.5 Personnel Matter 2

**Res. 25/174 M/S** Councillor Huzel/ Councillor Yarmill

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council grants approval for Firefighter Chad Unger to take an extended leave of absence.

**CARRIED**

#### 15.6 Personnel Matters 3

**Res. 25/175 M/S** Councillor Yarmill/ Councillor Huzel

**WHEREAS** Councillor Jessica Thurston has notified Council of the need to take a medical leave of absence;

**AND WHEREAS** Councillor Jessica Thurston will be unable to attend the regular council meetings scheduled for May 13, 2025 & May 27, 2025;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council formally excuses Councillor Jessica Thurston from attendance at the regular council meetings to be held on May 13, 2025 & May 27, 2025 due to medical leave.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that Councillor Jessica Thurston shall continue to receive all correspondence and council documentation during their absence, and may resume duties at such time as they are able and willing to do so.

**CARRIED**

#### 16 ADJOURNMENT

**Res. 25/176 M/S** Councillor Huzel/ Councillor Yarmill

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the next Regular Council Meeting be held on May 27, 2025;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council does now adjourn at 7:06 pm.

**CARRIED**



**Russ Gawluk, Reeve**



**Kim Furgala  
Chief Administrative Officer**