

**UNADOPTED MINUTES  
OF THE FOOTHILLS COUNTY AND TOWN OF OKOTOKS  
INTERMUNICIPAL COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MARCH 23, 2021  
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**PRESENT**    Foothills County  
Reeve Suzanne Oel  
Councillor R.D. McHugh (arrived 1:07 p.m.)  
Councillor Delilah Miller

Town of Okotoks  
Mayor Bill Robertson  
Councillor Ken Heemeryck  
Councillor Tanya Thorn

**STAFF  
PRESENT**    Harry Riva Cambrin, Municipal Manager  
Ryan Payne, Chief Administrative Officer  
Heather Hemingway, Director of Planning  
Jeff Edgington, Manager of Infrastructure  
Julie McLean, Senior Planner  
Sherri Barrett, Legislative Services Manager  
Jessica Clement, Legislative Services  
Felicia Fairweather, Legislative Services

Elaine Vincent, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ralph Ettenauer, Chief Financial Officer  
Jeff Greene, Director of Community Growth,  
Investment, and Sustainability  
Susan Laurin, Director of Community Health and  
Safety  
Chris Radford, Director of Infrastructure and Utilities  
Nancy Weigel, Director of Corporate Services  
Jeremy Huet, Engineering Manager  
Michelle Grenwich, Planner  
Janice Storch, Legislative Services Administrator

**GUESTS**    Councillor Alan Alger

**1.    CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**2.    ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOTION:    By Reeve Oel that the March 23, 2021 agenda for the Intermunicipal Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

**3.    MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3.1    Intermunicipal Committee - February 23, 2021

MOTION:    By Councillor Heemeryck that the minutes of the Intermunicipal Committee Meeting held February 23, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

#### **4. BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Intermunicipal Transportation Analysis Update**

Jeremy Huet provided a verbal update regarding the Intermunicipal Transportation Analysis. Mr. Huet reported that Watt Consulting Group had been awarded the contract for the Analysis and a draft report will be provided at the May 31, 2021 Intermunicipal Committee Meeting.

**MOTION:** By Councillor Thorn that the Intermunicipal Transportation Analysis update be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

##### **4.2 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board**

Reeve Oel provided a verbal update regarding Foothills County's current engagement that is intended to identify for County residents key points of concern for Foothills County with the CMRB Growth Plan.

Councillor McHugh arrived at the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Discussion occurred regarding the five (5) growth management districts which Foothills County has identified as in its Growth Management Strategy. Foothills County has identified the Central District as the predominant area of focus for growth. Reeve Oel provided clarification regarding the specific concerns regarding growth in this district under the CMRB Growth Plan.

Reeve Oel expressed concerns regarding the lack of recognition at the CMRB table for the historic plans (including existing IDPs as well as the Growth Management Strategy) despite repeated attempts by Foothills County to explain and make those plans clear to the board. Further, the growth areas within Foothills County that the CMRB have theoretically identified will not work in actuality, making the process to grow in the Central District subject to board approval. Foothills County perceives an inequality in the CMRB Growth Plan between urban and rural municipalities in regards to the requirement or non-requirement for board approval for growth within the respective municipalities.

Councillor Miller provided background and clarification on an upcoming article in the Western Wheel in which she outlines the reasons why Foothills County will not join the CMRB.

Councillor Thorn inquired as to Foothills County's belief in the value of regional planning. Reeve Oel responded that the County believes in the value of regional planning to solve problems. Reeve Oel further clarified that Foothills County believes the CMRB Growth Plan is creating problems in the region and pitting urban municipalities against rural municipalities and needs to be transparent in regards to being fair to each type of municipality. Councillor Thorn offered her perspective as to why regional planning is important.

Mayor Robertson asked for clarification from Foothills County, and Reeve Oel provided a response, as to why the rural municipalities including Foothills County voted against the recent request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the four (4) month deadline extension of the final CMRB Growth Plan. Mayor Robertson indicated he voted in support of the request for extension because he concurred with the belief there had been insufficient public engagement. Reeve Oel provided a response.

Discussion occurred regarding the inequity of CMRB partner municipalities paying for infrastructure within Calgary that their ratepayers may not use.

Councillor McHugh provided information regarding his concerns within the Growth Plan that dictate to Foothills County where industrial growth could occur. Councillor McHugh's concerns stem from his experience that more often than not industry picks the spot for development based on its own particular needs.

Councillor Thorn provided information that as government it is our responsibility to make residents aware of the opportunities for public engagement, but it is not our responsibility to ensure they engage, and that low engagement numbers are not necessarily a reflection on the quality or number of engagement opportunities that were offered to residents.

Discussion occurred regarding the Provincial mandate that the rural and urban municipalities in the Calgary region must participate in the CMRB and must come to consensus by determining the middle ground. A compromise must be reached that feels equitable to all regional partners, both urban and rural.

**MOTION:** By Councillor Heemeryck that the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board discussion and update be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

#### 4.3 Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project Update - Town of Okotoks

Angela Alambets, Project Manager, Colliers Project Leaders, provided an update on the Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project. Ms. Alambets requested that the water line from the river be referred to as a watermain rather than a pipeline in order to reduce potential confusion with other types of pipelines.

Ms. Alambets updated the Committee on the Technical Advisory Committee's decisions since the last IMC meeting which includes:

- Adopting the TAC Terms of Reference
- Confirming the type of raw water intake to be used
- Designing the raw water reservoir to include the potential for future build out
- Confirming the general watermain alignment from the raw water intake to the Town of Okotoks and Hamlet of Aldersyde
- Deciding that the project delivery method will be confirmed after the Water for Life funding announcement
- Adjusting the consultant's design scope to include upsizing the infrastructure to include the Town of Nanton's demands.

**MOTION:** By Councillor Thorn that the Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project Update be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Alambets reviewed the Draft Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project Vision which was provided to the Intermunicipal Committee for review and approval.

Discussion occurred regarding: the possibility of indicating potential growth areas in relation to the location of the watermain; concerns with referencing drought and growth in the same document; a possible timeline for notification of residents situated next to the watermain; clarification as to the inclusion of a third water treatment plant; and the budget for the purchase of right of ways.

**MAIN**

**MOTION:** By Councillor Thorn that the Draft Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project Vision be approved as presented and endorsed for communication with the Province to gain project support for approval and funding.

Councillor Miller requested that the Regional Systems Opportunities map contained within the Project Vision documents be amended to include Foothills County's "Central District" of development as outlined in their Growth Management Strategy, and that textual clarification also be included on the map to indicate this district as a priority for growth within Foothills County since 2013.

**MAIN MOTION****AS**

**AMENDED:** By Councillor Thorn that the Draft Foothills / Okotoks Regional Water Project Vision be amended by including as an appendix a copy of the Regional Systems Opportunities map that shows the Foothills County Central District overlayed on it; and that the Regional Systems Opportunities map within the Project Vision be amended to include text indicating the existence of the Central District as a potential growth area for Foothills County.

Carried

Ms. Alambets provided an overview of potential financial impacts based upon possible project grant funding scenarios. Discussion also included information as to what the capital costs do not include, and it was noted that the capital costs will continue to be refined as the project progresses.

**MOTION:** By Reeve Oel that endorsement be given to the regional design approach recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee.

Carried Unanimously

**5. IN CAMERA**

None

**6. MOTIONS ARISING**

None

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Intermunicipal Committee is Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** By Councillor Heemeryck that the March 23, 2021 Intermunicipal Committee Meeting adjourn at 3:49 p.m.

Carried Unanimously