

## TOWN OF ALTONA

\*\*\*\*\*

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town of Altona Council held on February 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Present – Mayor Melvin Klassen, Councillors: Ann Kroeker, Terry Wiebe, Ted Klassen, Don Braun, Glen Robinson, and Tim Fast, Administration: Russ Phillips, Larry Driedger, Delores Loewen, Bill Loewen, Irv Braun, and Youth Representative Keely Loewen.

Absent – Perry Batchelor, and Ron Epp

Gallery: Corey Wall

Media: Dean Penner – CFAM, Greg Vandermuellen – Echo

1. Call to order - Chair  
Mayor Mel Klassen called the meeting to order at the appointed time.
2. Review of agenda & previous minutes:
  - 2.111 January 25, 2011 Council Minutes  
**27-2011 – Tim Fast-Ann Kroeker – THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting of Council be adopted as posted and circulated.**

**CARRIED.**

3. Delegations
  - 3.1 5:35 PM – Gord Martel – Pembina Valley Water Coop  
Mr. Gord Martel and Mr. Jake Fehr attended the meeting on behalf of the Pembina Valley Water Coop. Mr. Martel presented those in attendance with some graphical information regarding the hardness of the water “Raw vs Treated” from January 2005 to December 2010. The following items were also discussed:
    - Treatment process at the Letellier Plant versus the treatment process at the new Morris Plant
    - Hardness of water at Morris is less because of the treatment process
    - Long term solution to the hardness of water from the Letellier Plant would be to upgrade the plant. Current estimated cost for this would be between \$10 million to \$15 million
    - There is no easy short term solution.
    - The PVWC presently carries approximately \$21 million in capital debt and is paying this down at a rate of approximately \$1 Million per year.
    - Earliest possible upgrade would be five years, if the funds were in place, however it is more likely that the upgrade would be in 10 years or so.

Mr. Martel and Mr. Fehr were thanked for their attendance and then left the meeting.

3.2 6:00 PM – Al Schmidt – Altona Heritage Centre

Mr. Al Schmidt attended the meeting on behalf of the Altona and District Heritage Research Centre (Altona Archives).

- He informed those in attendance that the archives are 'alive and well'
- He thanked the media, specifically the Echo, for their coverage of the Archives.
- The archives have lots of photographs in their possession, some are identified and some are not.
- Some stories were shared
- Mr. Schmidt presented 2011 Calendars from the Association for Manitoba Archives

Mayor Mel Klassen thanked Mr. Schmidt for his passion for this work and also thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Schmidt sat in the gallery for a portion of the meeting thereafter.

4. Hearings – None.

5. Administrative Reports

CAO Russ Phillips referred to his CAO Report. He highlighted that Mr. Warren Klassen has tendered his resignation after about 26 years of service.

6. Committee Reports:

6.1 Finance & Administration

6.111 Committee Report – None.

Letter of Conditional Approval – Sub-division File 4400-10-5654 – For information.

6.112 Altona Community Development Corporation

Councillor Terry Wiebe reported that the Board met today at noon. They had a presentation from consultants regarding 'Community Branding'. The Board is excited about the concept, however is not releasing any information at this time.

6.113 Chamber of Commerce

Councillor Glen Robinson reported that the Annual General Meeting was held last night.

6.114 Sunbelt Development Group

Mayor Mel Klassen reported that the Board has contracted with a realtor for the realtor to sell the 'bean plant' building.

6.115 Pembina Valley Development Corporation Report

Councillor Ted Klassen reported that the Board held a planning session last week. One of the items was the prioritization of goals.

The Board also re-affirmed that membership in the PVDC is mandatory if a community wishes to participate in the Pembina Valley Tourism Association.

6.116 PVDC Tourism Committee – Jan 11, 2011 Minutes attached

Councillor Terry Wiebe reported that the Committee met this morning. Some items of discussion were:

- RV Show coming to Winnipeg in March
- PVTA Membership representative
- Showcasing this region at the Forks in Winnipeg

6.117 Triple R Community Futures

Councillor Terry Wiebe stated that the minutes of the last meeting were previously distributed.

6.118 RPGA Planning District

Councillor Ted Klassen reported on the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Board meeting.

There was also discussion on the upcoming Manitoba Planning Conference being held in Winnipeg on March 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. The RPGA Board will send up to one representative from each partnering municipality, plus a Board staff member. There was discussion about having both of Altona's RPGA Representatives attend. A resolution will be brought to the next meeting of Council authorizing this.

6.2 Community & Social Development

6.211 Committee Report – None.

6.212 CARE – No report.

6.213 Manitoba Sunflower Festival

Councillor Glen Robinson reported that the Festival Committee held a breakfast fundraiser at the Winter Carnival. They served about 200 people.

6.214 Council Youth Representative Report

Youth Council Representative, Keely Loewen reported:

- The Band(s) will be participating at the Optimists Band Festival in Winnipeg next week.
- Student Council has been asked to review a cell phone use policy.
- Some students at Miller wrote an essay and submitted it to a national essay contest. The Miller essay has been selected as one of the Top

5 in the Country. If it is selected as one of the top 3 then there will be some funds available to the school.

- Grad Soup & Pie fundraiser on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Musical during the week ending on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

6.215 South Central Regional Library Report – No report.

6.216 Altona & District Health Care Centre Inc. – No report.

6.217 Morden & District Veterinarian Board – No report.

6.218 Curling Club

Activities are getting back to normal after the Scotties Tournament.

6.219 Altona in Bloom Committee – No report

6.220 Playground Committee – No report.

6.221 Gallery in the Park Operating Committee

The minutes of the last Council meeting in error, reported that the next meeting was on February 15<sup>th</sup>. They should have read that the next meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Delores Loewen and Al Schmidt left the meeting at this time.

### 6.3 Works & Operations

6.311 Committee Minutes – February 1, 2011

By-law No. 1684/2011 – Utility Rates - Attached for first reading  
(Please bring your Rate Study documentation)

Councillor Ted Klassen reviewed the minutes with those in attendance. There were two versions of the above by-law prepared. One version incorporated phasing in the increase over three years while the second version incorporated the full increase in the first year.

**28-2011 – Ted Klassen-Terry Wiebe** – WHEREAS the Town of Altona has conducted a study of the Utility Rates for the Town of Altona Utility System;

AND WHEREAS the study recommends that rates be increased to meet the demands of the system;

AND WHEREAS a draft by-law has been prepared to phase in new rates over a three year period;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town of Altona By-law No. 1684/2011, to adjust the Town of Altona Utility Rates, be now given first reading and submitted to the Manitoba Public Utilities Board for approval.

Mel Klassen	-	NO
Ann Kroeker	-	NO
Terry Wiebe	-	YES
Ted Klassen	-	NO
Glen Robinson	-	YES
Don Braun	-	NO
Tim Fast	-	NO

**DEFEATED.**

There were numerous comments and opinions expressed by Councillors regarding the above resolution. After discussion/debate a request was made for a recorded vote on this resolution.

**29-2011 – Ted Klassen-Don Braun –** WHEREAS the Town of Altona has conducted a study of the Utility Rates for the Town of Altona Utility System;

AND WHEREAS the study recommends that rates be increased to meet the demands of the system;

AND WHEREAS a draft by-law has been prepared;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town of Altona By-law No. 1684/2011, to adjust the Town of Altona Utility Rates, be now given first reading and submitted to the Manitoba Public Utilities Board for approval.

Mel Klassen	-	YES
Ann Kroeker	-	YES
Terry Wiebe	-	NO
Ted Klassen	-	YES
Glen Robinson	-	NO
Don Braun	-	YES
Tim Fast	-	YES

**CARRIED.**

A request was made for a recorded vote on this resolution.

6.312 Lower Red River Valley Water Commission – No report.

6.313 Pembina Valley Recycling Network – No report.

6.314 Pembina Valley Water Coop – No report.

7. General Correspondence:  
7.111 Report on water system audit

8. Unfinished business

8.1 Request to attend Council Meetings via Telephone

**30-2011 – Ann Kroeker-Ted Klassen** – THAT Councillor Don Braun be allowed to attend Council and Committee meetings via telephone during the period of time that he will be away from Altona from early February to late April of 2011.

**CARRIED.**

Several comments and opinions were expressed about this resolution. At one point during the discussion the Deputy Mayor chaired the meeting in order for the Mayor to voice his opinion as well.

9. New business – None.

10. In Camera – None.

**31-2011 – Terry Wiebe-Tim Fast** – THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting is now adjourned and the next regular meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

---

Mayor

---

Secretary Treasurer