

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ken Bonokoski  
Councillors Ivan Boyer  
Shirley Wheeler  
Les Christensen  
David Johnson  
Gerald Resler  
Melissa Rensby  
Administrator Jessica Franklin  
Observers Daniyale Woosely  
Gail Yunick  
Paul Carroll

**23/04/26-01 Call to Order:**

A quorum being present, Mayor Ken Bonokoski called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**23/04/26-02 Delegate**

6:01 p.m. Sandra Hedstrom met with Council to discuss questions as a resident of the Town of Bienfait.

Sandra thanked Council and the Mayor for the thankless job they do for the town.

Sandra asked what the job descriptions of the town employees are. Mayor Ken Bonokoski read out the job descriptions for all employees and they are attached to and forming a part of these minutes.

Sandra questioned what level of employees the public works currently are. Administrator Jessica Franklin answered they would currently be level 2/3.

Sandra questioned if any of the town employees hold a water certification? Administrator Jessica Franklin confirmed that they do not currently hold a water ticket, but they are in training. To apply for Water and Wastewater Operator Certification you must first have one (1) year (the equivalence of 46 weeks, 230 days, or 1840 hours) of experience working in a water treatment plant as well as passing certification examinations with a 70% or higher mark prior to applying for certification. Administrator Jessica Franklin also confirmed that Saskatchewan's Water Security Agency approved Certified Jake Dyck to come in on a weekly basis to confirm the records at the water treatment plant, complete a weekly test and ensure compliance of the towns permit. Jake Dyck's fee is one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120.00) weekly. Mayor Ken Bonokoski also mentioned that the water treatment plant is fully automated. This means that all water usage, chlorine and turbidity is recorded for every second of every day, alarms are set on the system in the case of any fluctuations, and that the public works complete a water test three (3) times weekly to ensure the accuracy of the automated system. The Water Security Agency completes bi-annual inspections on the plant, all records and the system to ensure safety and compliance.

Sandra questioned who ensures the town public works complete their duties? Administrator Jessica Franklin confirmed that there is daily communication between the office and public works employees regarding all work duties and assignments.

Sandra questioned what the cost of garbage pick up was in the last year? Mayor Ken Bonokoski answered the cost in 2022 for wage, fuel and garbage truck repairs totalled thirty-four thousand three hundred forty-five dollars and forty-seven cents (\$34,345.47).

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

*Handwritten initials: JB*

*Sandra questioned whether the garbage pick up will be tendered? Mayor Ken Bonokoski responded that there is no requirement under NWPTA to tender for services under seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00). Also, with the landfill being town owned and operated by Green for Life Environmental Inc., they would likely be advantageous, but there is still further discussion and investigation on costs before signing on to any agreement. Sandy responded that the first year may be a lesser cost, but they could raise it. Councillor Dave Johnson answered that the Town currently has a five (5) year agreement with GFL to operate the landfill, the agreement is up for renewal, and this could be negotiated as an additional clause on the renewed five (5) year agreement.*

*Sandra raised the concern that the garbage truck was supposed to be replaced and it hasn't been. Mayor Bonokoski confirmed that the garbage truck currently has 23,000 km, it was purchased new, and the trash compacter unit was bought used.*

*Mayor Ken Bonokoski had photos to show Sandra of the health concerns regarding hand picking residents garbage. The photos were graphic containing depictions of what the public works employees have to handle. Some of the photos had garbage covered in maggots and feces. Also, there has been reports of public works employees getting stabbed by loose needles. Sandra confirmed it is not OK what she had seen in the photos, but questioned why we can't pass bylaws to stop this. Councillor Dave Johnson replied that there are bylaws regarding this. It is difficult to accurately handle bylaw enforcement on this issue, how can you regulate the weight of a bag of garbage, someone may think the bag is under 45lbs, which is depicted in our town bylaw, but it could weigh much more. This could result in an employee picking it up and hurting themselves. A workers compensation claim affects all residents as it raises insurance premiums and that is a direct cost on taxes paid by residents.*

*Sandra questioned what has happened to commissionaires and our bylaw enforcement. Councillor Dave Johnson responded that it was not cost efficient to have a commissionaire come for three (3) hours a week, pick and choose which properties and bylaws to address, and to pay for drive time on top of the three (3) hours of service. The commissionaires charge drive time from Regina, SK. which amounts to four (4) hours of driving on each week's invoice.*

*Sandra said that the issues depicted in the photos must be addressed! Sandra said that there should be consequences. All members of Council responded that they are trying their best to investigate options on safe garbage refuse and how to properly handle the necessity.*

*Council is looking into the benefits and costs involved for all residents to have their own curbside pick up bin.*

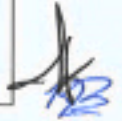
*Sandra questioned if the town has a qualified grader operator? Mayor Ken Bonokoski confirmed that the town does employ a qualified grader operator, however the grader has been incurring high costs and is not in working condition, the grader is forty-eight (48) years old. The council has been having discussion on whether to keep incurring costs on this machine or other fruitful options.*

*Sandra asked what the truck route in town is? Sandra mentioned that the Town of Bienfait website has Aldridge Street listed. Mayor Ken Bonokoski confirmed that the website will be changed to reflect that Main Street is the only street in town designated for any heavy traffic. The Fire Department is to utilize Main Street.*

*Sandra questioned how the union was "busted"? Mayor Ken Bonokoski responded that as an employer, there was absolutely no involvement as it could result in an unfair labour practise. The employees made decisions that we cannot answer to.*

*Sandra asked about whether the generators are properly running and checked on? Mayor Ken Bonokoski confirmed that Cummins Sales and Service come out annually to service and inspect both generators for the town. One is located at the water treatment plant, and one at the lift station. Cummins Sales and Service come in the spring season, and they will be scheduled to come within a few weeks time.*

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**



*Sandra questioned whether the town will be hiring summer students? Administrator Jessica Franklin confirmed that there are two (2) public works and one (1) museum summer student scheduled to start May 8, 2023. Sandra questioned whether there was a grant for this? Administrator Jessica Franklin confirmed that the town received the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Approval for the hiring of the three (3) employees.*

*6:32 p.m. Sandra Hedstrom departed the meeting.*

*6:34 p.m. Chris Smyth met with Council to present the Public Works Report.*

*Chris started by thanking Council for their support during this year's snow removal. Turnbull's had been contracted to help with some of the snow removal, but there are still efficiencies to be addressed.*

*Chris said that the shop lights have been replaced to LED. This is very much appreciated.*

*The spring run off had went smoothly as they are unaware of any flooding or basements backing up. Mayor Ken Bonokoski was a big help in this as he has shown the employees where the drainage is and what infrastructure requires attention.*

*Chris confirmed that he has taken two (2) Water and Wastewater Operator Certification exams, the Class 1 Water Treatment and Distribution as well as the Class 1 Wastewater Treatment and Collection. Both employees will be attending the Lagoon Operation and Maintenance class.*

*Summer students are scheduled to start May 8, 2023.*

*The street sweeper will be prepared to take out next week after spring maintenance has been completed on the vehicle.*

*The mowers and weed whippers are also planned to have maintenance completed next week.*

*Chris mentioned that there is a lot of maintenance to be done. Almost every piece of equipment has been widely neglected, Chris said how disheartening it truly is. The employees plan on bringing the equipment and vehicles to an acceptable rate of service.*

*Chris has plans to start a vehicle maintenance program for oil changes and servicing.*

*Repairs on all equipment continue to mount. Examples being pumps, mowers, weed whippers, snowblower, vehicles etc.*

*The employees have confirmed they will create Standard Operating Procedures for Public Works, that way anyone who comes into the position can have documents prepared to execute routine operations. This should create consistency within the municipality.*

*Public Works are looking into getting quotes for tin repairs on the Public Works Shop, as it was noted the roof had holes in it and was badly leaking. When this was investigated further, it appeared to have bullet holes peppering the building coming from inside the Public Works shop.*

*Chris questioned whether the diesel and gas slip tanks can be utilized? The gas slip tank could be beneficial for filling the mowers as opposed to having to go to the gas station for every fill. The diesel slip tank will be utilized for the crack sealing machine.*

*Crack sealing is scheduled to start late May or early June. There has been discussion with Lampman Council and Public Works employees for demonstrations on how to properly operate the machine. If the weather is too hot, the material takes too long to seal.*

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

*AF*  
*10/23*

*The employees have prepared a four-inch (4") trash pump and hosing at the lift station in case of emergencies of torrential rain downpours, this will ensure we are prepared at any time for any sewer back ups. The motto that we have is "be proactive as opposed to reactive".*

*Chris said he is looking forward to a great summer ahead!*

*6:48 p.m. Chris departed the meeting.*

*7:11 p.m. Amanda Pukas met with Council to discuss the possibility of creating a Recreation Director position within the Town of Bienfait.*

*Amanda mentioned that Bienfait is one of the only towns within Southeast Saskatchewan who does not employ a Recreation Director. Lampman, Oxbow, Carnduff, Alameda are all towns who employ a Recreation Director.*

*Amanda had said that this person could help with all of the town's facilities, being the Bienfait Curling Rink, Bienfait Memorial Arena, Bienfait Swimming Pool, Bienfait Public Library, etc.*

*Amanda envisions this person organizing the facilities with scheduling, fundraising, searching and applying for grants. It would also help aid in community-based events.*

*Some of the boards include hockey, baseball, and the board members would still be a necessity for decision making.*

*Employing one (1) Recreation Director as a full-time position to be involved with all of the boards and facilities would be very beneficial as that one (1) person would know what grants have been applied for, how many times each grant has been applied to, what kind of fundraisers are being held and when, these things are being overlapped by each individual board. It would also include all deposits, bank reconciliations, and handling of moneys.*

*Currently, Amanda is the Bienfait Memorial Arena treasurer and scheduler. Amanda says this position alone is twenty (20) hours a week.*

*Finding the right person for this position would be challenging. Amanda confirmed that she would help aid in finding this specific person.*

*Amanda's opinion regarding hiring a full-time position would not negate or be harmful in deterring volunteer positions within the facilities.*

*It was noted that in the past years, donations to these facilities have been ranging anywhere from twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000.00); this donation from the town's operating account could be used to help fund the wage for a Recreation Director. It was also mentioned that other towns co-share the cost of this position with the neighboring RM's. Amanda mentioned she will look into this further and forward any information she finds to the town.*

*7:35 p.m. Amanda Pukas departed the meeting.*

**23/04/26-04 Minutes:**

**Johnson/Rensby**

THAT the minutes of March 23, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council shall be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

**23/04/26-05 Reports:**

**Wheeler/Resler**

THAT the following reports be accepted as presented:

- a. Verbal Reports
  - Council Reports
  - Public Works Reports
- b. Waterworks Operational Records – March 2023

**Carried**

*At  
10:15*

**23/04/26-06 Financials:**

**a. Bill List No. 1**

**Wheeler/Rensby**

THAT Bill List No. 1 as indicated by cheque #10919 – cheque #10948 in the amount of \$42,881.37 is approved for payment as presented.

**Carried**

**b. Payroll List No. 1:**

**Resler/Rensby**

THAT Payroll List No. 1 as indicated by cheque #10314 – cheque #10317 in the amount of \$6,313.00 is approved for payment as presented.

**Carried**

**c. Payroll List No. 2:**

**Resler/Rensby**

THAT Payroll List No. 1 as indicated by cheque #10318 – cheque #10321 in the amount of \$6,350.09 is approved for payment as presented.

**Carried**

**d. Council Renumeration:**

**Resler/Rensby**

THAT Council Renumeration for the months of April 2023 as indicated by cheque #10326 – cheque #10329 in the amount of \$1,420.00 is approved for payment as presented.

**Carried**

**e. Financial Statements:**

**Wheeler/Resler**

THAT the Financial Statements for the Months of March 2023 shall be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**f. Mastercard Payments**

**Resler/Rensby**

THAT the Mastercard Payments for the Months of March 2023 shall be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**g. Bank Reconciliations:**

**Christensen/Wheeler**

THAT the following Bank Reconciliations shall be approved as presented:

- 1. CU Operating Account – March 2023

**Carried**

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

**23/04/26-07 Unfinished Business:**

a.) **Recreation Director**  
**Resler/Johnson**

THAT the Recreation Director be tabled to the next regular meeting of Council; AND that the Administrator shall invite a member of the Swimming Pool Board and Curling Rink Board to the Council meeting to discuss their opinion on hiring a Recreation Director.

**Carried**

*Handwritten initials: JF, TCB*

**23/04/26-08 New Business:**

a.) **GMB SouthSask Exterminator and Pest Control**  
**Boyer/Rensby**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall contract GMB SouthSask Exterminator for pest control services within the Town of Bienfait at a cost of three hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) monthly; AND to complete gopher control at the Blue Jay's Ball Diamonds and Bienfait Cemetery at an additional cost.

**Carried**

b.) **SGI Clam ES SK 005448376**  
**Wheeler/Christensen**

THAT due to the incident report dated July 13, 2022, of an employee backing into another employee's personal vehicle with a lawn mower and causing damage during work hours, the town shall pay the cost of the repair in the amount of four thousand four hundred forty-one dollars and forty-three cents (\$4,441.43) due to the damage being below the town's deductible of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

**Carried**

c.) **2023 Education Property Tax Mill Rates**  
**Johnson/Boyer**

THAT the Council for the Town of Bienfait shall accept the 2023 Education Property Tax Mill Rates as confirmed by an Order in Council of the Province of Saskatchewan:

Agricultural Property	1.42 mills
Residential Property	4.54 mills
Commercial/Industrial	6.86 mills
Resource (oil and gas, mines and pipelines)	9.88 mills

**Carried**

d.) **2023 Board of Revision Appointment**  
**Boyer/Johnson**

THAT the firm of Western Municipal Consulting Ltd., of Meota, Saskatchewan, shall be appointed to provide Board of Revision and secretarial services to the Town of Bienfait to hear 2023 Assessment Appeals with the understanding that a two-hundred- and fifty-dollar (\$250.00) dollar non-refundable retainer is required.

**Carried**

e.) **2023 Energy City Exhibition Sponsor Request**  
**Resler/Rensby**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall authorize the donation of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars to the Estevan Exhibition Association; AND this donation will aid in the Family in Need Program to purchase ride pass and gate admissions to families in need.

**Carried**

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

f.) **Quotes for Ramp at WTP**

**Boyer/Resler**

That the following quotes were received to supply and build a ramp to fit over water pipes at the Water Treatment Plant and to modify the orange stand to allow for purchasing of 114 litre drums of hypochlorite at lower costs.

KRJ Custom Fabricating Ltd.	\$1,695.98
Richards Welding Inc.	\$6,105.00

That the Town of Bienfait approves KRJ Custom Fabricating to supply and build the ramp for the Water Treatment Plant.

**Carried**

g.) **Resident Response 04-10-2023**

**Wheeler/Resler**

THAT the Council for the Town of Bienfait acknowledges the response from a town resident stating their support of the staff and council for the Town of Bienfait.

**Carried**

h.) **Canada Summer Jobs Grant Approval**

**Rensby/Boyer**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall sign and submit the approval of the Canada Summer Jobs Grant Agreement project number 019129279 for the hiring of summer students.

**Carried**

i.) **Cummins Sales & Service Annual Generator Service Quote**

**Resler/Johnson**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall approve the Planned Maintenance Agreement from Cummins Canada ULC for the price of two thousand eight hundred forty-one dollars (\$2,841.00) plus applicable taxes; and that the Planned Maintenance Agreement will be performed on the 80KW Genset and the 50KW Genset; and that the Agreement shall be subject to a one (1) year term.

**Carried**

j.) **Letter of Support for a Rafferty Reservoir Marina Phase 2**

**Boyer/Rensby**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall write a letter of support for SSEP to obtain funding through the CCTI-IF for the Marina Phase 2 project.

**Carried**

k.) **MLA Lori Carr Meeting Proposal**

**Wheeler/Johnson**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall invite MLA Lori Carr to a regular meeting of Council to discuss issues arising locally while keeping the lines of communication strong between levels of government.

**Carried**

l.) **1987 Champion Grader**

**Boyer/Johnson**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall register the 1987 Champion Grader with Mack Auction Co. for the 2023 Estevan Motor Speedway Timed Online Consignment Auction event to take place June 17, 2023.

**Carried**

**TOWN OF BIENFAIT**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council**  
**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Office at Bienfait, Saskatchewan**

**m.) 1975 Dodge Fire Truck**

**Resler/Christensen**

THAT the Town of Bienfait shall register the 1975 Dodge Fire Truck with Mack Auction Co. for the 2023 Estevan Motor Speedway Timed Online Consignment Auction event to take place June 17, 2023.

**Carried**

**n.) Post Office Polls**

**Resler/Rensby**

THAT the Town of Bienfait authorizes the public works employees to remove the polls at the Bienfait Post Office.

**Carried**

**o.) Pavement Repairs**

**Johnson/Rensby**

THAT the pavement repairs be tabled to the next regular meeting of Council to ensure the sewer and water lines are in good condition prior to obtaining quotes; AND that the Administrator shall obtain quotes for pothole repairs within the Town of Bienfait.

**Carried**

**23/04/26-09 Correspondence:**

**Christensen/Rensby**

THAT the correspondence as listed on the agenda be acknowledged and filed for future reference.

**Carried**


**23/04/26-10 Other Business:**


**23/04/26-11 Adjournment:**

**Bonokoski/Rensby**

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

**Carried**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator