

Village of Hines Creek Council Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting:	Regular Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	August 27, 2019
Originated By:	Leanne Walmsley, Chief Administrative Officer
Title:	New Business – Rural Crime Watch
File:	0805

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Both Clear Hills County and M.D. of Fairview are interested in seeing if there is interest with starting a Rural Crime Watch Group.

Attached are the following:

1. Annual Rural Crime Watch Meeting Minutes, February 8th, 2018.
2. Email from Audrey Bjorklund to Sgt Beach – RCMP Detachment. On history of Rural Crime Watch Group. As well as corresponding email from Sandra Fox, CAO M.D. of Fairview.
3. Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Convention, Edmonton, November 12th to 15th, 2019.
4. Email from Sgt Beach with request to bring concerns to RMA Conference in November, 2019.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES

On June 12th, 2018 the Village of Hines Creek issued cheque #20180261 in the amount of \$200.00 on behalf of the member municipalities. This cheque was returned and cancelled March 13, 2019 as it was determined that new requirements were members must have Criminal record checks done for this group, so our application was incomplete. This led to an email chain and conversation between the CAO's about whether this organization would continue or not, and it was to be added to the next Joint municipal meeting agenda. There has not been a joint municipal meeting of the three municipalities.

COSTS/SOURCE OF FUNDING (if applicable)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Initials show support- Reviewed by:	Manager:	C.A.O. <i>AW</i>
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Annual Rural Crime Watch Meeting Thursday, February 8, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Municipal District of Fairview No. 136 Council Chambers

Persons Present:

Hazel Reintjes, Village of Hines Creek, Council Rep
Megan Bjornson, Village of Hines Creek, Council Rep
James Adam, MD of Fairview No. 136, Council Rep
Tom Finch, Zone 3 Director
Brenda Kramer, Zone 3 Director
Sandra Rendle, MD of Fairview No. 136
Audrey Bjorklund, Clear Hills County
Sarah Hayward, Clear Hills County

1. CALL TO ORDER: Audrey Bjorklund called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. AGENDA: James Adam moved to adopt the agenda as presented. **CARRIED.**
3. MINUTES: Minutes of the May 4, 2015 meeting were circulated.
MOTION: James Adams moved to adopt the May 4, 2015 minutes as corrected. CARRIED.
4. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE:
MOTION: James Adam to appoint Audrey Bjorklund as the Chair for the Rural Crime Watch. CARRIED.
5. TREASURER'S REPORT:
M.D. of Fairview: James Adam updated on the Fairview Rural Crime Watch account balance was \$20.59.
Clear Hills County: Audrey verbally reported that the bank balance in Clear Hills Rural Crime Watch account was \$641.12.
6. REPORTS:
 - a. Tom Finch: Gave a brief overview of Rural Crime Watch and the importance of this group. He mentioned many organizations are switching from using PhoneTree to One Call Now as it is much faster and can send 400 messages in two minutes. He informed the group to anyone that is interested in attending the Zone 3 meeting in Dawson Creek on March 3, 2018.
 - b. Clear Hills County: Paid this year's Rural Crime Watch membership. Audrey will contact RCMP in regards to not receiving any Rural Crime Watch alerts and will contact Fish & Wildlife to find out who are local officer is, and where they are stationed out of. The One Call Now program will be investigated and information on it shared with the members in case there is interest in switching to this from the current Phone Tree system.
7. ADJOURNMENT Audrey Bjorklund adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Leanne Walmsley

From: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2019 3:41 PM
To: Greg BEACH
Cc: Allan Rowe; Sandra Fox; Leanne Walmsley
Subject: Clear Hills Hines Creek Fairview Rural Crime Watch Group
Attachments: AGM Minutes 20180208.pdf; RE: 2019 Membership Renewal (71.4 KB)

Good Afternoon Greg:

Following up on our phone conversation this morning, please see below the history of the Clear Hills-Hines Creek-Fairview Rural Crime Watch Group and how we got to where we are today. I have cc'd this email to the three CAO's as well.

This partnership was unique in the province at that time of its creation in 2007 (and maybe still is), as each municipality houses the Phone Tree hardware and have staff issue the alerts. Citizens in the municipalities do not have to purchase rural crime watch memberships and can chose to be taken off the fan out list if they don't want to receive the calls. The municipalities take turns paying the annual membership fee. When members were sent to the annual Rural Crime Watch Conference the municipalities also took turns paying any registration or travel costs. The members at large and council members are covered by each municipalities insurance, and we submit a copy of each municipalities Certificate of Insurance when renewing. This group is currently not a registered non-profit society or association and there are no committee bylaws or policies.

2007: this rural crime watch 3 municipality partnership was started. Each municipality assigned a staff member and appointed either a couple Council members or members-at-large from their community to sit on this committee.

October 2007 – Community Crime Prevention Grant of \$10,500 was awarded to the group to purchase the PhoneTree software to set up for issuing rural crime watch alerts. The original grant bought the software and provided the initial training. Each municipality owns their own hardware and license and is responsible for all costs associated with the phone tree system in their office. They also have the freedom to use the software for other fanouts in their community as meets their needs. (ie boil water advisories, etc.)

February 16, 2016 Last rural crime watch fan out message Clear Hills County received and issued was February 16, 2016.

August 2018 The group has held meetings at least once annually. The last meeting was August 2, 2018. The draft minutes from that meeting are attached.

August 6, 2018 received an email from the Alberta Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association that we had not met the new requirement of having Criminal records checks for members of this group, so our 2019 application was incomplete. This led to an email chain and conversations between the CAO's about whether this organization would continue or not, and it was to be added to the next Joint municipal meeting agenda. There has not been a joint municipal meeting of the three municipalities. I have attached the email chain June 24-Aug 9, 2018 for everyone's reference.

So that brings us to today....

I hope this information is helpful.

Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM
Community Development Manager
"If you eat, you are involved in agriculture" Wendell Berry

Clear Hills County Box 240 Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960 Cell: 780-835-0153



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From: Greg BEACH [<mailto:greg.beach@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>]
Sent: August-22-19 12:57 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Subject: Hello,

Hello Audrey,

I was looking to speak to you about getting a Rural Crime Watch group going.

I have spoken to Sandra Fox for the MD of Fairview and she is interested in Rural Crime Watch.

Give me a call when you have time.

Thank you

Greg



Greg BEACH, SGT.
Detachment Commander
Fairview Detachment
Box 610
Fairview, Alberta
Office - 780-835-4031
Fax - 780-835-3950
email - greg.beach@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

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Leanne Walmsley

From: Sandra Fox <sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Audrey Bjorklund
Subject: RE: Fw Rural Crime Watch Group

I agree Audrey.

Sandra Fox
Chief Administrative Officer

Municipal District of Fairview #136
Box 189
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
Phone: 780.835.4903
Fax: 780.835.3131

From: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 9:57 AM
To: Sandra Fox <sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Fw Rural Crime Watch Group

My opinion is to consider it inactive until a direction is agreed to at the joint meeting.

Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM
Community Development Manager
"If you eat, you are involved in agriculture" Wendell Berry

Clear Hills County Box 240 Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960 Cell: 780-835-0153



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From: Sandra Fox [<mailto:sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca>]
Sent: July-30-18 9:25 AM
To: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Fw Rural Crime Watch Group

Thanks for the info Audrey. Are you going to pursue the Provincial affiliation application? Or should we all just consider this group inactive until a direction is agreed upon at a joint council meeting?

Sandra Fox
Chief Administrative Officer

Municipal District of Fairview #136

Box 189
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
Phone: 780.835.4903
Fax: 780.835.3131

From: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2018 8:56 AM
To: Sandra Fox <sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca>
Cc: Leanne Walmsley <walmsley@abnorth.com>; Allan Rowe <Allan@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Fwv Rural Crime Watch Group

Hi Sandra:

Thank you for the response and based on similar feedback from the Village we are suggesting that this topic be included on the next joint municipal meeting agenda of the four municipalities (understanding that the Town of Fairview is not a member) and go from there.

Absolutely correct about the ownership of the licenses & hardware each muni's freedom to use the program as meets their needs.

Structure wise this group has been somewhat "loosely" structured since the beginning with council members being appointed to this committee, and in the beginning there were some members at large, however these seem to have disengaged, (perhaps because it isn't an effective or meaningful committee to spend their volunteer time on.) It is not a registered non-profit society or association and there are no committee bylaws or policies. More of an ad hoc group, so discontinuing the group would not require any closing of books, etc.

I hope this information is helpful, and that a direction can be determined at the joint meeting.

Regards,

Audrey Bjorklund, CLGM

Community Development Manager

"If you eat, you are involved in agriculture" Wendell Berry

Clear Hills County Box 240 Worsley, Alberta T0H 3W0 Phone: 780-685-3925 Fax: 780-685-3960 Cell: 780-835-0153



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From: Sandra Fox [<mailto:sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca>]
Sent: July-27-18 3:05 PM
To: Audrey Bjorklund <Audrey@clearhillscounty.ab.ca>
Subject: Re: Fwv Rural Crime Watch Group

Hi Audrey,

Council discussed your request for feedback regarding the requirement of Criminal Checks for members of this group. Our council has indicated by motion that they are fine with the criminal checks being done.

In regards to the direction this group may go in the future, My understanding is that the Phonetree system each of us has on site is our own system for our own use. Using it for Rural Crime Watch messaging was the instigator for purchasing the software but my understanding is that it belongs to each municipality, so whether the Rural Crime Watch Group exists or not has no bearing on us being able to continue using it for our municipal purposes.

My council is also wondering what the legal status is of this group. Is it a registered not-for profit organization/society/assn with no affiliation to the provincial association unless the provincial association allows it? Is it simply a committee of council. Are there Members-at-large and if so what is the qualification criteria? What kind of liability are our Councillors or members-at-large taking on as members?
Lots of questions about the actual structure of this group. If it is not a registered not-for-profit with bylaws, directors etc., should it be set up that way to encourage objective fulfillment and ongoing activity?

What ever info you can provide would be much appreciated.

Thanks Audrey.

*Sandra Fox
Chief Administrative Officer*

Municipal District of Fairview #136
Box 189
Fairview, AB T0H 1L0
Phone: 780.835.4903
Fax: 780.835.3131



MEMORANDUM / NOTE DE SERVICE

TO / À : All District Commanders, 'K' Division

FROM / DE : Insp. Shane Ramteemal
'K' Division Operations Strategy Branch

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ	Protected A
OUR FILE - NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE	
YOUR FILE - VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE	
DATE	2019-08-22

SUBJECT / OBJET: Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall Convention, Edmonton - November 12th to 15th, 2019

This year's RMA convention will be held in Edmonton at the Edmonton Convention Centre. These meetings will allow the Commanding Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister to have brief discussions with communities regarding various aspects of current and future service delivery.

In order to facilitate meeting with as many communities as possible, I would ask that you have your Detachment Commanders contact their RMA member community representatives to determine if they would like to meet with the Commanding Officer and his management team at the convention. Should the Rural Municipalities wish to meet, please determine their service delivery points of concern, so we can prepare for the meetings ahead of time.

Detachment and District level service delivery concerns are part of the ongoing relationship management at those levels and are best addressed at in-person meetings between yourselves and those communities. Issues that are relative to Division management or that would have a Division-wide impact would be topics for these meetings with the Commanding Officer and Assistant Deputy Minister. Communities who have no specific concerns, but would still like to meet will not be afforded meetings this year. As the Client Services Officer for the Division, I am more than happy to have meetings before, during or after the RMA Conference with those communities that still wish to have their issues raised to a Divisional level, as a means to mitigate some of the numerous requests.

For only those communities that wish to meet, please forward the community name and the issues/concerns they wish to discuss via email to Jessica Garrett and myself no later than Friday September 20, 2019. Please include a community contact name, their email address and their telephone number in your submission. Once the schedule is finalized, Operations Strategy Branch will advise you and each community of their appointment times.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Insp. Shane Ramteemal
'K' Division Operations Strategy Branch
Phone: 780-412-5259

Leanne Walmsley

From: Greg BEACH <greg.beach@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2019 3:51 PM
To: allan@clearhillscounty.ab.ca; sandra.fox@mdfairview.ab.ca; walmsley@abnorth.com
Subject: RMA Nov 12-15, 2019
Attachments: Memo to DOs - 2019-08-22_1.pdf

Hello,

Please read the attachment and get back to me about any concerns that you would like to bring up at the RMA in November, 2019. I understand that some community members have expressed their concern about the increase of rural crime and the optics of the court system being soft.

The Rural Municipalities Association meetings would be the opportunity to express your communities concern.

I look forward to your replies.

Thank you
Greg

RCMP GRC

Greg BEACH, SGT.
Detachment Commander
Fairview Detachment
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Fairview, Alberta
Office - 780-835-4031
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