

LAC LA BICHE COUNTY
Loss of Medevac Fixed Wing Base
STRATEGIC SESSION

McArthur Place, LAC LA BICHE

August 22, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.

Minutes of the Lac La Biche County Strategic Session held on August 20, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

PRESENT	Aurel Langevin	Mayor
	Alvin Kumpula	Councillor
	Robert Richard	Councillor
	Guy Piquette	Councillor
	Eugene Uganecz	Councillor
	MJ Siebold	Councillor
	Gail Broadbent-Ludwig	Councillor / Deputy Mayor
	John Nowak	Councillor (arrived at 10:14 a.m.)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE	Roy Brideau	Chief Administrative Officer
	Shadia Amblie	General Manager, Communications & Human Services
	Lonna Hoggan	Legislative Services Liaison / Recording Secretary

REGRETS	Tim Thompson	Councillor
----------------	--------------	------------

ATTENDEES	Dr. Frederik Steyn
	Dr. Stan Kolber, Canadian Industrial Paramedics
	Marvin Fyten, Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council
	Lise Warawa, Cenovus
	Godfrey Huybregts, Facilitator

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Langevin welcomed all those present and provided introductory comments. Mayor Langevin advised that Mr. Huybregts would be facilitating the meeting and leading the discussions.

3.1 Why Are We Here?

All of those in attendance discussed the purpose of the session, which was to acquire information or key points which have not been discussed to date.

3.2 What We Know

All of those in attendance discussed:

- Fort Vermilion is another community that will be affected by this change on February 1, 2014.
- MacKenzie County would like the County to share any information obtained.

Councillor Nowak arrived at 10:14 a.m.

- The level of equipment on the Medevac plane will remain the same, however, training for medical crew will be increased.
- Lac La Biche is in a strategic location for the Medevac plane and the system was working so it is uncertain as to the reason for this change.
- There are many small communities nearby that rely on this service.
- The Medevac service is not cancelled, it is delayed 20 minutes.
- If Lac La Biche can't obtain enhanced Medevac services, or equal to what we have right now, then we need enhanced medical services in our hospital to handle more serious medical conditions locally. These are two separate issues.
- It appears that the Minister of Health does not have accurate or all the necessary information to make the decision to relocate the Medevac Fixed Wing Base.
- A proper study was not done, based on the conclusions and decisions that Alberta Health has made regarding the Medevac services in this area. E.g. Data and statistics on the number of flights/trips; and population growth in Lac La Biche County and the areas served.
- Access to the data collected by Mr. Snodgrass and Mr. Mackenzie has been an issue.
- Alberta Health is stating that the change will improve care but we don't have data or information to back that up.
- There will be a negative impact if the response time for emergency care is decreased.
- According to Alberta Health, cost is not the reason for this change.
- We value and appreciate the opinion of our local medical professionals.

3.3 What Can We Do?

All of those present discussed options:

- Conduct a critical analysis in order to examine the likelihood of success before we take this any further.
- Suggest the existing Medevac system has better coordination, and incorporate the coordination of STARS.

Councillor Kumpula left the room at 10:48 a.m.

- We can garner support from surrounding communities to make a stronger stand on the disagreement of this change.
- We can educate surrounding communities as they may be unaware of the possible impact that this change may have on them.

Councillor Kumpula returned at 10:57 a.m.

- If we proceed, our focus must be on the region, not just Lac La Biche County.
- Inquire as to the possibilities of having a helicopter based here in Lac La Biche.

3.4 What Will We Do?

All of those present discussed actions:

- Contact Mr. Snodgrass, Mr. Mackenzie and Alberta Health to obtain the data/statistics they obtained.
- Ask questions and pose concerns that have not already been discussed with Alberta Health.
- Act on facts, statistics and conclusions.

RECESS

Mr. Huybregts called a recess at 11:32 a.m.

RECONVENE

Mr. Huybregts reconvened the meeting at 11:48 a.m. with all those Members of Council previously listed in attendance.

3.5 Wrap-up (next steps)

All of those in attendance discussed next steps:

- Obtain data and information from Alberta Health Services through our local Doctors.
- Involve the media.
- Coordinate a strategic plan based on data, solutions and new models.
- A committee consisting of medical staff, Council Members and members of local and surrounding communities will move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Aurel Langevin, Mayor

**J. Roy Brideau, CLGM, CMM
Chief Administrative Officer**

Adopted