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Town of Big River
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2026 – Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Big River was held in the Community Centre Board Room, 606 1st Street North, on March 16, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

Present:

Mayor:	David Krawetz
Councillors:	Chad Dunn
	Lana Meyers
	Shirley Schwab
	Greg Sundby
Administrator:	Noreen Olsen

CALL TO ORDER
A quorum being present, Mayor David Krawetz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA
RES#51/26
Schwab: THAT the March 16, 2026, Agenda be adopted with the power to add.
Carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
RES#52/26
Meyers: THAT the Administrator's Report be accepted as presented.
Carried.

MAINTENANCE AND SEWER & WATER REPORTS
Maintenance Foreman, Terry Olsen attended the meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 10:43 a.m.
RES#53/26
Dunn: THAT the Sewer and Water and Maintenance reports to February 28, 2026, be accepted.
Carried.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – MAINTENANCE LABOURER (PUBLIC WORKS)
RES#54/26
Sundby: THAT the Town of Big River proceeds with advertising for the hiring of two summer employees for the position of Maintenance Labourer - Public Works, to work 32 hours per week, Monday to Friday, commencing July 6 to August 28, 2026, at a rate of $18.00 per hour.
Carried.

DELEGATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
RES#55/26
Sundby: THAT the minutes of February 16, 2026, Regular Meeting be adopted as presented.
Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Town of Big River
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND BANK RECONCILIATION

RES#56/26

Schwab: THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of February 2026 be acknowledged.
Carried.

RES#57/26

Meyers: THAT the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2026 be acknowledged.
Carried.

RES#58/26

Meyers: THAT the Journal Entries for the month of February 2026 be acknowledged.
Carried.

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RES#59/26

Meyers: THAT the Audited Financial Statements of the Town of Big River for the year ending December 31, 2025, as prepared by BDO Canada LLP, be approved; THAT the Year-End Report to Council be received for information; and THAT the Audited Financial Statements be submitted to the Ministry of Government Relations.
Carried.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

RES#60/26

Dunn: THAT accounts for approval to include EFT payments No. 197 to 224 and cheque No. 22253 through 22272 for a total of $285,451.15 plus payment to Earthworks Equipment in the amount of $453.04 and Gregg Distributors in the amount of $223.50 be approved for payment.
Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

RES#61/26

Meyers: THAT Correspondence be filed as presented.
Carried.

BOARDS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

BIG RIVER AND DISTRICT RECREATION AND CULTURAL BOARD
ACCESS COMMUNICATIONS ARENA PUBLIC WI-FI SPONSORSHIP

RES#62/26

Meyers: THAT Council acknowledge that the Big River and District Recreation and Cultural Board has approved entering into an agreement with Access Communications for the sponsorship and installation of public Wi-Fi at the Big River Arena, including the provision of a separate internet line for LIVEBarn, in exchange for the placement of two

4' x 8' Access Communications advertising signs within the arena and small QR code stickers to provide public Wi-Fi access, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

BALL DIAMOND LEASE AGREEMENT 2026
RES#63/26
Dunn: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River has no objection to signing the lease agreement with Big River Minor Sports Association for the ball season from April 15th to June 30, 2026, for $1,950.00 (plus GST) for the season, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

BIG RIVER AND DISTRICT FIRE COMMITTEE
FIRE PUMPER TRUCK DELIVERY
RES#64/26
Dunn: THAT Council acknowledges, for the record, that the 2024 Acres Prestige Series top-mount enclosed pumper fire apparatus, mounted on a Freightliner M2-106 chassis, purchased jointly with the R.M. of Big River No. 555 under Resolution #278/23, was delivered on March 13, 2026; THAT the apparatus has been paid in full; and that it is now in active service.
Carried.

REGIONAL PARK LEASE 2026
RES#65/26
Dunn: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River has no objection to renewing the annual lease agreement with Big River Regional Park Authority for the 2026 season, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

BIG RIVER AND DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION 2026 BUDGET
RES#66/26
Schwab: THAT the 2026 Big River and District Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) Budget be accepted as presented, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

Council recessed from 9:51 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

PERSONNEL
RES#67/26
Schwab: THAT Erica Lasante be confirmed as a permanent employee with the Town of Big River following the successful completion of her six-month probationary period, and THAT effective March 1, 2026, her wage be increased by $1.00 per hour.
Carried.

AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYEE TIME POLICY – BANKED HOURS
RES#68/26
Meyers: THAT the Banked Hours section of the Employee Time Policy be amended to allow employees to bank up to 40 hours (5 days) per quarter, with any hours exceeding 40 paid out at the employee's regular rate; and THAT all banked hours must be used within the same quarter, with any unused hours paid out at quarter end and balances reset to zero, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

RES#69/26
Dunn: THAT the Board/Committee Reports be filed as presented.
Carried.

OLD BUSINESS
RFNOW INC. – FIBRE NETWORK EXPANSION – POINT OF PRESENCE (POP) SITE
RES#70/26
Dunn: THAT Council approve a lease agreement with RFNOW Inc. for a Point of Presence (PoP) site on Town-owned land at Block 11 Plan BB1645 for $400 per month ($200 lease and $200 maintenance), and that the Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

NEW BUSINESS
NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL PERMIT
RES#71/26
Meyers: THAT the Town make application to renew the Nuisance Wildlife Control permit to control muskrats at the town lagoon area, and THAT Jason Klassen be named as the Nuisance Control Officer.
Carried.

PROPOSAL - MOBILE CEDAR BARREL SAUNA
RES#72/26
Dunn: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River has no objection to the request from Dustin Davidson for the operation of a mobile cedar barrel sauna in the Town of Big River, subject to the following conditions:

- Valid Town Business Licence and liability insurance.
- Minimum 30 ft from structures; must not block emergency access.
- Coordination with Farmer's Market/Flea Market at Settlement Square; other locations require approval.
- Temporary placement; daily removal if not part of a two-day event.
- Operator provides equipment, manages the sauna, and maintains waste, signage, and accessibility.
- No operation during fire bans (wood stove) or severe weather; reasonable noise only.
- Compliance with health and safety standards, including fire safety and structural integrity.

Carried.

2026 UMAAS SPRING WORKSHOP
RES#73/26
Sundby: THAT Noreen Olsen and Roxanne Carrillo attend the Enhanced Municipal Administration Program (EMAP) Urban Municipal Administrators' Association (UMAAS) workshop on March 25, 2026, in Prince Albert with associated expenses paid.
Carried.

OFFICE CLOSURE – MARCH 25, 2026
RES#74/26
Meyers: THAT the Town Office be closed on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, due to administrative staff attending the UMAAS workshop.
Carried.

REQUEST FOR SARCAN DEPOT FEASIBILITY REVIEW
RES#75/26
Sundby: THAT Council direct Administration to send a letter to the Honourable Darlene Rowden, Minister of Environment, requesting that the Ministry of Environment and SARCAN reconsider the establishment of a SARCAN recycling depot in Big River and undertake an updated feasibility assessment for the community and surrounding region.
Carried.

Council recessed from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

BUILD CANADA HOMES PROGRAM – METIS NATION SASKATCHEWAN
LETTER OF SUPPORT
RES#76/26
Schwab: WHEREAS the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan has proposed a housing development under the Build Canada Homes Program to provide four (4) affordable housing units in the Town of Big River;
AND WHEREAS the Town of Big River recognizes the importance of supporting affordable housing initiatives that strengthen our community and provide sustainable living opportunities for residents;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Big River:

- Provide a Letter of Support for the proposed project;
- Collaborate with the proponent to facilitate compliance with the Town's Zoning Bylaw and any other applicable regulations;
- Provide a list of municipally owned lands that may be suitable for development; and;
- Work proactively to support the timely and successful implementation of this project.

Carried.

MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES/SASKATCHEWAN HOUSING
RES#77/26
Dunn: Council acknowledges the upcoming meeting on March 31, 2026, with the Minister of Social Services, and representatives from Saskatchewan Housing, to discuss ongoing housing concerns in Big River. The discussion will focus on the urgent need for additional senior housing units, the potential sale of select units to local residents, and the demolition of deteriorated housing units.
Carried.

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BOARD ROOM CABLE CONDUIT INSTALLATION
RES#78/26
Schwab: THAT the Town approves to cost share with the R.M. of Big River No. 555 for the installing of a conduit in the board room to route cables from the board room table to the television.
Carried.

2025 WATERWORKS RATE POLICY CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
RES#79/26
Dunn: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River adopt the 2025 *Waterworks Rate Policy/Capital Investment Strategy/Financial Overview* document, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

2026 BUDGET
RES#80/26
Dunn: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River approves the Town of Big River's 2026 Budget as presented, a copy of which is attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes.
Carried.

2026 MILL RATE
RES#81/26
Schwab: THAT the 2026 Municipal Mill Rate be set to 5.5 mills.
Carried.

BYLAWS

NEXT MEETING DATE
April 20, 2026 @ 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT
RES#82/26
Dunn: THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Mayor

Administrator