



RM of Rosthern #403

Agenda

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 3.1. May 7/2024 Regular Meeting
4. **10:00 PUBLIC HEARING - BYLAW 3.2024 ZONING AMENDMENT**
 - 4.1. Bylaw 3.2024 Zoning Amendment
5. **DELEGATIONS**
 - 5.1. 10:15AM - Andrew Robin - Transparency
 - 5.2. 10:30AM - Tetra Tech - Landfill Decommission Discussion
6. **CORRESPONDENCE**
 - 6.1. Bylaw Enforcement Reports
 - 6.2. Rosthern AG Society - Request for Special Occasion Permit
 - 6.3. Twin Rivers
 - 6.4. R.C.M.P Quarter Report
 - 6.5. Hudson Bay Route Association
 - 6.6. North Central Transportation Planning Committee
 - 6.7. South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards Inc.
 - 6.8. Workshop Available for Council and Administration
 - 6.9. Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation
 - 6.10. Farm & Food Care
7. **PUBLIC WORKS**
 - 7.1. Foreman & Division Verbal Reports
 - 7.2. Back Road Maintenance Discussion
 - 7.3. Electronic Approval - Road Detour Maintenance Agreement - Highway 312 Construction

7.4. Provincial Traffic Count Program

8. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMITTEE'S

8.1. Administrator Report

8.2. Council Indemnity

8.3. Financials

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1. Bank Contract

9.2. Outside Office Sign

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. AG Health and Safety Clinics

10.2. 5-Year Capital Plan

10.3. Bylaw 4.2024 - Financial Statement Extension

10.4. Bylaw 7.2022 - Incentives and Penalties to be discussed

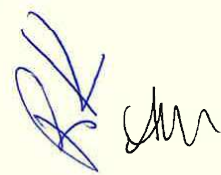
10.5. Bylaw 5.2024 Uniform Mill Rate

10.6. Bylaw 6.2024 Mill Rate Factor / Base Tax

10.7. Organized Hamlet of Neuanlage

11. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12. ADJOURNMENT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'R' followed by a cursive name, possibly 'R. Smith'.



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSTHERN NO. 403: REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 4TH 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 was held in the R.M Council Chambers located at 1001 6th Street Rosthern, SK on Tuesday June 4th 2024 commencing at 9:00AM.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

REEVE - ROGER KINZEL

COUNCILLORS: RICK POCHIPINSKI – DIVISION 1, GLENN BRAUN – DIVISION 3, LEO PERRIN – DIVISION 4, CHAD KRIKAU – DIVISION 5, CHARLES KRIKAU – DIVISION 6, TOM MADDEN – DIVISION 7

ABSENT: LARRY FEHR – DIVISION 2

ADMINISTRATOR: AMANDA MCCORMICK

VIA ZOOM MEETING ONLINE - OPEN TO PUBLIC WITH 2 IN ATTENDANCE (1 Municipal Employee K.F / 1 Gallery - G. B as registered)

IN PERSON GALLERY – 1 RESIDENT (A.R)

Reeve read the Conduct of public to gallery – 9:00AM (Section 34- Bylaw 9.2023)

AGENDA 237.2024

DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 4:

That Council approve the agenda presented with the following additions:

- Additional Invoices
- In Camera – Section 12 of the Council Procedures Bylaw 9.2023 – Legal

CARRIED

MINUTES 238.2024

DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 4:

That the minutes from May 7th 2024 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOVE TO ITEM 239.2024

DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 3:

That Council move to item 6 on the agenda.

CARRIED

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

240.2024

DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 5:

That Council accept the Bylaw Enforcement reports from the Month of May as presented.

CARRIED

ROSTHERN AG SOCIETY – SPECIAL OCCASION PERMIT

241.2024

DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 6:

That Council approve the request for special occasion permit from the Rosthern AG Society for the 2024 Rodeo on the following dates:

- July 26, 2024
- July 27, 2024
- July 28, 2024

CARRIED

TWIN RIVERS

242.2024

DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 7:

That Council accept the minutes as presented from the Twin Rivers Group from the May meeting.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR FEHR ENTERED MEETING – 9:16AM

HUDSON BAY ROUTE ASSOCIATION

243.2024

DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 1:

That Council send Councillor Braun to the Hudson Bay Route Association AGM. That Councillors Madden and Charles Krikau be alternate.

CARRIED

SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER WATERSHED STEWARDS INC.

244.2024

DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 6:

That Council send Councillors Fehr and Madden to the SSRWSI meeting June 13th 2024 in Saskatoon.

CARRIED

SASKATCHEWAN 4-H FOUNDATION

245.2024

DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 2:

That Council donate \$500 to the Saskatchewan 4-H Foundation for 2024.

CARRIED

FILE CORRESPONDENCE

246.2024

DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 1:

That Council file correspondence.

CARRIED

MOVE TO ITEM

247.2024

DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 7:

That Council move to item 8 on the agenda.

CARRIED

PAST COUNCIL & STAFF APPRECIATION

248.2024

DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 5:

That Council set up a past Council and Staff Appreciation lunch to be set for July 9th 2024 at the RM office. Vic Janzen and Robert Baynton be invited to receive their recognition award.

CARRIED

DIVISION 6 ELECTION DOCUMENTS

249.2024

DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 1:

That the election documents from the Division 6 Bi-Election be destroyed as per the Act.

CARRIED

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

250.2024

DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 6:

That the verbal Administrator report be filed.

CARRIED



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSTHERN NO. 403:
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 4TH 2024**

COUNCIL INDEMNITY

251.2024 **DIVISION 2 / DIVISION 7:**
That Council Indemnity be approved as presented in the amount of \$ 4,088.80.

CARRIED

DIRECT DEPOSIT PAYROLL

252.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council approve the Direct Deposit payroll for the month of May as verbally presented in the amount of \$ 65,718.23.

CARRIED

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL

253.2024 **DIVISION 4 / DIVISION 2:**
That Council approve the list of accounts presented cheque number 17126 - 17155 and the manual online payment numbers 1835-MAN – 1862-MAN in the amount of \$ 103,825.49.

CARRIED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

254.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council accept the Financial Statement Summary as presented for the month of May.

CARRIED

BANK RECONCILIATION

255.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 2:**
That Council approve the bank reconciliation for the month of April 2024.

CARRIED

BREAK FOR RECESS – 9:50AM – 10:01AM

MOVE TO ITEM

256.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 6:**
That Council move to item 4 on the agenda.

CARRIED

PUBLIC HEARING – BYLAW 3.2024 ZONING AMENDMENT

257.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 4:**
That Council move to Public Hearing for Bylaw 3.2024 – bylaw to amend the zoning – 10:00AM

CARRIED

0 – verbal submission 0- written submissions

1 – in person - no comment

2- online as noted in the above attendance (no comments – administrator requested online to unmute themselves should they wish to address the issue.)

258.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council close public hearing and return to regular Council meeting – 10:05AM

CARRIED

BYLAW 3.2024 – ZONING AMENDMENT

259.2024 **DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 1:**
That Bylaw 3.2024, being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan a bylaw to amend the zoning bylaw be given its second reading.

CARRIED

260.2024 **DIVISION 2 / DIVISION 6:**
That Bylaw 3.2024 go to third reading this day.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

261.2024 **DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 7:**
That Bylaw 3.2024 being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan a bylaw to amend the zoning bylaw be given its third and final reading and be adopted this day.

CARRIED

**DELEGATION – ANDREW ROBIN – THE ATTACHED STATEMENT BE ADDED TO THE MINUTES AS REQUESTED.
10:05AM – 10:18AM**

262.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 2:**
That Council have discussion at the next meeting on recording the meetings held by Council.

CARRIED

MOVE TO ITEM

263.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 4:**
That Council move to item 9.1 on the agenda.

CARRIED

BANK CONTRACT

264.2024 **DIVISION 4 / DIVISION 6:**
That Council sign the contract with the Affinity Credit Union for banking services.

CARRIED

MOVE TO ITEM

265.2024 **DIVISION 4 / DIVISION 6:**
That Council move to item 5.2 on the agenda.

CARRIED

DELEGATION – TETRA TECH – 10:33AM – 11:05AM – LANDFILL DECOMMISSIONING DISCUSSION

COUNCILLOR CHAD KRIKAU STEPPED AWAY – 11:01AM – 11:04AM

TETRA TECH DECOMMISSION SCOPE OF WORK

266.2024 **DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 7:**
That Council enter agreement and approve the presented scopes of work for the landfill presented by Tetra Tech for the decommissioning of the landfill cells.

CARRIED



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSTHERN NO. 403:
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 4TH 2024**

LANDFILL COVER

267.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 3:**
That Foreman cover 6 inches of dirt at the landfill as cover to prevent blowing of debris. **CARRIED**

DIVISION 5 CULVERT REPLACEMENT
268.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 5:**
That Foremen replace the 2 culverts as requested in Division 5 **CARRIED**

UNIT 1 GLASS
269.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council approve to replace the glass in unit 1. **CARRIED**

FOREMAN HOLIDAYS

290.2024 **DIVISION 4 / DIVISION 6:**
That the holidays requested by the foreman be approved for 2024. Dates are:

- July 8th & 15th
- July 22nd – 26th
- July 29th – August 2nd
- August 12th, 19th and 26th
- December 27th, 29th – January 3rd

CARRIED

DIVISION & FOREMAN REPORTS

291.2024 **DIVISION 6 / DIVISION 4:**
That Council accept the verbal Division & Foreman reports given. **CARRIED**

BACK ROAD CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE POLICY

292.2024 **DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 5:**
That a policy be drafted for back road construction and maintenance and be presented at the next meeting. **CARRIED**

BREAK FOR LUNCH – 11:59AM – 12:52PM

OUTSIDE OFFICE SIGN

293.2024 **REEVE / DIVISION 1:**
That the sign estimate presented by Councillor Braun be approved and purchased, that the sign be installed by our staff under supervision. **CARRIED**

ELECTRONIC APPROVAL – ROAD MAINTENANCE DETOUR ROUTE – VENTURE CONSTRUCTION

294.2024 **DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 4:**
That the electronic approval for Venture Construction be recorded in the minutes, approval was given to enter into agreement for road maintenance for detour requested for the first 500 meters of construction of Highway 312 use of the RM roads. **CARRIED**

HEARING AND RESPIRATORY CLINIC – AG HEALTH AND SAFETY

295.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Hearing and Respiratory Clinics be set up through the AG Health and Safety Network for 2024. **CARRIED**

5-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

296.2024 **DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 2:**
That the attached presented 5-year Capital Plan be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

BYLAW 4.2024 – FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXTENSION

297.2024 **DIVISION 2 / DIVISION 1:**
That Bylaw 4.2024, being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan Extend Time for the Financial Statement be given its first reading. **CARRIED**

298.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 6:**
That Bylaw 4.2024 be given its second reading today **CARRIED**

299.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Bylaw 4.2024 go to third reading this day. **CARRIED**

300.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 4:**
That Bylaw 4.2024 being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan Extend Time for the Financial Statement be given its third and final reading and be adopted this day. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

BYLAW 5.2024 – UNIFORM MILL RATE

301.2024 **DIVISION 2 / DIVISION 1:**
That Bylaw 5.2024, being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan Set the Uniform Mill Rate be given its first reading. **CARRIED**

BYLAW 6.2024 – UNIFORM MILL RATE

302.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 7:**
That Bylaw 6.2024, being a bylaw for the Rural Municipality of Rosthern No. 403 of Saskatchewan Set the Minimum Tax, Mill Rate Factors be given its first reading. **CARRIED**

ORGANIZED HAMLET OF NEUANLAGE

303.2024 **DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 7:**
That Council approve the Hamlet Board to use the \$10,000 from the Public Reserve (MR) grant received at the last meeting for any green space within the Hamlet of Neuanlage. **CARRIED**



**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ROSTHERN NO. 403:
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 4TH 2024**

304.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council accept motion 41.2024 in the OH minutes. **CARRIED**

305.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 1:**
That Council accept motion 43.2024 in the OH minutes. **CARRIED**

ADDITIONAL INVOICES

306.2024 **DIVISION 4 / DIVISION 2:**
That Council approve the list of additional invoices: **CARRIED**

Air Liquide	\$	40.95
All-Green Yard Care	\$	3,150.00
DFH Automotive	\$	68.78
Kustaski	\$	40,780.37
Lyndell	\$	7,401.45
RedHead Equipment	\$	4,222.96
School PSSD Taxes	\$	2,853.29
SGL – MVD	\$	1,740.68
SMS	\$	501.90
Valley Hardware	\$	441.03
TOTAL		\$61,123.82

IN CAMERA SESSION **CARRIED**

307.2024 **DIVISION 7 / DIVISION 3:**
That Council move to In Camera Session per Section 12 of the Council Procedures Bylaw 9.2023 – Legal Matters. 1:27PM **CARRIED**

ALL IN ATTENDANCE
OUT OF IN CAMERA – 1:34PM

308.2024 **DIVISION 5 / DIVISION 4:**
That Council resume regular meeting – 1:34PM **CARRIED**

G.B REQUEST TO ATTEND VILLAGE STATUS VOTE

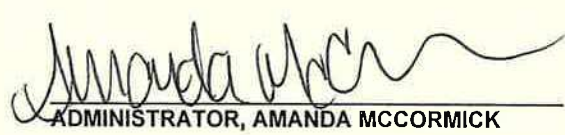
309.2024 **DIVISION 3 / DIVISION 2:**
That Council approves G.B to attend the Status Change vote being held on June 5th 2024 at the Neuanlage Hall. **CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

310.2024 **DIVISION 1 / DIVISION 7:**
That the Regular Council Meeting adjourn – 1:34PM **CARRIED**



REEVE, ROGER KINZEL



ADMINISTRATOR, AMANDA MCCORMICK

Delegation: Andre
Rubi

June 4, 2024

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on transparency in government and how it relates to the RM or Rosthern.

I prepared an introduction to this topic in which I explain why I believe transparency is so important and Amanda has kindly attached it to your information package for your review.

I originally had planned a different topic for this delegation but the recent decision by Council to increase Municipal taxes, highlighted to me how an administration that operates with less than ideal transparency could make decisions that are not in the best interest of ratepayers.

One component of transparency involves getting information out to ratepayers to help keep them informed.

Once it was decided that a potential increase in municipal taxes was going to be given serious consideration, there was a discussion by council on ways to get the information out to the public.

The councillor from Division 1 floated the idea of reviving the ratepayer's dinner in order to spoon feed ratepayers news of the potential tax increase along with a nice meal and a beverage of their choice.

The Councillor from Division 7 suggested that "coffee row" might be the best place to initiate a conversation and get ratepayer input.

If Council was truly interested in public feedback and full transparency, a public meeting, open to all ratepayers would be the obvious choice. This would ensure that ratepayers get all the information and would also give them the opportunity to ask questions or express any concerns.

This option was never even discussed by council.

I fully acknowledge that council does not need permission from the public to increase taxes, nor are they required to do so.

Where I take exception is that in this case, some council members received favourable input from friends and family and then represented that support as ratepayer consensus before council voted on this issue. Obviously, this could influence members of Council to vote in favour of the tax increase. If members of Council are going to present information before a vote takes place, they should be obligated to provide information that is accurate and reflective of all ratepayers.

The support of a tax increase by ratepayers as described by some members of council, was in stark contrast to the input I received when I posted about this topic in a public online forum. The online feedback from the post could be described as against the increase however there was one person that spoke in support of Council and her comments received a couple of "likes". The

feedback I received via messenger, phone, email and through personal conversations was overwhelmingly against the increase.

These diverse reactions highlight the absolute requirement for full transparency so that council can make decisions based on the input from all ratepayers.

In the past, I have been critical of the actions of the RM of Rosthern that I believed contributed to a lack of transparency. I'm not sure why this Council is reluctant to be more forthcoming but the existence of this mentality is undeniable.

I could give numerous examples of this complete lack of transparency but for now I prefer to highlight a few of the recent improvements the RM of Rosthern has made in this area.

During the by-election for Division 6, I felt information on the election should have been posted to the RM website sooner and when it was posted, it was difficult for ratepayers to find. Shortly after expressing this concern, the by-election information was posted to the main page with a link making it much easier for ratepayers to access all the information. There has been a big improvement in the way information is posted on the main page of the RM website including the recent post on the 2024 Budget. Easy access to information helps contribute to full transparency for all ratepayers so I would like to thank Amanda and Kerry for their efforts in this regard.

The history of the RM conducting virtually all the Committee meetings "in camera" was also a clear example of operating without transparency. I expressed my concern to Amanda that this policy was in contradiction to the spirit of the Municipalities Act and the operating practices of other Rural Municipalities in the province of Saskatchewan. She spoke with Roger and they were able to open the committee meetings to the public, subject to the same rules and code of conduct that govern regular council meetings. I commend both Amanda and Roger for this move to increase transparency for all ratepayers.

A prime example of full transparency within the RM of Rosthern was relayed to Council when the Councillor for Division 7 gave his report on the AGM for Neuanlage. He stated there was good attendance for the AGM both in person and on line. The event was being live streamed so residents could follow the proceedings without having to be present at the venue. The video of the meeting was posted online and he also commented that the meeting was viewed numerous times in the days following the actual event. This indicates to me that this effort was well received by the residents of that community and is indeed a gold standard in terms of transparency.

However, I do find it strange that while highlighting the success of this example of transparency, the councillor from Division 7, along with the councillors from divisions 1,3 and 4 were responsible for developing and passing a bylaw for their own council meetings that does exactly the opposite.

Council Procedures Bylaw 9.2023 34.1(e) states that:



All persons in the public gallery at a council meeting shall refrain from making audio or video recordings of council proceedings

This decision to not allow audio or video recordings of a council meeting or provide such is truly puzzling to me. Taxpayers can turn on their tv's and view Senate and House of Commons proceedings, live or recorded every day of the year. TV stations all across Canada regularly broadcast the council meetings for large cities and often replay clips on TV, radio and the internet.

There are examples all across Canada of government meetings being recorded so the public has full access to information.

If you still think those examples are not relevant to what you are doing here at the RM of Rosthern, lets look at what is happening at your neighbor to the south, the RM of Corman Park.

If you look at their website, you will find that since 2015 Corman Park has not only been recording their meetings but they have been posting them to their website for all to hear. In addition, the meetings are live streamed so ratepayers in the RM of Corman Park can view the proceedings at a location and time of their choosing.

Why is this example of transparency embraced by Corman Park yet the RM of Rosthern is moving in exactly the opposite direction. This is not a staffing issue, this is not a money issue, this is a concerted effort by the RM of Council to restrict access of information to ratepayers and make it more difficult for the public to hold Council accountable for its actions.

The current standard in place suggests that the RM is willing to give you access to information as long as you follow their rules. You must either attend the meetings in person or sit by your computer and listen on the day selected by Council. If the public wants access to information, they must follow a standard that the Councillors themselves have not been able to meet. I have been attending meetings for over a year and not one member of Council has been in attendance for every public meeting, yet they make that a requirement for the public wanting access to information. Council has an obligation to make access to information easy, not difficult.

How is it that the RM of Rosthern has been able to operate with this restrictive bylaw in place for so many years? If a ratepayer were to question this policy, they would be told by the RM that they are following the rules and the guidelines set out in the Council Procedures Bylaw. The sad truth however, is that provincial legislation, for the most part does not describe how a municipality is to encourage and enable public participation. Municipalities act according to their own discretion regarding the majority of matters within their jurisdiction. So, it is true that the RM is following the rules but the rules are the ones they themselves put in place.

I can think of no reason that would support the existing Bylaw that prevents the audio or video recording of a meeting. If any of the Councillors from Divisions 1, 3,4 or 7 responsible for the development of this policy would like to put forward some advantages or defend the decision to have this in place, I look forward to hearing their input.



I strongly believe that Council needs to remove the archaic no video or audio recording portion of the policy and develop a policy that promotes transparency and better serves the residents in the RM of Rosthern.

The gold standard of a video recording or live stream with audio posted to the website would take considerable planning and staffing and could be part of the solution one day but there are things that could be done immediately to fix this archaic policy.

I would like to request that Council immediately remove the no audio recording portion of the policy and facilitate a way for the public to have unrestricted access to recordings of the meetings. The easiest way to do that would simply be to click a button and enable recording on your current Zoom connection. Ratepayers could log in, record the meeting and have access to all the information discussed. Not every person has the luxury of devoting a full day during the week to attend a council meeting in person but it should not prevent them from accessing the information. A recorded Zoom session would allow them to do that with minimal impact to staff and cost.

If a recorded Zoom session is not an option, and Council is not prepared to suggest an alternative method for them to offer recordings, I would request that any member of the public present at a council meeting be allowed to make an audio recording if they desire and share that information with other interested parties. While not ideal, this would not impact the time or resources of the RM but would still provide more transparency than is currently available.

I acknowledge that if an individual wants to record the meeting it should not impede or disrupt the meeting in any way. I would like to point out that a cell phone placed on the meeting table to record proceedings would be no different than the personal cell phones some councillors regularly have in front of them during meetings and a recording device would take up less space on the table than a box of donuts.

Having a recording of a meeting whether it be audio or video, provides an undisputable record of what was discussed, who spoke on the issue and the tone in which it was said. A recording provides detail and clarity that simply cannot be captured in the minutes that are posted to the RM website over a month after the meeting takes place.

Clearly, the decision by the RM of Rosthern to forbid recordings of publicly accessible meetings is overreach and provides no useful purpose other than to reduce transparency and make the access of information more difficult for the public. In my opinion, Council needs to move quickly to eliminate this restrictive and archaic portion of the Bylaw and move in the same direction as just about every other government organization in Canada.

In the light of full transparency, if any motion is required as a result of this request, I would hope Council sees fit to have a recorded vote so ratepayers can see who is committed to providing a transparent environment and who is not.

Thank you

Andrew Robin

