

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 12, 2017**

Present: Ed Weistra, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Sel Golding, Councillor
Dan Coulter, Village Foreman

Absent: Byron Fraser, Fire Chief

Recording Secretary: Laurie Beck, Administrator

Call to Order: Call to order at 6:02 p.m.

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: **Addition to the Agenda**
New Business:
h) Village of Nobleford Shared Funding of Project Costs

Motion made by Councillor Golding to approve the agenda with the addition as presented. Carried

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the June 26, 2017 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept the minutes of the June 26, 2017 Special Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising: **a. Tank Remediation Program**
Tetratex is continuing to monitor the soil vapour extraction system (SVE) at the Village shop. The plan is for them to come out every two weeks from August to December to monitor and maintain the SVE system.

Village Foreman Report: Public Works Coulter and Administrator Beck met with an Alberta Environment regarding the water break on Main Street back in February of 2017. New garbage carts were ordered and have been received. Trimming trees, sidewalks, grass mowing, the bulk water issue coin changer has been fixed. The sewage lagoon on the right is dried out. Only pumping one hour on each pump. If

the lagoon gets too cold, it will freeze up. The road paver company should be here in a couple of weeks.

Administrator Report:

The Barons Historical Society announced that they will maintain the area by the old tennis court. They will paint the benches and look after the flowers there. Had issues again with generating the utility bills as the Itron system that is used for the meter readings does not work well with the municipal software program. After speaking to representatives from both sides, the water bills went out late. Another issue that arose was the recent water bills did not show the up-to-date consumption amounts so another revised billing was sent out to reflect this. The Municipal Development Plan Community Surveys were mailed to the ratepayers of Barons and were due by July 31, 2017 and about 18.4% of the residents responded. Alberta Municipal Affairs Assessment Branch has required all municipalities to provide them with assessment information by July 31, 2017. Assessor Glen Snelgrove provided the tax roll accounts but Administrator Beck had to add the civic addresses, parcel sizes, taxable codes, school support and zoning. The requested information was sent to them July 18, 2017. Subsequently, documentation was received that stated that AB Municipal Affairs have extended the deadline due to concerns raised by municipalities not having adequate time. A complaint was received regarding lack of gravel and a broken sidewalk. Public Works was directed to spread gravel on this street and to fix the sidewalks throughout the Village. Public Sale was held July 20, 2017. A report was prepared for Council regarding the public sale and can be found in the Council Correspondence file. Administrator Beck renewed a GIC for a one year cashable term, in the amount of \$106,188.26 that was coming due. Alberta Municipal Affairs has approved the 2017 MSI Operating and Capital Grant applications that were submitted. Question asked by a rate payer – would Council considering re-zoning residential property to commercial? Council replied that based on the information shared, they would not consider it. Administrator Beck presented Council with an expense/income ratio for consideration on extending the employment of the public works assistant until the end of 2017.

Motion made Deputy Mayor Weistra extend the temporary employment for Brian Passmore to the end of 2017.

Carried

Correspondence:

- Rachael Harder MP - The Enabling Accessibility Fund
- Alberta Transportation – Grant Funding for Treated Reservoir Modification

- Thank you letter from Joyce and Ken Kotkas re cemetery
- Stats from Lethbridge Traffic Unit
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Designated Industrial Property Assessment
- Alberta Emergency Management Agency – Alberta Emergency Alert training
- Community Foundation – Dinner invitation
- AUMA – Resolution for AUMA Convention regarding the merging of AUMA and AAMDC
- CPO Program – Reporting System
- Creation of New Electoral Boundaries
- July 20, 2017 Public Sale Report
- Community Peace Officer (CPO) Monthly Stats June 15 – July 27, 2017
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – CIA Municipal Data Acquisition
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Acceptance of MSI Operating Plan
- ACFA Loan Applications Dates
- Community Peace Officer (CPO) Monthly Stats July 1 – July 31, 2017
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Grant Funding for Fire Services Training
- Lethbridge County – Committee Meeting September 8, 2017
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Grant Funding for Emergency Management Preparedness Program
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Acceptance of MSI funding for Capital Projects
- RCMP Picture Butte – Sergeant leave of Absence and Temporary Replacement
- Rachael Harder, MP – Small Business Tax Hike Townhall Meeting September 12, 2017 at Lethbridge Legion.
- Community Peace Officer (CPO) Monthly Stats August 1 – August 31, 2017

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for June, July and August, 2017. In addition, an expense/income report for the period ending June 30, 2017 was presented to Council for their information.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the months of June, July and August, 2017. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Weistra to approve the monthly statements for June, July and August, 2017.

Carried

Committee Reports:**a) ORRSC**

Trails, paths and sidewalks were discussed. Marijuana implementation was also discussed. The GIS requisition for 2018 will be increasing.

b) Fire Department

The department welcomed two new members and lost two members. Currently Fire Chief Fraser is training to become a Safety Codes Officer, which will allow him once completed, inspections of commercial/industrial buildings. These courses cost approximately \$1500.00 each and there is another member who is interested. One member is enrolled in the First Medical Responder course. Two members will be attending the 1001 course in Picture Butte later this fall. The summer call outs volume has been fairly quiet and slow. Fire Chief Fraser, Mayor Weistra and Administrator Beck met with Lethbridge County Emergency Services Committee to discuss moving forward after the release of the ISO project. All parties agree that some form of regionalization would be beneficial to all parties and discussion was held regarding a contract between parties. It was a very positive meeting. The Waterton fires have identified the need for additional structural support. Chief Fraser would like to send a fire truck with 2 personnel and possibly the wildland unit to Waterton as mutual aid.

Motion made by Councillor Golding to send a fire truck and personnel to assist the Waterton fires. Carried

c) Green Acres

Open House will be held at Garden View Lodge this Friday.

d) CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)

No report at this time.

e) FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)

No report at this time.

f) Mayors and Reeves

Rural Physicians Action Plan made a presentation. MP reports tax increases to Canadians.

g) Subdivision Appeal Board

No report at this time.

- h) Chinook Arch Library System**
No report at this time.
- i) AG Society**
No report at this time.
- j) Emergency Advisory Committee**
No report at this time.
- k) CPO Regionalization Committee**
Administrator Beck met with Mark Murphy in Coaldale. The meeting resulted in going over some concerns with respect to the flow of communication between the CPO program and the Village. A photo opportunity of the committee was held August 25 with the Minister of Municipal Affairs in attendance.
- l) Carmangay Library**
No report at this time.

New Business:

- a. Post-election Training – November 7, 2017 in Taber, AB**
A full day workshop will be from 9:00 to 4:00 pm in Taber. This is a new requirement in the Municipal Government Act (MGA) that Municipalities will be required to offer orientation training within 90 days to elected officials following each municipal election on specific matters such as: role of municipalities in Alberta; council and Councillor Roles and responsibilities; Chief Administrative Officer and staff roles and responsibilities; and budgeting and financial administration.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza for Barons to attend the Post-Election Training in Taber. Carried

- b. AUMA Convention – November 22 – 24, 2017**
The AUMA Convention will be held in Calgary this year.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to send Administrator Beck to the AUMA Conference in Calgary, November 22 – 24, 2017. Carried

- c. Noble Central School Grand Re-Opening Celebration**
An Invitation sent by Palliser Regional School to attend the formal ceremony of the newly modernized school on September 21, 2017 has been received.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to send Councillor Golding as the representative of Barons to the grand re-opening of Noble Central School on September 21, 2017. Carried

d. Rental Lease Agreement

The rental lease agreement between the Village of Barons and Mike & Tiwana Dean was signed in October, 2005 and is a month to month lease. Does Council wish to re-negotiate the terms? Discussion was held. No changes will be made to the current agreement.

e. ATCO Gas Franchise

The current franchise fee as per the agreement is 14.97%. If the village wants to change the franchise fee percentage amount for 2018, ATCO Gas will need to know to begin the process.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to keep the ATCO Gas franchise fee at the same rate for 2018. Carried

f. Fortis Franchise Fee

The current franchise fee as per the agreement is 5%. If the village wishes to change the franchise fee percentage amount starting April 1, 2018, Fortis will need to be apprised.

Motion made by Councillor Golding to maintain the current agreement with Fortis Alberta at the same franchise fee for 2018. Carried

g. Village Assessor

Due to personal reasons, Glen Snelgrove of the Muniserve Corporation will be retiring his position as Assessor for the Village of Barons. He is making the recommendation that the Village of Barons assessment file be transferred to Benchmark at the same rates and conditions as currently set out in the existing contract.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept Muniserve's resignation and to appoint Benchmark as the Village's assessor at the same rates and conditions as set out in the existing contract. Carried

h. Village of Nobleford – Shared Funding of Project Costs

Received a letter from the Village of Nobleford requesting a discussion of the sharing of funding for the needed increase to the water treatment plant and treated water reservoir capacity. A meeting with the administrator's for the County, Nobleford and Barons will be scheduled towards the end of October.

Executive Session: Water hook-up Request

**Motion made by Mayor Weistra to go incamera at 7:24 pm.
Carried**

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to go out of camera
at 7:29 pm. Carried**

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to draft up a contract
outlining the responsibilities and costs for connecting to this
service and when the conditions are met in this motion,
Council approves said request. Carried**

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck