

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
March 8, 2022**

- Present:*** Ed Weistra, Mayor
Daniel Doell, Deputy Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Councillor
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Laurie Beck, Administrator
- Recording Secretary:*** Jen Durell, Assistant Administrator
- Call to Order:*** Call to order at 11:01 a.m.
- Guests:*** None
- Approval of Agenda:*** **Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**
- Minutes:*** To accept the minutes of the January 25., 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2022 Special Council meeting. Carried**
- To accept the minutes of the January 25, 2022 Organizational Meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2022 Organizational Meeting. Carried**
- Business Arising:*** a) Hotel Site
The Village received a quote to clean up the site, but it did nothing to address the contamination and the landscaping. The Village lawyer has been instructed to contact the applicant and address these shortfalls.
- Village Foreman Report:*** Carwash lights have now been switched to LED lights as well as the walls have been scrubbed clean. No issues so far this season with any underground infrastructure. An issue regarding drainage of snow melt/water at the intersection of King St and Alberta Ave, as well as a few other intersections was brought up. There is a possibility the drainage issues stem from existing infrastructure collecting silt and grasses, with remediation being possible by way of a vacuum truck. Foreman to investigate how these issues can be

remediated and what the cost would be. Foreman also reports not more issues regarding the leaking water valve at the water plant. Foreman had a representative from MPE come out and go through the system with him to replace and repair the valves, solenoids and

other pipe issues in order to fix the issue of the leak. Foreman now reports that there has been no issues since, and if a problem does arise, there are spare parts in order to quickly repair. Foreman also reports that the Yearly Water Reports have been submitted to Alberta Environment. As far as the secondary water line, the Public Works Foreman have submitted all necessary samples as requested and no coliforms were detected in the samples provided. Since then, there has been no bacterial samples sent, as the landowners have been uncooperative, Alberta Environment referred to Alberta Health Services, and the AHS representative has not required anything further from the Village. At present, there is only 3 months remaining on the water contracts with those farm users and after which, the line will be decommissioned.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to instruct Village Foreman Passmore to come up with a plan to remediate the drainage issues in various intersections within the Village, and to report back to Administration with a cost estimate for repair.

Carried.

Administrator Report:

All assessments have been put into the Municipal Software Program. The Village has seen increase of over \$1 million in assessment value for 2022. In reflection of the year 2021, the Village saw a dramatic decrease to the overall assessments. The plan is to mail out the assessments by March 15th with the appeal date to end May 22, 2022. Administration has been working on year end reports. The Village auditor will be here to finish the 2021 financial year on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Last month, the Village saw an 84% increase on its natural gas bills. Thankfully this month, the amount has decreased by 43%. A proposed subdivision being done by ORRSC was sent for a County resident because it is adjacent to the Village.

Correspondence:

- Alberta Municipalities – Alberta Police Service
- Town of Nobleford Water Bylaw
- High Level Law – Consolidated Civil Enforcement
- Alberta Municipalities – 2022 Municipal Leaders’ Caucus
- Town of Gibbons – Provincial Administrative Penalties Act

- Joint Chiefs Committee – Fire Services
- Village of Barons Assessment Summary
- National Police Federation – Keep Alberta RCMP
- High Level Law – Consolidated Civil Enforcement
- ORRSC Staffing Resources re COVID
- Insurance Adjuster re Recycling Trailer
- Lethbridge County – Changes to Utility Department
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Budget 2022
- FCSS Annual Funding Contribution for 2022
- RCMP Town Hall Meeting
- Bank Reconciliation for January, 2022

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the months of January and February, 2022.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the accounts payable for the month of January and February, 2022. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to approve the monthly statements for January and February, 2022. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time.
- b) **Fire Department**
Fire Department has received rapid test kits and require testing for participation in every meeting. No word has been received on the return of those members on the Fire Department who were not participating due to COVID restrictions.
- c) **Green Acres**
Green Acres is currently working on upgrading a property purchased with the goal of converting it to another Seniors Lodge. The foundation is currently looking for further properties that the can in future be developed or converted to lodges.
- d) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
The current Director of Community Futures is due to retire as of Mid-March. Interviews were conducted, and they report that they have found a new director that they feel will be a good fit. The new director is set to take over Mid-March to coincide with the retirement of the current outgoing director. The provincial Government has provided Community Futures with more funding

to continue to provide the COVID assistance funding for applicants. The government has also extended the pay period for another year for those borrowing under that funding model. CFLR reports only 2 loans currently in default.

e) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**

FCSS is now holding “hybrid” style meetings in Taber – some in person, some attending via online. At the last meeting held, the head of FCSS South attended and spoke of the Provincial Government extending their grant funding for another year. Lots of new programs to run this year.

f) **Mayors and Reeves**

The Provincial Health Minister and the Head of Alberta Health attended the last meeting and spoke to the Mayors and Reeves regarding the EMS Code Reds that have been occurring more and more frequently. They also spoke regarding COVID restrictions and the Governments response, which ultimately had to be terminated by the Chairperson as the discussion got too heated and out of control. Mayor Weistra feels that the meeting overall was productive aside from the opposing opinions. Mayor Weistra also has indicated he will be calling our MLA Joseph Schow to discuss his lack of attendance to and interest in our community.

g) **Chinook Arch Library System**

No report at this time.

h) **AG Society**

Barons & District Ag Society has decided to go ahead with this years’ “Family Fun Day” event, which will be held on July 9th, 2022. Mayor Weistra indicated to the Ag Society that the Village will once again host the Pancake Breakfast as it has done in previous years. The AG Society is holding “Canadian Ag Day” on March 26th from 3:30-6:00 pm at the Community Hall. Following presentations, there will be a free supper of Chili-on-a-Bun provided by the AG Society at 5pm. The Ag Society has decided to change their requirements for booking the hall considering recent vandalism of the Community Hall. There will now be a deposit requirement of \$250.00 to book the Hall, or \$500.00 if there will be alcohol consumed/provided on the premises. Additionally, anyone wishing to book the Hall must provide Proof of Insurance for the event they are wishing to hold regardless as to whether

alcohol will be served or not. The Ag Society will be applying for grant funding from the Community Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.00 to obtain a projector and screen for the Community Hall. This will hopefully entice more bookings by having this upgraded technology.

i) **Emergency Advisory Committee**

No report at this time.

j) **Carmangay Library**

Lots of events planned at the library now that COVID restrictions have been lessened. The library is now open to the public once again, with the computers also open for community children to use. The library has had a new furnace and air conditioning installed, at a cost of \$7,000.00. The Carmangay Library is looking for grant funding to cover some costs relating to programming.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to donate \$400.00 to the Carmangay Library. Carried

New Business:

a) **Overview of Village Bylaws**

There are a few bylaws that the Village will need to look at. Council is being asked for direction.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to have Administrator Beck investigate those bylaws that need revision. Carried

b) **Recycling**

After much research, Administration received a quote of \$45,000 for a new trailer. Another quote was received but the cost of this service was going to be well over \$20,000 for one year compared to the Village providing the service at a cost of \$6,000.00. Another option was to modify a horse trailer to meet the Village's needs but this would be cost prohibitive. Other municipalities have been consulted regarding what services they have and who looks after them. Discussion. More information to be presented at a later council meeting.

c) **Planning/Budget Meeting**

Council is asked to consider a date for a planning/budget meeting. Tentative date set for March 23, 2022 at 11:00 am.

d) LGAA Yearly Conference

Would like both the Administrator and Assistant Administrator to attend this year, which would mean closing the office the week of April 5 to 8th inclusive. Notification would be posted on the Facebook Page and in posters at the Village Office and Canada Post.

In addition, due to preparation for the council meetings, Council consider moving the Council meeting of April 12th to the week of April 19th.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to have both the Administrator and Assistant Administrator attend the LGAA Conference in Red Deer, April 5th – 8th inclusive and that the Village Office will remain closed during this period. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to move the Regular Council meeting from April 12th to the 19th. Carried

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 11 :58 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck