

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
October 11, 2022**

Present: Ed Weistra, Mayor
Daniel Doell, Deputy Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Councillor
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Laurie Beck, Administrator

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 1:00 p.m.

Guests: **Susan Sarazin – Chicken Survey and Bulk Water**

Bulk water station – Questions whether the bulk water has a summer and winter rate. Foreman Passmore explains that the rate was set at 1 m³ / \$1 based on optimal pressure, but it is time operated and not set at a regular rate per cubic meter. Sarazin complains that the taxpayers have been subsidizing the bulk water station for the bulk users for years. Mayor Weistra explains that the cost of changing the system as is, is very costly, however discussion has been held regarding changing the time allotment. Sarazin questions why taxpayers are paying a larger cost versus the bulk water users. Foreman Passmore discusses how he has conducted testing on the current bulk system – that is approximately 58 seconds for 1 dollar which works out to about 1 cubic meter based on the optimal pressure within the water system. However, that mechanism can be adjusted to lower the amount of water flowing per dollar. Foreman Passmore showed a photo to Council to show how the machine can be changed to accept multiple coins, as well as adjusting the timer.

Discussion was held by Council regarding raising the rates for the bulk water station.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to research cost of comparable municipalities as to the cost of Bulk Water and return with the information at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to instruct Administration to post signage at the Bulk Water Station

**informing Bulk Water Users of the rate increase, effective
January 1, 2023.**

Carried

Chicken Survey – Sarazin states that there are people who refused to hand in their completed survey and feared retaliation by the Village based on results. Says that they have experienced same, and that there were concerns regarding confidentiality. Sarazin states that the residents should have been notified that the survey was going out as well as been notified that this was on the agenda at the last regular meeting of Council. Sarazin says that there should have been a public hearing as to whether chickens should be allowed, as well as residents should have been allowed to have their voice prior to a decision being made. Mayor Weistra explains the notification process for wanting to address Council at a Council Meeting, as well as when someone can speak on an issue which is at any Council Meeting with prior notice. Sarazin speaks to the public not being allowed time to address Council. Mayor Weistra explains that the surveys went out three weeks prior to the meeting, and as such, residents would have had time to notify the office that they would like to address Council regarding this issue at the meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. Carried

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Regular Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising:

a) Barons/Nobleford Emergency Services Agreement

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to duly sign the Emergency Services Agreement as presented. Carried

b) Chicken Survey

Mayor Weistra abstains from commenting or voting due to a conflict of interest.

Discussion was held. Councillor Gorzitza questions what happens if there are complaints regarding bylaw enforcement relating to noise, smell, etc. Deputy Mayor Doell raises questions relating to lot sizes, etc. Discussion was held as to the viability of a pilot project in lieu lack of results based on the surveys sent out.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to instruct Administration to draft a bylaw regarding the keeping of Urban Hens within Village Limits, and the necessary municipal legislation to run a pilot project from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Carried

Village Foreman Report:

Pumps and impellers have been repaired out at the sewage lagoon. Plastic piping in the deep well had come unglued which has since been repaired. Called for a hydrovac out at the sewer deep well to remove the sludge out of the system. Appear to be issues somewhere in the lining of the evaporation pond. New basket has now arrived to catch all the sani-wipes and trash coming out of the sewer system. Has been out checking water meters and getting the frequency numbers for the system to update missing information. Met with the Foreman with Forbes Construction regarding the new power poles going in around the Village in the County. Provided maps to indicate where the water line is so they won't hit them when they dig, as County mowers has hit the markers and they aren't visible anymore. There was an incident on Saturday outside of the Village where Forbes hit the water line at Kittleson's farm. Forbes construction called out a Hydrovac, and Foreman Passmore had to head into town to get supplies to repair the break. Foreman Passmore tallied up the costs and we have since sent them an invoice for parts and labour. Pump 1 at the water plant has been causing issues lately, where it will fail and cause pressure to drop. Foreman Passmore has received a quote for a new pump, at a cost of \$4,500.00 and 20 weeks to wait for arrival. Foreman Passmore sent in pump 1 to get checked over and while the motor is good, it needs new bearings and a mechanical seal. Pump 2 has over 100,000 hours on it, whereas pump 1 only has 32,000 hours on it. Foreman Passmore suggests sending pump 1 in for rebuilding and to keep on hand as a spare. Foreman Passmore also suggests purchasing a transfer tank for the old fire pump to replace the current fuel system.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to rebuild Pump 1 at a cost of \$2,300.00. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to buy a transfer tank for the old fire pump to replace the current fuel system. Carried

Administrator Report: Attended the AMA conference in Calgary. Always a good opportunity for networking. A resident asked Council to consider

dust abatement for next year. The Village Auditors will be here November 1 and 2nd for the pre-audit. Spent many hours putting together the items that they wanted prior to coming to the office. Assistant Administrator Durell had a meeting with Alberta Emergency Management Agency to go over the yearly review. The Village did not receive funding this year for the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) grant that the Village applied for. AB Transportation will put our project in the 2023/2024 year budget and hopefully there will be funding available. MPE Engineering was sent an email requesting a cost update for this project. Obtained a quote from ATS Traffic for signposts. Each post would cost the village \$41.15 each.

- Correspondence:**
- Bank reconciliation – September 2022
 - Audit Engagement letter - Scase and Partner
 - Plan of Service – Chinook Arch
 - Definition of Anti-Semitism - AB Justice and Solicitor General
 - GIC Investments – ATB Financial
 - EMS 10 Point Plan – Darren Sandbeck
 - 2023 Proposed Distribution Rates – Fortis
 - Memo to Clients – Alberta Kings Printer
 - Upcoming changes to APL
 - Drawing of Sewer Plant

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the month of September, 2022.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the month of September, 2022.

Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement September, 2022.

Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time.
- b) **Green Acres**

Meeting in the office. Discussed bids on land for future projects.
Still dealing with outbreaks of covid

- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Regular meeting. Opened up a grant for 60,000 for women.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Discussed conference in Edmonton next month.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Meeting was really short. No new business at this time.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Chinook Arch will be increasing their levy by approximately 1.5% each year, over the next four years.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the 2023 – 2026 proposed Municipal Levy Schedule as presented. Carried

- g) **AG Society**
No report at this time.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
No report at this time.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
No report at this time.

New Business:

- a) **Telus NG911 Agreement**
Council was presented this agreement for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to sign the Telus NG911 agreement. Carried

- b) **FortisAlberta Annual Franchise Fee**
Presently the Village of Barons charges a 5% franchise fee. Each year, Council has the opportunity to change this rate.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to not change the 2023 franchise fee rate.

Carried

- c) **Bylaw #743 – Revised Dog Bylaw**

Council was presented with the revised Dog Bylaw #743 for their consideration.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to read Bylaw #743 a first time this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

Motion made Mayor Weistra Bylaw #743 a second time this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council, a motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to hold a third and final reading of Bylaw #743, this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to read Bylaw #743 a third and final time and finally passed this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

- d) Bylaw #745 - Revised Emergency Management Bylaw**
Council was presented with the revised Emergency Management Bylaw #745 for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to read Bylaw #745 a first time this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

Motion made Councillor Gorzitza Bylaw #745 a second time this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council, a motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to hold a third and final reading of Bylaw #745, this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to read Bylaw #745 a third and final time and finally passed this 11th day of October, 2022. Carried

- e) Administrator Vacation Request**
Administrator Beck is requesting the week of November 14 to November 17 inclusive.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the request of Administrator Beck for vacation leave from November 14 to November 17, 2022 inclusive. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Weistra instructed the Administrator to advertise for the administrator's position. Carried

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 2:25 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck