

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL  
of the Village of Barons  
February 14, 2023**

- Present:*** Ed Weistra, Mayor  
Daniel Doell, Deputy Mayor  
Ron Gorzitza, Councillor  
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman  
Jen Durell, Administrator
- Recording Secretary:*** Jen Durell, Recording Secretary
- Call to Order:*** Call to order at 12:59 p.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 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.
- Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Council meeting. Carried**
- Business Arising:*** a) Sacred Sounds Health Centre Proposal
- Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to bring this issue to the next Council Meeting for a decision, as a business plan has yet to be received by Council. **Carried.**
- Village Foreman Report:*** Generator and transfer switch installation has been completed. Will still encounter issues with having to manually reset the power to normal, however MPE Engineering may have a solution for this issue. Atmospheric pressure system is acting up in the deep well and causing the pumps to kick on and off. MPE Engineering can also come out to look at the system and make a recommendation as to how to calibrate the system so this will be resolved. Recommended to put in fencing around the generator to protect it from vandalism and theft.

***Administrator Report:*** Almost all the assessments have been put into the Municipal Software Program, however, a bug was encountered when adding a new linear property. Administrator Durell has been working with the software developers to correct the issue and add in the final property. The Village has seen increase in assessment value for 2023. Assessment notices will be mailed by February 23rd with the appeal date to end May 2, 2022. Administration has been working on year end reports. The Village Auditor was here to finish the 2022 financial year on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Spent quite a bit of time on the phone with the CRA trying to resolve the issue of accessing our online account for tax and payroll deductions. Administration has been in contact with the Village Lawyer regarding the unsightly/untidy property, and we are close to a resolution now. Administration has been in contact with our Municipal Planner and has been advised that the property known as the Fire Hall is now appropriately zoned Commercial, with the exception of the south-east corner of the parcel, which has remained as Public-Institutional due to the centennial rock and garden being located there. The Village will now have to subdivide that area from the title in order to maintain ownership and access of said site for the public. Administrator Durell will be away on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and Mar 1<sup>st</sup> for Emergency Management training; Laurie Beck will be in covering so there is no disruption to office hours.

**Motion made by Mayor Weistra to proceed with the subdivision process for the Fire Hall property up to a cost of \$1000.00. Carried.**

**Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to instruct Administration to contact a real estate agent to appraise the property known as the Fire Hall. Carried.**

***Correspondence:***

- Safety Codes Council – Annual internal review
- WCB – Annual return summary
- Alberta Technology and Innovation – Digital strategy
- Fortis Alberta – Pilot rate for standalone EV chargers
- FCSS – Report to Municipalities
- January Bank Reconciliation

***Financial Reports:***

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the month of January, 2023.

**Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the month of January, 2023. Carried**

**Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement for January, 2023. Carried**

***Committee Reports:***

- a) **ORRSC**  
None. Meeting upcoming.
- b) **Green Acres**  
Discussed vacancies at lodges. New construction is moving forward as planned.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**  
Some new members on the board.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**  
Report from the Manager about services; services available have almost doubled since COVID. Increases seen across the board for all demographics obtaining services. 12 new staff members have been hired to cover the increases seen.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**  
Biggest talk was about the Police Act and moving ahead with the Provincial Police Force. Could take up to 2 years to get the program up and running. Hired 17 doctors to fill the gaps in the health system in the south. Programs now available to certify credentials for foreign trained physicians, and to subsidize schooling for those who wish to go into medicine and become doctors.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**  
Meeting upcoming at the end of the month.
- g) **AG Society**  
Discussed upcoming AG Days on Feb 25 from 1-4. Ideas include growing of sugar beets, hops, etc. Renovations being done inside the building. Donated \$2,000.00 to the Legion for much needed renovations. Family Fun Day to be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**  
Nothing to report.
- i) **Carmangay Library**

Spoke to librarian about providing reports to us. Plan of Action survey for Chinook Arch was discussed. Discussion was held regarding Carmangay's sports days.

***New Business:***

**a) Planning/Budget Meeting**

Council is asked to consider a date for a planning/budget meeting. Tentative date set for March 2, 2022 at 11:00 am.

**b) LGAA Yearly Conference**

Would like Administration to attend this year. The venue has changed this year, as have the dates, with the conference scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, in Canmore, AB.

**Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to have Administrator Durell attend the LGAA Conference in Canmore, June 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Carried**

**c) CRA Business Account**

The Auditors have suggested that we should have access to our online CRA business account, so we can have real time access to our source deductions and tax information. After contacting the CRA, they require a letter from us indicating the removal of the prior primary contact, as well as the addition of the new primary contact in order for us to have access.

**Motion made by Mayor Weistra to remove former Administrator Laurie Beck, and any other named persons, as the primary contact for the Village's CRA Business account. Carried.**

**Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to add Administrator Jennifer Durell as the primary contact for the Village's business account with the CRA. Carried.**

**d) FCSS All Council's meeting**

Council has received an invitation to attend the FCSS All Councils meeting on April 5, 2023. It is to be held in Coaldale at the Civic Square and all of Council is welcome to attend.

**Motion made by Mayor Weistra to have Mayor Weistra, Deputy Mayor Doell, Councillor Gorzitza and Administrator Durell attend. Carried.**

***Closed Session:*** None

***Adjournment:*** Adjournment of the meeting was at 1:42 p.m.

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**Mayor – Ed Weistra**

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**Administrator – Jen Durell**